



EDUCATORS' CONCLAVE



**The Shri Ram
Universal School**

Day 1

‘Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world.’

With these words, Ms. Sudha Bonsor, the Key Activity Coordinator of The Shri Ram Universal School, Hyderabad and the Co-Convenor of the Acharya Devo Bhava – Educators’ Conclave launched the 2nd Edition. The conclave is a tribute to an educator’s role in a child’s life and, appropriately, the theme for this year’s conclave is ‘Celebrate Teachers’.

Fittingly, the conclave started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Directors of the school, Mrs. Sindhura Indukuri and Mrs. Aishwarya Kurra along with the Founder Principal, Dr. Jyothi Reddy and the Head of Operations, Mrs. Nisha Chander.



A soulful rendering of “Namana karu mai guru charana” sung by Shriiites Anjalika Roy and Naina Rao began the day on a mellifluous note.

Welcome Address: Dr. Jyothi Reddy, Founder Principal, TSUSH

The Founder Principal, Dr. Jyothi Reddy began her address with a quote by Mahatma Gandhi, “True education must correspond to the surrounding circumstances or it is not a healthy growth.”



She said that it is our moral duty to enable the future generation of modern India to stand tall and at par with their counterparts around the world. She spoke about how the talks about an uncertain future and teachers’ readiness for this has suddenly become the reality, thanks to the pandemic. She spoke about how a happy state of mind impacts others and the source of her success or accomplishments is being a ‘happy me’. She said that teachers had emerged as anchors across the world during the pandemic by judiciously ensuring that the teaching/learning process continues uninterrupted. They have upskilled themselves bringing multidimensional changes.

Address by Guest of Honour: Mr. Kartik Bharatram

Leading and inspiring in uncertain times – For Happy Learning

Mr. Bharatram spoke eloquently on Leading and Inspiring through uncertain times for happy and effective learning. He focused on the need for agility and the importance of being relevant in uncertain times. He emphasised how values and principles need to be upheld despite all challenges.



He stressed on the need to be empathetic with students, parents, colleagues and family as the lack of social interaction is impacting everyone.

The classical dance performance based on ‘The Lilavathi’ a treatise composed by Bhaskaracharya, beautifully depicted the magic of math through dance.



Keynote Speaker - I

Padma Sri Dr. Y.S. Rajan, Professor ISRO

Vision for Teachers Beyond the Pandemic – Weathering the Storm



Padmashri Dr. Y S Rajan our luminary guest and the 1st key note speaker, before commencing his address made a special mention of the classical dance presented by our Shriites. It was a moment of pride for all of us at TSUS, Hyderabad.

Dr. Rajan spoke on Vision for Teachers beyond the Pandemic – weathering the storm. He touched on multiple threads and reflected upon the point 'Shishya devo bhava'- we are because of our students. He added that having a dialogue with children makes for real learning. In the context of NEP, he emphasised that we should not wait for policy changes to be implemented, rather we should action the salient points on our own. He also added that we should treat every student as an asset and as teachers we are shaping the human capital of the country.

Keynote Speaker – II

Dr. A. Senthil Kumaran, Chief Conflencer - The Learners' Confluence

NEP - Action Points to Make it Happen

Dr. Senthil presented an incisive analysis and overview of the NEP 2020 and the various action points to be implemented. He spoke about the need to understand its implications, analyse it, innovate and implement it in letter and spirit. He mentioned the need for a culture of learning to be brought into schools and the creation of a competency-based curriculum framework.

Dr. Senthil also emphasised that NEP 2020 aimed at bridging the gap between pre-primary and primary. He focused on the eight pillars of NEP 2020:



1. Respect local and respect diversity
2. Emphasis is on conceptual understanding
3. Focussing on unique capabilities
4. Emphasis on creative thinking and creativity
5. Community participation
6. Use of Technology
7. Continuous Review
8. Equity and Inclusion

Dr. Senthil also stated that the policy has initiated a dialogue about the professional standards for teachers in terms of domain, role and behaviour.

Panel Discussion - I

Changing Mindsets - Building Schoolwide excellence

Moderator	Dr. Senthil Kumaran
Panelists	Praveen Raju Suchitra Academy Founder
	Dr. Chandra Shekar CEO of Jain group of institutions
	Dr. Arunabh Singh Director Nehru World School



The eminent panel comprising of Mr. Praveen Raju, Dr. Arunabh Singh, Dr. Chandrashekar deftly helmed by Dr. Senthil Kumaran as moderator laid threadbare the need for a shift in mindsets to build excellence. They emphasised the need for investment in teacher training and development so that critical thinking skills are imparted to the students. They also stressed on a data driven approach, the need for professional standards for benchmarking teachers and the concept of distributed leadership. The role of all the stakeholders in ensuring quality education was also discussed. Some best practices that have been implemented in their schools were also shared, leading to many implementable takeaways for the audience.

Keynote Speaker – III

Ms. Usha Pandit, Founder, MindSpring India, Academic Consultant, Author

Creative Teaching for Engagement and Impact on Student Learning



Ms. Usha Pandit mesmerised the audience as she drew analogies to explain creative teaching for engagement and impact on student learning. She emphasised that teaching should be for imparting wisdom, resilience, patience and knowledge. She focused on the need to be child centric, to play to the child's strength and interest and integration of subjects is required for impactful teaching.

She left everybody dumbstruck by saying, "Marking is a disease, and we should now get on collaborative mode of learning and teaching." She specified that learning should be based on volume, frequency and context.

Panel Discussion - II

New add-ons to the Subject Buffet – Skill Set Building & Workforce Revamp

Moderator	Mr. Gaurava Yadav Founder & Moderator, Indian Principals' Network (IPN)
Panelists	Ms. Sudha Santhanam Sr. General Manager, Education & Training Shri Educare Ltd.
	Ms. Sapna Yadav Vice President Operations, Shri Educare Ltd.
	Ms. Radhika Srinivasan Principal, TSUS Palava, Mumbai
	Ms. Kalyani Chaudhary Principal, Billabong High International School
	Ms. Usha Ramaswamy Senior School Head, TSUS, Hyderabad



This panel focused on skill set building and how to revamp the workforce given the new subject being offered by various boards. It saw some exciting conversations on what are skills, the need for skill building and again focused on the need for investment in training and development of teacher. The fact that the skill set of an educator should include critical elements of resilience, empathy, adaptability and willingness to learn was discussed. Sharing teacher resources across a cluster of schools, a 360-degree report card, training professions for classroom transactions were some other points that were discussed.

Day 2

Welcome address by Ms. Nisha Chander, Head Operations, TSUS Hyderabad.



A welcome address was delivered by the Head Operations, Ms. Nisha Chander who dwelled on how and why the conclave was conceived. She mentioned that in the previous edition of the conclave topics such as Artificial Intelligence, replacing teachers, technology-based learning, future ready teachers upgrading their technological skills, etc were discussed which eventually became a reality owing to the pandemic.

Address by Guest of Honour:

Ms. Deeksha Kalyani, Director, The Kalyani School, Pune.

Transforming Challenges into Opportunities. Collaboration is key to become a Connected Educator



Ms. Deeksha shared deep insights into the working of The Kalyani School and shared multiple instances of how collaboration was making a visible difference in the school particularly in the current challenging time. She stressed on the need for every teacher, parent, facilitator and the child to collaborate to make a difference. In the true spirit of collaboration, she shared some best practices from her organisation.

Address by Special Guest: Mr. Raghav Podar, Chairman, PODAR Education.

Unleashing the Purpose of an Educator



He spoke about the way education is delivered to students is at a cusp of a dimensional shift. He spoke about the role of technology in the classrooms of the future, and how the schools of the not-so-distant future will not only be physical but a blended system – phygital system i.e. a blend of physical and digital. Thus, he focused on the need for getting children to be ready for 21st century skills such as the ability to cope with limited resources, agility,

flexibility, resilience, crisis management, critical thinking and problem solving, and, thus, the need for a paradigm shift in pedagogy.

He also emphasised on a balanced use of technology not losing focus of its underlying purpose which is to add value to students.

He added that there is a need to make learning self-directed and remove the fear of failure. He concluded that it is not important what you know but how to apply that knowledge.

Keynote Speaker - I

Dr Chandrashekar, CEO, JGI

Unstoppable Knowledge & Teacher skills - Then, Now & Future



He initiated his discussion with the 5P approach towards a virtual school i.e. Platform, Plan, Practice, Present and Partnership.

He also shared the 7 principles for schools to follow post the current pandemic:

- Letting go the non-essential
- Inclusions and equity in planning
- Re-visiting relationships
- Nurturing home and communities
- School time is golden time
- Re learning, learning and continuous learning
- Student should drive

He said that it is imperative to get rid of non-essentials from our ecosystem and competency-based projects and activities should be the priority of each school. He even mentioned that there is a change in the dynamics of relationships and one has to be very mindful of that as there is a shift in the learning space of the child as micro classrooms are established in each home.

He also spoke that the need of the hour is to let the students take the lead and the role of the teacher should be to ensure that our students make conscious decisions. He also spoke that a school building post pandemic will be a hub of relationship and a student will go to school to connect with people, explore and discover. He concluded his session by saying each teacher has evolved in their own little way as a person and the skill that has kept the teacher community going from there to now is 'adaptability'.

Panel Discussion – I

Timely & Truthful Feedback & Feedforward - Impact on School Ecosystem

Moderator	Dr. A.P.Jayaraman Sr. Nuclear Scientist, BARC:Chairman, National Centre for Science communicators, President – STEAM Academy
Panelists	Ms. Sheela Ramakrishnan Educationist and Psychological Counsellor, Auditor and Master Trainer
	Mr. Amit Bhagria Sr. General Manager – HR, Shri Educare Ltd.
	Dr. Dakshayani Kanna Global Education Influencer
	Ms. Asha Naraynan Principal, Lodha World School, Thane
	Ms. Mangala Madhavan Principal, TSUS Chennai

Dr. Jayaraman said, "Feedback is a word in electronics whereas feedforward is a management paradigm." What do we mean by the terms feedback and feedforward in the educational system and its impact on the system?



The difference between the meaning of feedback and feedforward was discussed and its impact on the school ecosystem was evaluated. The panelists spoke about the need for school ecosystems to be non-judgemental and nonthreatening, the importance of assessment for learning and the role of self-assessment and peer assessment for improvement. The need for clarity and actionable points as important parameters for feedback were discussed.

The panel also mentioned how, at times, people take in only positive feedback and do not take in the real feedback. The need to give feedback during the process and not at the end of the process was also emphasised. The panel added that the feedback should be genuine, honest, direct, simple, with sincerity and with proper evidences.

Feedback and feedforward despite being divergent flow into one other.

Keynote Speaker – II

Ms. Seetha Murty

Director, Education, Silver Oaks International Schools, President – Association of Heads of IB World Schools

Educating for Authentic Performance - Essence of future readiness

Ms. Seetha said that as educators we are responsible for grooming contributors to the society not just consumers. Using books to convey her thoughts on the topic, she shared a series of books that has had an impact on her, anecdotes related to the books and why we should read it. Her must read list of books began with 'Beautiful Tree', which focuses on the schools that existed in the pre-colonial India in every village, educating the children of those villages and how the curriculum development happened in those schools.



Ms. Seetha then spoke about her favourite author –

Ken Robinson who authored the book – Creative Schools. She quoted from his last book where he defined the difference between learning, education and schools. She connected the next book **Element** by **Ken Robinson** to that element that educators have in playing the role of building the destiny of the society.

The next book she mentioned was **Mindset** by **Carol Dweck**. She focused on the need for educators to adopt the growth mindset to help the child explore how his brain or mind works, how his mindset works and how he can conquer his own inner 'NO'.

Ms. Seetha's next book was **Grit** by **Angela Duckworth** which gives tips to educators to build grit in children, show simple solutions to work and learn more. The next book on her must read list was **Creating Cultures of Thinking** by **Ron Ritchhart**, which emphasised the need to make thinking and creativity important to prepare the children for uncertain times.

Next, she spoke about **Factfulness** by **Hans Rosling** and how it gives teachers and educators a clear view of the world so that we are aware of what is happening in the world today. The book by Ramchandra Guha on How much should a Person Consume? was next on her list so that we are able to create conscious consumers. The last book on her list was The Future of Humanity by Michio Kaku, which enables teachers to teach children the big ideas from the world and science rather than teaching micro ideas.

Ms. Lavanya Yamanur, Elementary coordinator (Nanhe Kadam & Pyare Kadam) presented the next segment of the conclave.

The conclave conceived to appreciate the untiring efforts of Teachers, gave a voice to their journey during the pandemic. An activity was rolled out where teachers presented their Ahaa moments during the pandemic using their creative expression.

The teachers' love for learning and their learners has motivated them to deliver the best despite the pandemic. The Shri Ram Universal School provided teachers with the platform to express themselves the way they wanted to. 'Ahaa moments' was one such initiative that shaped them during this time. Every participating entry had an inspiring story and some great take-aways.

Ms. Sunitha Maria from TSUS Chennai presented her Ahaa moments during the pandemic. She shared her micrography art which kept her spirit high when cooped up due to the lock down. It took her 27 hours to complete the piece of art and enabled her to immerse herself in positivity.



Interesting activities which enabled children to express their love and gratitude for their teachers was showcased through a video. Post which, winners of the competitions held for students were announced.

Panel discussion – II

Topic - Cherry on the Chaotic Cake - Grit Put to Test

Moderator	Ms Neethi Srikumar VP – Operations, Shri Educate Ltd.
Panelists	Ms. Savita Parikh Jr. School Coordinator, The Kalyani School, Pune.
	Ms Shweta Vaze SID & SAP Coordinator, TSUS Hyderabad
	Ms. Soma Ghosh High School Educator, The Kalyani School, Pune
	Ms. Nidhi Chaturvedi Mid. School Educator & HOD TSUS Hyderabad

The panelists focused on the tremendous courage and determination of the teaching community to overcome all the challenges and step up with an open mind and flexibility to adapt and conquer. Teachers brought out the challenges of maintaining academic standards, engaging children in virtual classes, conducting assessments and designing the curriculum keeping all stakeholders in mind. Creating stronger connect with the children, integrating tech tools and collaborative learning tools, encouraging children to share and express while learning and enjoying themselves enabled the teachers to tide over the crisis. Thus, the mantra was adopted, adapt and become adept!



Panel Discussion - III

Response Tool Kit Shifting to a Hybrid Teaching System

Moderator	Ms Usha Ramaswamy Senior School Head, TSUS Hyderabad.
Panelists	Ms Aparna Marineni Elementary Educator, TSUS Hyderabad.
	Ms Ronak Batham Middle School Educator and HOD, TSUS Hyderabad.
	Ms Shyamali Atrey Pre-school Educator, TSEY Gurugram
	Ms Mini Trivedi Jr School Educator, TSUS Palava

The panelists discussed how a Hybrid teaching system is a combination of two different elements and how learning is both asynchronous and synchronous. They mentioned that classes have now become family learning time and being open to feedback and ready to change is the need of the hour, which should also be carried forward into the schools of the future. Some of the tools mentioned in the response tool kit included agility, clarity on goals, innovation, upskilling and creating an environment of learning, a learning continuity plan, effective Teacher Training Programmes, harnessing tech tools. Giving the right tools and showing the right path is the way forward.



Dr. Jayaraman also summed up the panel discussion in his unique eloquent way.

His question “The children are ready for social media, Are we?” raised an important point about using social media as a part of the teachers’ tool-kit. He further added that self-actualisation at elementary level is an experiential exposition. He reiterated that hybrid teaching is important and the new NEP will digitally equip teachers and students.

Conclusion

Summing it all up Dr. Jayaraman, the convenor of the conclave shared his closing remarks and summed up the 2-day extravaganza.



His presence during the conclave as the convenor added great value in terms of wisdom, analogies, drawing parallels and insightful summing up of each panel discussion. He managed to capture the essence of every topic and presented succinctly for the audience. He played an important role in guiding and shaping the conclave.

Dr. Jyothi Reddy concluded the day by saying ‘Leadership is inspiring others, empowering others.’ She appreciated the efforts of the team in successfully planning and executing the Educators’ Conclave. She shared her vision of this initiative which was to make the world a beautiful and happy place. This vision she said can be realised when hearts come together, minds work together and when we collaborate and share best practices.

The real revolution in education is possible when we understand that we belong to one family of educators irrespective of the school we are working for. With this profound and poignant thought concluded the two-day Educators’ Conclave – Acharya Deva Bhava – Celebrate Teachers.