

Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh Administration Chandigarh



Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh
<http://www.rieni.org>

Annual Report of the Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh for the year April 2012-March 2013. The Institute caters to the ELT needs of Punjab, Haryana, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh and functions within the purview of Chandigarh Administration.

Courses Completed

No. of Teacher Training Programmes Organized: 16

No. of Communication Skills Assistant Professors Trained: 3

No. of Communication Skills Trainers Trained (college Level): 20

No. of Communication Skills Trainers Trained (School Level): 23

No of College Lectures Trained in ELT :60

No of School Teachers trained in ELT: 52

Total No. of Teacher Trainees Trained: 628

No. of Post Graduate Students (MA in English) Trained: 25

No. of College Students Trained in Communication Skills: 3000

No. of School Students Trained in Communication Skills: 2211

1. Regular Courses

a. PGCTE

97-98 PGCTE

The 97 PGCTE course began on 24 July with a batch of 33 teacher trainees comprising of 23 government in-service teacher trainees - 05 from Jammu and Kashmir, 06 from Himachal Pradesh, 13 from Punjab, 1 from Haryana, and 11 would be teachers. The 98 PGCTE course began on 15 November with a batch of 21 teacher trainees comprising of 15 government in-service teacher trainees and 6 would be teachers and culminated on 15 February 2013. The objective of the courses is to improve the competence and performance of the teachers. There are four main components of the course - Methodology to teach English, Phonetics and phonology, Linguistics and Grammar to develop their critical thinking and Integrated Communication Skills to improve the proficiency of teacher trainees in English. The concept of theme based Integrated Communication Sessions has been introduced to facilitate holistic learner centred approach. Apart from the above mentioned curriculum prescribed for PGCTE Course, extra Spoken English Sessions have been added to increase proficiency in the Functional usage of the English Language and as complimentary to Communication classes. Extensive use of the language lab, computer and library resources is incorporated along with reflective practices for a comprehensive assessment.

b. MA in English

The Department of Postgraduate Studies, RIE aims to provide comprehensive and extensive knowledge to the students of the post graduation subjects in particular; and develop English language skills in general, using the latest teaching methods and media. The Department made new admissions to its Postgraduate Programme during the month of July. There was an intake of twenty students (nine for MA I and eleven for MA II) for the academic session 2012-13. A 'Literary Society' was also made functional for all the forthcoming events and activities to be organized by the Department during session 2012-13. A tree-plantation drive was also held at the institute and freshers were given a warm welcome by organizing a function for them. The Department organized a 'Poetry Reading' session by the renowned Indian poet writing in English, Mr. Keki. N. Daruwalla in September. An inter-college debate competition has been organized in January 2013 for graduate and postgraduate students on the topic "Smart teaching should replace traditional teaching". The event was planned on a large scale with participation from all the major colleges in Chandigarh.

2. Short Courses in Teacher Education

a. One Week Training Programmes for Teachers of Polytechnic Institutes of Haryana

Two intensive one week training were organized by the Institute for the teachers of Polytechnic Institutes of Haryana from 07 May - 11 May and 14 May - 18 May which were attended by 29 and 32 Teachers/Trainers respectively. The courses were designed with the objective to meet the needs of Teachers/trainers of Polytechnic Institutes as proposed by the Haryana State Board of Technical Education. The programmes covered the areas of Classroom Communication, Interpersonal Communication, Report Writing, Seminar/ Panel Discussion, Presentation Skills and Use of Language lab. Sessions on Interview Skills, Group Discussion and Remedial Grammar were also included to provide a comprehensive overview to the participants.



b. 29th - 35th RIE - SSA, UT Course in ELT for Elementary Level school teachers

7 Intensive Teacher Training Course were organized by the Institute in collaboration with Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Chandigarh Administration from June to October. These In Service 10- Day Teacher Training Programmes were structured to meet the needs of Elementary Level school teachers working under SSA, UT. The training sessions (topics) were judiciously distributed among all the groups keeping in mind the relevance and requirement of the Group. Integrated Skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing and Grammar) were introduced with the objectives to make the teachers understand identify and analyze the problems faced in achieving both fluency and accuracy. There were two sessions on Absorbing NCF, Right to Education and Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation for each of the four groups. The objective of the sessions was to act as a catalyst to change the profile of teacher education and enable them to become not only research oriented but also to motivate them and direct them to the improvement of educational methods and curriculum. The courses also aimed at encouraging independence of thought and action, promoting a creative and flexible approach to the classroom and creating a learner centered classroom while adopting the new teaching learning strategies. A total of **252** participants were trained concurrently during the programmes.



c. 36th -39th RIE - SSA, UT Course in ELT for Elementary Level school teachers

4 Intensive Teacher Training Courses was organized by the Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh in collaboration with Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Chandigarh Administration from October to November. The In Service 10- Day Teacher Training Programmes were structured to meet the needs of Class IV school teachers working under SSA, UT. The

training sessions (topics) were judiciously distributed among all the groups keeping in mind the relevance and requirement of the Group.

As the focus group/target group was class III and IV, the recommended text book was “Marigold”. Each session was planned in the mode of workshops according to the following format. Every resource person addressed each topic in the following steps:

Period 1: **Inputs** from the teacher

Period 2: **Application** and preparation by teacher trainees.

Period 3: **Presentation** by teacher trainee.

A total of **109** participants were trained concurrently during the programme.

g. RIE- British Council Workshop held on 13 March 2013

The Regional Institute of English (RIE), Sector 32 Chandigarh and the British Council, New Delhi, organized a workshop for teachers of schools of the region on 13 March 2013 from 9.00 AM to 12 PM. The workshops were conducted by Ms Marie Delaney, Director, and The Learning Harbour, Cross Haven, Co Cork, United Kingdom. She is a trained educational psychotherapist, English and Foreign languages teacher and a teacher trainer. The topic of the workshop was ‘**Motivating the Unmotivated**’. The audience responded very positively and found the workshop meaningful. It was attended by **52** teachers.



h. RIE- British Council Workshop held on 13 March 2013

The Regional Institute of English (RIE), Sector 32 Chandigarh and the British Council, New Delhi, organized a workshop for college teachers of the region on 13 March 2013 from 1.00 PM to 4.00 PM. The workshop was conducted by Ms Marie Delaney, Director, and The Learning Harbour, Cross Haven, Co Cork, United Kingdom. The topic of the workshop was ‘**Unlocking the Learning Blocks**’. They observed that more such programs should be conducted for teachers as the ideas they get in such workshops can be straightaway carried to the classrooms. **60** teachers from local colleges attended the workshop.

3. International Courses

a. Afghan University Students Exchange Programme (AUSEP)

Institute is hosting the third Afghan University Student Exchange Program (AUSEP) at the institute. The five week program began on January 14 and will continue till 13 February. During these five weeks, the RIE will provide instructions to Afghan students for 120 hours

and the program will broadly focus on areas like the English language, second or foreign language, testing and evaluation and how to use technology. An American teacher will provide training for another 20 hours. The Regional English Language Office at US Embassy in New Delhi has selected RIE to host the program. The institute has also arranged local excursions for participants during the weekends. The programme, funded by the US Department of State through their embassy in Kabul, has been implemented by Asia Foundation — an international NGO. As part of the programme, 28 Afghan nationals — 25 students and three chaperons — have been handpicked through interviews, written tests and also on the basis of their academic performance. The students represent eight Afghan universities — Alberuni University, Baghlan University, Balkh University, Bamyán University, Herat University, Kabul Education University, Kabul University, Nangarhar University.

4. Short Courses for Students

a. Comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh

Comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning Programme for the students studying in Class 9 and 10 in the Government Schools of Chandigarh was conducted in the institute from 1 June to 30 June. The focus of the programme was to introduce the students to Computer Skills, i.e. Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point and Internet. The course was designed keeping in consideration on focusing the improvement of the English Language Communication Skills and enhancing their vocabulary in English Language. Remedial classes on Personality Development were also imparted keeping in mind the holistic development of students. **100** students were trained in two batches.



5. Project Based Courses

a. RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development (2012-13)

The third batch of 'RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development' was launched on 25 July in six Government Colleges of Chandigarh. Approximately **3000** final year students enrolled themselves for the course. The objective of the programme is to enhance the employability of the final year students by honing their communication skills through different modules like Interview Skills, Group Discussion Skills, Presentation Skills, Public Speaking Skills, Phonetics & Phonology and Grammar. RIE will be organizing a Centralized Placement Drive for all the colleges in January. We would be inviting 10-15 companies from various fields to RIE campus and students will be invited to participate. Ms Pervin Malhotra, India's top most Career Counsellor will be invited in February for an Open House session with our students and she will guide them on choosing the right career.

b. C-Toss Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh (2012-13)

The C-Toss Programme was launched on 16 July with the objective of imparting soft-skills to the students of Government Schools of classes 9, 10 and 11. The course aims to improve their communication skills and enhance their vocabulary, development of their personality and teaching concepts of grammar at an interpersonal level. The programme was launched in sixteen government schools of Chandigarh. Topics like Subject and Verb Agreement, Pronouns, Verb Tenses (Irregular Verbs, Simple Present Tense, Present Continuous Tense, Present Perfect and Present Perfect Continuous, Simple Past and Past Continuous), Presentation Skills (Extempore) were covered during the year. **2111** students got enrolled for the course.

c. Research in EFL Project

Research in EFL Project based on the academic content and classroom interaction with the participants of the two four weeks Afghan University Students Exchange Programmes (AUSEP) has been taken up by the RIE faculty. Research areas include ESP, Reading, Listening and Speaking, Testing and Evaluation: Writing, Grammar and Usage, Poetry: Creative Writing, Literature and Vocabulary, Methods and Technology: Writing, Information Seeking Behaviour and Pronunciation. The teams researching are in the phase of producing the final report.

6. Door Step Education

- Dr. Sharda Kaushik, Director along with James Stabler-Havener, Senior English Research Fellow conducted Access and training program for research into rural/tribal education at Bhubneshwar, Orissa on 4th May and 5th May. They provided a workshop on using Forum to the English teachers at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (a school with roughly 15,000 tribal students). They also worked with a small group of English teachers who run the Access program. In addition, they provided a workshop on using Forum to the English teachers and English-medium faculty of DAV school in Cuttack, as well as a cultural workshop for the senior students.
- Dr. Sharda Kaushik, Director along with James Stabler-Havener, Senior English Research Fellow conducted workshops in study skills, methodology and ESP at LK College, Shillong Meghalaya from 2nd June to 3rd June to support ELTAI chapter in North Eastern India and to celebrate Forum's 50th anniversary. They assisted young teachers in developing research ideas for future publication. The workshops followed the model of the Jaipur workshops, with the addition of sessions on critical thinking, study skills, and intercultural communication. The majority of the participants were Khasi (tribe), and they responded very actively to ICC activities because of their own sense of being culturally different from central India. They were also very eager to use the ideas within Forum, particularly those related to multi-lingualism and cultural identity.

7. Human Resource Development

Ms Vandana Lunyal

1. Participated in three week professional development programme in *Teacher Leadership* (21 July – 11 August) offered by University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), USA.
2. Organized two One Week Training Programme for Teachers of Polytechnic Institutes of Haryana in the summer months. (Report above)
3. Convened two workshops organized at the RIE on 13 March 2013 in partnership with the British Council Division, New Delhi for teachers of schools and colleges of Chandigarh. The workshops were attended by 112 participants. (Report above)

Dr Vijya Singh

1. Co-organized an International Conference, *Hindi Cinema @Hundred* from 16-18th October at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Also read a paper, "The Mobile Gaze" at the conference.
2. *Invited to Chair* Prof. Sambuda Sen's (Delhi University) lecture on Charles Dickens in the Department of English, Post Graduate Government College, Sector 11, Chandigarh, on 9th November.
3. Read a paper, "Female traveler and the journey to selfhood: Jawaniki Hawa" at a national conference on *Popular Culture, Films and Media: Indian Texts and Contexts*" organized by Panjab University on 18-19 January.

Dr Preeti Sharda

1. Edited the Book entitled "Libraries and Reading Habit in Electronic Environment" published by B R Publishing Chandigarh (2012).
2. Edited the Book entitled "Information Communication Technology Application in Library Services" published by Abhishek Publisher Chandigarh (2012).
3. Paper entitled "Use of Web 2.0 Technology by the LIS Professionals of Medical Libraries: A Survey" published in MLAI 2012
4. Reviewed the book entitled "Issues in Informing Science & Information Technology, Volume 9, Edited by Eli Cohen and published by Informing Science (2012).
5. Presented paper in One day National Seminar organized by Divisional Library (south) on Information Communication Technology Application in Library Services on 13th August 2012.