



Knowing the Unknown!

One Day Orientation Program for School Teachers of The Banyan School, Bangalore



Organized by
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One Day Teachers' Training Program for School Teachers of "The Banyan School"

Background:

The Banyan school provides formal English Medium education free of charge to children from the marginalized community. The curriculum and learning structure is designed in collaboration with international and local educational and development experts. It is intended to create best practices and learning environment, which meets the specific needs of target groups. Life skills classes help the students learn how to recognize and express anger, grief and fear, preventing emotional problems manifesting later in life. To reduce chance of school dropout, all of children are provided with nutritious mid-day meal.

The TransDisciplinary University (TDU) has developed a unique one-day training program for the teachers wherein they will be introduced to various facets of biodiversity, basics of plant taxonomy and methods to conserve plants in a simple format. This program is expected to broaden their understanding of nature and help them develop interest in urban nature conservation. This could be a precursor to any environment education program.

The one-day training program was organized for the teachers of "The Banyan School" on 12th January 2018 at TDU. Participants had an opportunity to acquire the basic tools needed for effective translations of knowledge viz use of medicinal plants for primary health care, gardening and basics of Biodiversity.

Summary:

The program commenced with a welcome address by Commander R Giridharan (Retd), Registrar, TDU He gave an overview on the University's achievements and expressed his interest in working with the school. Ms. Anu V.Senior Research Fellow, TDU briefed participants on the topics that would be covered under the training



Section 1: The role of teachers in the class room management

Dr. Ganesh Bhatta, Principal, MES teachers college, Bangalore spoke about the methods to be adopted to draw attention of students in the classroom. He talked about the effective tools for teaching the students, effective way of handling students with minimum efforts, the method to solve their learning problems, the ways to understand science by conducting various activities. He also suggested teachers to conduct few simple activities for students.



Section 2: Primary Health Care

Dr. Subramanya Kumar, Assistant Professor defined primary health care and explained about the importance of being healthy. He emphasized on the intake of nutritious food that can keep mind and body strong and fit. He explained about the pyramid that shows the quantity of food to be taken like green vegetables in more and sugar in less quantity. He also showed some important remedies that are easily prepared at home to cure common diseases such as cold, fever, cough, indigestion, headache etc. few examples like usage of dry skin of pomegranate, stems of *Tinospora cordifolia*, leaves of *Centella asiatica*, *tulsi* etc were also mentioned. Students were enthusiastic to interact and ask more questions related to remedies to cure common health problems



Section 3: Exploring ethno-medicinal garden

In this session, teachers were taken to the ethno-medicinal garden in the TDU campus, which harbors more than a thousand medicinal plants including rare and endangered species. There are 13 thematic gardens depicting the diversity of medicinal plants with Mist chambers, unit for propagation and also facilitates a large vermicomposting pit for organic farming.



Ms. Amrita G., Research Fellow, TDU explained the teachers about the medicinal value present in each plant in the nursery which are also essential for primary health care. She also taught how to identify plants by touch, sense of smell. She also showed

participants the vermicomposting pit and demonstrated the preparation of compost by using recycle items.

Section 2: Need for Conservation of biodiversity

Ms. Nidhi, CEE made participants to understand the need for conservation of biodiversity by presenting an important topic on climate change negotiation. She conducted an activity where the teachers were divided into developed countries, developing countries and other developing countries to negotiate on give and take policies for conservation of biodiversity for future generation.



Section 5: Consolidation

Participants were given the following assignment to be carried out at their school

- Make students to collect different types of leaves present in their school campus
- Make students to collect different colors of flowers present in their school campus
- Make a small medicinal plant garden for primary health care

Feedback

Participants conveyed that all the sessions more educative. They highlighted the following

- They learnt the steps for implementing the effective tools for teaching students.
- The method to identify plants by their medicinal properties. And planned to plant few medicinal plants in their school premises.
- They learnt the importance of Biodiversity conservation and few activities related to climate change which they can conduct to their students.

Follow up:

- They are planning to make more visits.
- Develop their garden with more medicinal plant species used for school children.

List of Faculty

1. Dr. M. Abdul Kareem, Associate Professor and Course co-ordinator, TDU
2. Dr. Ganesh Bhatt, Principal , MES teachers' college
3. Dr. Subramanya Kumar, Assistant Professor, TDU
4. Ms. Nidhi, Research Fellow, CEE
5. Ms. Anu V., Senior Research Fellow, TDU
6. Ms. Amrita G., Research Fellow, TDU

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants
1.	Divya Raji J.
2.	Aoasen Emly
3.	Antonette
4.	Nazeema S.
5.	Naveena S.
6.	Veena Monica M.
7.	T. Merlin Shwetha
8.	Srinivasaiah Y.N.
9.	Channakeshava
10.	L. Venkatesh Naik