

सफर

Mehkma-e-Taleem, Khabarnama



An e-Newsletter of Department of Education Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, University of Delhi

Safar does not just represent a journey but a set of experiences. Each experience acts as a trigger that leads us to reflect on the world around us as well as on ourselves.

The Department of Education started in our college in 1977. We have long since wanted to document the myriad experiences that we gather in our engagement with each other and the outside world. This e-newsletter comes as the first step towards documenting our experiences through the academic year. It further serves as a helpful resource in continually interacting with our alumni. It provides a platform to acknowledge the vast and diverse areas in which our students and faculty have marked their presence.

With the launch of *Safar*, we are embarking on a fresh journey that would bring with itself exciting and fresh learning experiences.



पैगाम

Students of B.El.Ed III Year

Message from the Principal

Message from the HoD

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"Kudos to the Department of Education for this new initiative of publishing an e-newsletter!"

Congratulations to all the teachers and students of the department. Special complements to the Editorial Team members, Ms. Alprata Ahuja, Ms. Toolika Wadhwa, Ms. Ashmeet Kaur Bindra, Ms. Kanika Khurana, and Ms. Vani Rana for doing an excellent job. The vibrant and active life of the department is well reflected in the newsletter and it is impressive to see the range of activities conducted by students and teachers. I especially loved the smart and clean layout and design. I hope to see this newsletter as a regular feature of the Department. My best wishes always!"

Dr. Nita Kumar

"I would like to congratulate the Department of Education, SPM College, for starting 'Safar'. This new endeavor is the result of the efforts put in by a dedicated team of students and teachers. The newsletter offers a platform for showcasing our activities and sharing the journey of our department. I hope that it will provide increased opportunities for interaction amongst students of the present and previous batches of B.Ed. and B.El.Ed. Our alumni have made us proud and this issue focuses on our students who are now teacher educators in various institutions.

I look forward to many more enriching issues of the newsletter in the future."

Dr. Gagandeep Bajaj

महकमा-ए-तालीम

About the Department

Our department holds the unique position in the university of being the only college that runs two teacher education courses. The four year B.El.Ed course started in our college in the year 1996 with the aim of preparing teachers for primary and elementary school education. Subsequently, we started the one year B.Ed course in the year 2009 for preparing teachers for secondary and senior secondary education. This year, we admitted the first batch of the two year B.Ed Programme.

Forty four students were admitted in B.El.Ed and Forty Nine in B.Ed making the department strength of over two hundred students and fifteen full time faculty members. Continuing with our events of previous years, we are planning to organise the departmental festival, *Abhivyakti*, in February 2016 on the theme 'Sustainable Development' and Educational Seminar in March 2016 on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Education: New Paradigms'.

गुफ्तुगु

Interaction with Dr. Sudipta Ghose

In this section, we attempt to get to know our faculty members better and learn from their *safar* into the world of Education. Casual interactions beyond the classrooms are a source of knowledge that go far beyond what textbooks can provide. This time, we bring excerpts from an interaction with an inspiring source, the senior most faculty member of our department: Dr. Sudipta Ghose. Of course, we all love to see successful women around us. Here, we got an opportunity to know about the journey of Dr. Ghose through her interaction with Kanika Khurana, B.El.Ed, III Year.



Photo Credit: Lata, B.El.Ed III Year

Though in those days it was not usual for girls to make a life on their own in a town other than their home town. I was a pioneer of sorts. During those times, there were not many employment opportunities and girls were not encouraged.

KK: What are your hobbies and interests?

SG: Well, they keep changing. I love to engage in creative arts, but now paucity of time prevents from pursuing any of these. I have a huge collection of wool with a thought that someday, I may get time to knit. Reading and gardening are also my passions. I have a huge collection of plants. I am also fond of animals and looking after them.

KK: What are the current trends in education that fascinate you?

SG: Now-a-days, I am interested in finding out the connection between brain, neurons and thought process. How brain works, how brain conceives, neuroplasticity, etc. are areas in which I am interested. I am also reading about Roman Gods, their rebirth and fictional accounts.

KK: Tell us about the people who have influenced your own education and educational career.

SG: It is difficult to say, but first two are my own parents. My mother had a profound influence on me, she completed her post-graduation in 1951, which was unusual in those days. So, my mother was always like a backbone, pushing me forward to move and study. My father was a professor, acted as a background impact. Both of them have greatly influenced me.

KK: Tell us, about some of your golden teaching moments.

SG: Golden teaching moments are when old students come back and share what they are doing in their lives and tell me how I impacted their lives, thoughts, and career choices. One of my ex-students is in Japan, who is in close contact with me and seeks my opinion on many aspects. So, connecting with ex-students, who appreciate our efforts, experiences, provide the golden teaching moments. My other golden moment, my period was when I was visiting Professor in a college in USA.

सितारों की महफिल

Feature on some of our Alumni

Like the ever expanding sky, our alumni are touching new heights in diverse areas. While many have taken up the profession of teaching, there are others who have found their passion in creative and performing arts. We feel proud, not just of what they have achieved, but also in their discovery of themselves and their courage to pursue their dreams, despite the pressures of a competitive world. In this section, we will feature some of our alumni who have made a mark for themselves in their chosen fields.

In the very first issue, *we are acknowledging our alumni who have now become teacher educators themselves!*



Ms. Charu Sharma She completed B.El.Ed in 2008 and subsequently completed her Masters in Education and Psychology from Delhi University. In 2011, she enrolled in PhD in Education and took up University Teaching Assistantship in CIE, DU. She joined as a teacher educator in 2013 in Jesus and Mary College. Subsequently, she returned to work in her alma mater in 2015!



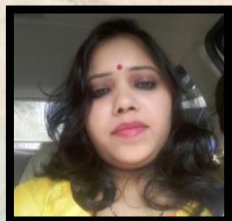
Ms. Nidhi Seth She graduated from B.El.Ed in 2007. Subsequently she pursued her post graduation in English and then in Education from Delhi University. She worked on the relevance of education as reflected in the translated works of Bengali women writers in the nineteenth century, during M.Phil in Education. She is now enrolled in Ph.D in Education. She has been working as a teacher educator since 2010 and has worked in Miranda House, Institute of Home Economics, and our college. She is currently teaching in Jesus and Mary College.



Ms. Swati Sehgal Ms. Sehgal came to our college for B.Ed course in 2009 after completing her MA in English from Delhi University. She went on to pursue M.Ed in 2011 and M.Phil in Education in 2015. She has worked with our college in 2012-13 and has since been teaching in Institute of Home Economics. Her research interest is in understanding the dynamics of writing in children's literature.



Ms. Nisha She graduated with a degree in B.El.Ed in 2009. She went on to do M.Ed from CIE in 2010 and subsequently pursued post graduation in Psychology from Delhi University. She has been working as an Assistant Professor in Education in Central Institute of Education and Maharshi Valmiki College of Education from 2012 onwards. At present, she is employed in Central Institute of Education.



Ms. Neetu Rana Ms. Rana is a teacher educator in Miranda House where she has been teaching since 2008. She has a double post graduation in Sociology and Hindi. She has also worked as a Primary Teacher for six months. She pursued B.El.Ed from our college from 1999-2003 and completed her M.Ed in 2004. She is a regular resource person with SCERT for conducting workshops for in-service teachers.



Ms. Shubhneet Kaur Kharbanda Ms. Kharbanda finished her B.Ed in 2013 and M.Ed in 2014. She is an honours graduate in English from Miranda House and a post graduate in English from Punjab University. Her research interest is in the area of language education. She has been teaching in the Education Department in Mata Sundri College since 2014.

Ms. Swarnlata Sah Ms. Sah has done her B.El.Ed in 2004 and M.Ed in 2005 from Delhi University. She took up full time M.Phil in Education and subsequently also pursued MA in Hindi. She started teaching in 2007 and has worked in different colleges in Delhi University including Institute of Home Economics and Mata Sundri College. She is currently employed at Miranda House. Her area of specialisation is Language Education.



Ms. Ruchi Mittal Ms. Mittal has completed her graduation from University of Delhi and Masters in Education from Jamia Millia Islamia. She has worked as a teacher educator in Kasturi Ram College of Higher Education and Great Mission Teacher's Training Institute. She also has experience of teaching Mathematics at the secondary level in Bal Bharti Public School. She has several research publications at the national and international level. She is presently working at Institute of Home Economics.



Ms. Usha Udaar She is a Ph.D. Fellow at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi. She did her graduation from University of Delhi and Masters in Linguistics from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has undertaken research work in Syntax, case and agreement, Typology of Western-Indo Aryan Languages, and Language Pedagogy. Besides this, she has also been an Assistant Teacher (Primary Classes). At present, she is employed at Institute of Home Economics.



Ms. Jasmine Rupini Ms. Rupini has done B.Ed from our college in 2013 after completing MA in Linguistics. She continued her association with Education by pursuing M.Ed from CIE, Delhi University. Presently, she is a permanent faculty in College of Teacher Education, Tripura.



Ms. Neha Sharma She graduated in 2010 with a degree of B.El.Ed and went on to do both M.Ed (2011) and Masters in Applied Psychology (2014) from Jamia Milia Islamia. She has worked as a primary teacher in G D Goenka School. She subsequently joined Central Institute of Education as Assistant Professor. She is now working in Department of Elementary Education, Mata Sundri College.



Ms Sonia Sharma— Ms. Sharma graduated from the first batch of B.Ed in our college in the session 2009-10. Her graduation and post graduation are in Political Science. She has also completed M.Ed and M.Phil from CIE, University of Delhi. She has worked as a teacher educator in Mata Sundari College for four years since 2011 and is currently working at Institute of Home Economics.



छूने चले आसमाँ

Recognising the Accomplishments of Students

Academic Achievements:

Positions in college:

B.El.Ed First Year

I: Sonia

II: Monika

III: Shivani Choudhary

B.El.Ed Second Year

I: Kiran

II: Sakshi Choudhary

III: Deepanshi Thakran

B.El.Ed Third Year

I: Sheetal

II: Jasmeet Kaur

III: Vijeta Yadav

B.El.Ed Fourth Year

I: Jaspreet Kaur

II: Hema

III: Karishma Garg

B.Ed

I: Geetanjali Rathi

II: Keerti Dixit

III: Neha Thukral



Reetika, B.Ed I Year, was selected for participating in a health show, Yog-Nirog, that was telecast on Loksabha TV.

She believes that practicing yoga has changed her lifestyle and has made her more organised, energetic and stress free. It has also helped her to face every situation with a smile and a positive spirit.



Neeru, of B.El.Ed First year, stood for elections in the college Students' Union and was elected to the post of Central Councillor for the academic year 2015-16.

चहल-कदमी

Events and Activities in our Department

The talk on Giftedness by Dr. Inderbir Sandhu not only broadened the emerging conception of a mixed-ability classroom but also provided valuable insights as to why this negotiation on the part of a teacher is important. Dr. Sandhu's talk highlighted the critical awareness on the part of the teacher to encourage and engage 'gifted' children, the ones on the higher end of the IQ continuum, to enable them to develop to their full potential.



Photo Credit: Ms. Charu Sharma



Photo Credit: Himanshi Dayma, B.El.Ed III Year

Workshop on STEM was organized for B.El.Ed III Year– a day full of exciting experiences, meaningful learning and forming connections between theory and practice. Mr. Prakash Sahoo focussed on learning in the context of the learners' world. The workshop also aimed at ways to be creative and develop resources. Students learnt strategies to generate curiosity in the classroom. Another interesting feature of the workshop was the discussion on overcoming the fear of Mathematics through the use of games.

A book club has been organized for B.Ed. students wherein they meet to discuss books that they have read, express their opinions, reflect on their lives and think about the larger world, connecting different spaces, contexts and time periods. The books are selected in group settings democratically by the students and discussions are organized around a chosen theme. Some of the books discussed so far are *Sunlight in a Broken Column* by Attia Hussain, *Awakening* by Kate Chopin, and *We Should all be Feminist* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The club provides opportunities for reflection, helping students to connect with each other through the joy of reading.

A workshop for B.EL.Ed II and III ayears was organised on the theme 'Children's Literature in Education' and was conducted by Ms. Yashika Chandna and Ms. Rituparna Ghosh. The workshop commenced with a discussion on Children's Literature and analysing textbooks. Various ways of effective story-telling were also discussed. A very informative session on story cards was also held wherein various components of a story card such as concept, theme etc., were discussed. Sociological analysis of stories, and pre and post activities were also highlighted in detail using the story Kafan (1936 - "Shroud") by Munshi Premchand.



Photo Credit: Ms. Charu Sharma



Photo Credit: Ms. Charu Sharma

Mr. Sachin Kumar Chandel's talk on 'Education in a multicultural society' located the Indian classroom within the larger context by highlighting the diversity that exists not only in the Indian society, but also within the classrooms. Mr. Chandel's talk invited introspection on the part of the students on how to ensure the celebration of the diversity within the classroom, in order to envision its existence in the society at large. The classroom ethos that was underlined in the talk highlighted the impeccable position that a teacher holds in ensuring that all cultures come together and share cordial relations among each other without compromising on each other's integrity.

Dr. Vikas Baniwal's talk on the 'Interdisciplinary Roots of Education Dialogue' opened new avenues in the conceptualisation of the inter-disciplinary nature of various discourses including Dialogue. Dr. Baniwal's insight into the writings of the philosopher Martin Buber facilitated the critical engagement of the students of B.Ed. with 'Dialogue' specifically in Education. Buber's attempt to question the dichotomy of the subjective and the objective and his negotiation with the emergent discourse of the 'other' and the 'I-thou' relation that forms the core of Buber's argument were discussed along with the speaker's own insightful examples to illustrate how one may associate a certain kind of fluidity with the conception of Dialogue.



Photo Credit: Ms. Nitika Bose



Photo Credit: Ashmeet Kaur Bindra, B.El.Ed I Year

Students of B.El.Ed I year visited National Science Centre at Pragati Maidan for an educational trip. The museum, one of the biggest science centres in the country, was set up with the aim of allowing visitors to explore, experiment, and have fun with science. Students were welcomed with a huge exhibit spanning four floors. A resource person from the centre greeted the group and explained the models in each gallery.

In order to meet the challenging needs of commerce education in schools, ComEEDy club was inaugurated. ComEEDy represents Commerce Education for Equality and Dignity. The members of this club are current Commerce Education students and alumni from the previous batches who are currently working in schools, colleges and other institutions as Commerce teachers. In its first meeting, alumni shared their experiences of teaching in schools with focus on their learning from B.Ed. The main objective of the club is to build an interactive platform to share and discuss about the various aspects related to Commerce teaching.



Photo Credit: Ms. Charu Sharma



Photo Credit: Ms. Manisha Yadav

A heritage walk to Jamali Kamali was organised for B.El.Ed III year students. An archaeological park in Delhi, Jamali Kamali, is dotted with ruins from early medieval times to the 19th century. Its main attractions include the mosque and tomb of Jamali, a step-well and residence of a British official, Metcalf. This park has some of the finest features of ancient and colonial period such as Islamic mosque in Hindu - Arabic, Indo - Islamic and Persian styles. The tour commenced at Jamali Kamali tomb and terminated at Balban's tomb. During the walk, the resource person, Ms. Aradhana Sinha, freelancer at INTACH explained the historical background and importance of the places covered under the route. She sensitized about religious aspects and related architecture of the park. It infused students with innovative and creative ideas to teach social and environmental sciences.

A workshop to give hands on experience to use manipulatives and teaching- learning material was organized for students of B.El.Ed IV year. Ms. Pooja and Ms. Vandana, resource persons from Jodo Gyan, conducted the workshop. Jodo Gyan has worked extensively to make teaching of mathematics fun, interesting by presenting various abstract concepts of the subject through their concrete material and interesting teaching ideas. Students were also able to visualise role of suitable contexts in teaching of Mathematics. Strategies for effective utilisation of resources for teaching concepts like Shapes and Angles, Numbers, Number operations, Fractions were discussed. Focus was on increasing learners' participation in teaching learning process of higher order concepts.



Photo Credit: Kanika, B.El.Ed, IV Year



Photo Credit: Ms. Nitika Bose

A Workshop on classroom management was organized for B.El.Ed Third year students. The resource persons came from Inspiring Minds, an organization engaged in training and development of pre-service and in-service teachers as well as school students. The two resource persons, Mr. Gulshan Memoria and Mr. Samar Nischal, engaged with students through discussion and activities on critical thinking and inter-personal relations. They also shared rich and diverse experiences of teachers in various schools across the country.

The Department made its first advent into social media by starting a Facebook group. The group provides a platform to share information about events and activities in the department as also to share thoughts, exchange ideas and engage with each other beyond the classroom. The group received tremendous response from students, teachers and alumni. In the less than one month since the group has been started in January 2016, the group of SPMites in Education has grown to over 400 in number.



Here, we share snippets from *Edu_selfie* day celebrated on the group with the hashtag #educationatspm:



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