

Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh Administration Chandigarh

Report: April 2013-March 2014
Golden Jubilee Year



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

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 Organized

No. of Teacher Trainees Trained: 739

No. of Teacher Training Programmes Organized: 22

No. of Communication Skills Assistant Professors Trained: 8

No. of Communication Skills Trainers Trained (College Level): 18

No. of Communication Skills Trainers Trained (School Level): 22

No. of College Lectures Trained: 22

No. of Post Graduate Students (MA in English) Enrolled: 21

No. of College Students Trained in Communication Skills: 3295

No. of School Students Trained in Communication Skills: 2374

1. Regular Courses

a. PGCTE

99-100 PGCTE

The 99 PGCTE course began on 24 July 2013 and culminated on 23 October 2013 with a batch of **36** teacher trainees comprising of 29 government in-service teachers and 7 would-be teachers. The 100 PGCTE course began on 11 November 2013 and culminated on 10 February 2014 with a batch of **35** teacher trainees comprising of 32 government in-service teachers and 3 would-be teachers. The objective of the courses was to improve the competence and performance of the teachers. There were four main components - Methods of Teaching 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 Integrated Communication Sessions facilitated holistic learner centred approach. Teacher trainees were provided orientation in Action Research. Extensive use of the language lab, computer and library resources was incorporated along with reflective practices for a comprehensive assessment.

b. MA in English

In the month of July the Department of Postgraduate Studies started the 2013-14 session with an intake of **12** students in MA Semester I and **8** students in MA Semester III. In August, the Department organized an extension lecture by Prof Akshaya Kumar. In September, the Department organized an inter-college competition on research paper writing & power point presentation on the topic 'Film Adaptations of Popular Classic Novels'. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the tricity colleges & the winners were awarded certificates and cash prizes. In October, an inter-college poster making and slogan writing competition was organized on the theme 'Women's Empowerment' for the students of graduation and post graduation. Over 80 students participated in the competition from various colleges and the winners were awarded certificates and cash prizes. An extension lecture by eminent Prof M. L. Raina was organized on 30 January.



2. Symposium on 'Two decades of Functional English and Its Significance'

A symposium on 'Two decades of Functional English and Its Significance' for College Lecturers was organized on 29 August 2013. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, Ms. Gurpreet Kaur Sapra IAS, Director Higher Education, Chandigarh Administration, said that many of our graduates, including those from professional colleges, needed to enhance their employability by honing their communication skills. She was happy to note that Functional English fitted in well within the government's scheme of developing work cadres within National Vocational Qualifications. Dr Sharda Kaushik, the Director of the Institute, spoke at length about the relevance of courses like

Functional English which equipped students with language skills and vocational competencies while building up a strong knowledge base of the discipline, in this case electronic and print media. The panel of experts discussed the course curriculum of Functional English which has been taught successfully over the past two decades in the region. Talking about the changing dynamics of media, Prof. Raghav Chari stressed the need for horizontal integration of its different forms including social media like Twitter which need distinctive writing styles. Carrying the idea forward, Aruti Nayar, Chief Sub-Editor from The Tribune, referred to truncated form of language in use, particularly among the youth. She emphasized the importance of teaching page maker skills to students of Functional English. Prof Pushpinder Syal from the Panjab University talked about opening up the possibilities of expanding the range of functions in the Functional English course. Taking the discussion further, Prof Deepti Gupta from the same University projected the need to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching Functional English. The symposium was attended by 22 college lecturers of the tricity.



3. Chandigarh Book Fair

The Institute participated from 14th to 19th November 2013 in the Chandigarh Book Fair. The Book Fair was inaugurated by the Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Shivraj Patil on 13 November. With about 100 publishers displaying a large selection of titles ranging from Alphabetical Primers to Zoology, there was a staggering variety to choose from, in various languages at the six day-long Book Fair.



A talk with the eminent poet and author Keki N Daruwala was organized at the book fair and it provided literary fare for the serious-minded grown-ups as well. Daruwala, an English poet, has published 11 books, including two for children, three short story collections and one novel. Daruwala belongs to the generation of poets who paved the way for contemporary Indian English poetry. Interacting with the audience, Daruwala said for a poet, observing is not enough. "The real poetry comes out when a poet internalizes his experiences and gives them a human touch," he said. The Institute Stall not only had its books manuals, but also details of its workshops that will be organized in the near future —Time and Stress Management, Facing Interviews and Group

Discussions, Communication Skills and Personal Development. The Institute also organized a workshop on "Computer-assisted Language Learning," at the Chandigarh Book Fair. Claire Bradin Siskin, a Senior English Language Fellow of the Regional English Language Office at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, was joined by several RIE faculty members in the session. The target audience was English teachers and school administrators, but the event was open to the public. Approximately 40 people attended the session. The question of the day was, "Why should English teachers consider using computers in teaching English?" Various possible reasons for incorporating computers were suggested.

4. Short Courses in Teacher Education

a. 40th - 41th RIE - SSA, UT Course in ELT for Elementary Level school teachers

An Intensive Teacher Training Course for Class I school teachers was organized at the Institute in collaboration with Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Chandigarh Administration with focus on enhancing the reading skills of the students from 12th August to 19th August 2013. The training programme aimed at giving first hand information and knowhow of the latest trends, approaches and practices being undertaken by the national level agencies and authorities in the field of teaching English and especially reading skills. Special emphasis was given on providing the best Resource Persons in the field of Teaching English for the benefit of the teachers at various levels. A pre-test and a post test based on the topics discussed and shared during the programme was also conducted. The post test results clearly showed a significant positive change in the terminal academic behaviour of the participants. A total of **80** participants were trained concurrently during the programme in two groups



b. 42nd - 43rd RIE - SSA, UT Course in ELT for Elementary Level school teachers

An Intensive Teacher Training Course for Class II school teachers was organized at the Institute in collaboration with Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Chandigarh Administration with focus on enhancing the reading skills of the students from 12th August to 19th August, 2013 and 21st August to 26th August, 2013. The training programme aimed at giving first hand information and knowhow of the latest trends, approaches and practices being undertaken by the national level agencies and authorities in the field of teaching English with emphasis on reading skills. Special emphasis was given on providing the best Resource Persons in the field of Teaching English for the benefit of the teachers at various levels. A lot of informative material was provided to the participants in the shape of a CD as well as photocopied material consisting of latest trends, practices and approaches in the field of English. The whole effort was aimed at improving the approach of the trainee teachers towards a better handling of the young learners with their polished skills and newly gained experiences through the programme. A total of **79** participants were trained concurrently during the programme in two groups.



c. 1st -2nd Training Programme of Key Resource Persons

A seven-days training programme of Key Resource Persons in Core Reading Strategies at primary level in the light of NCF 2005 was held at the Institute in two batches from 9th September to 17th September 2013 and 20th September to 27th September 2013. The said programme was conducted at the Institute in collaboration with ELTAI. The overall objective of this programme was to provide teachers with a practical component on Learner Centre Methodology along with language improvement and practical ideas to encourage activity based Reading in the class room as well as guide teachers how they can adapt different types of tasks, different types of activities and make them much more communicative. **17** (PGT) and **28** (TGT) teaching English were deputed from different government schools of Chandigarh to attend the aforesaid programme.

d. 44th - 46th RIE - SSA, UT Course in ELT for Elementary Level school teachers

Intensive Teacher Training Workshops on Instructional Enhancement to Improve Reading abilities for Class III school teachers from 23rd October to 28th October 2013 and for Class IV school teachers 13th November to 18th November 2013 was organized at the Institute in collaboration with Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSA). Various components of teaching reading and the small changes that teachers could make in an already existing reading curriculum of NCERT to help students become better readers were undertaken. Teachers were given instruction to improve the already existing curricula and textbooks. Unit wise lesson plan were developed to keep teachers on track, maintain consistency across section of the same course, and distinguish one level from other. Teachers were made aware of the fact that a comprehensive reading curriculum involves much more than simply assigning a set of pages for students to read and later reviewing student's answers to comprehension questions. A total of **123** participants were trained concurrently during the programme in Three Workshops.

e. 1st - 3rd Communicative Competence Workshops

Three Five-days courses in Teacher Competency and using English to bring about qualitative improvement in teaching of English at the school level were held from 9th December to 13th December; 20th January to 24th January 2014 and 3rd February to 7th February 2014 at the Institute. The objectives of the courses were to make teachers function competently and use English Language in daily life and workplace to improve classroom practice for the language development of the learner. The courses were started on the premise that training should be imparted in a manner that our teachers need to feel better and confident about themselves in using the language to achieve better results in classroom. Various components such as linguistic competency (vocabulary, grammar, syntax), sociolinguistic competency (classroom language),

strategic competency, discourse competency etc. were taken into consideration while drafting the course content. **87** teachers teaching Elementary Classes in Chandigarh Schools participated.

f. 1st – 2nd Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Workshops on Reading Skills

Two Five-day workshops with focus on reading skills for the teachers of Class IX & X teaching in the Government Schools of Chandigarh, were held at the Institute in collaboration with Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan from 27th January to 31st January 2014 and 10th February to 15th February 2014. The workshops were aimed at giving first hand information and knowhow of the latest trends, approaches and practices being undertaken by the national level agencies and authorities in the field of teaching English with emphasis on reading skills. A total number of **121** teachers were trained concurrently during the programme in three batches.

g. 4th – 5th Communicative Competence Workshops

Two Five days courses in Communicative Competence were conducted in the Institute from 3rd March to 7th March 2014 and 10th March to 14th March 2014, to bring about qualitative improvement in teaching of English at the school level (class 5). The main objective of the courses was to make teachers to function competently and use English Language in daily life and workplace to improve classroom practice for the language development of the learner. The courses started on the premise that training should be imparted in a manner that our teachers need to feel better and confident about themselves in using the language to achieve better results in classroom. Various components such as linguistic competency (vocabulary, grammar and syntax), Sociolinguistic competency (classroom language), strategic competency, discourse competency and singing songs and poems etc. were taken into consideration while drafting the course content. A total number of **60** teachers were trained concurrently during the programme in two batches.

h. One-week Communication Skills Programme for the Ministerial Staff of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur

The Institute, in collaboration with the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, conducted a week-long in-house course which was organized for the ministerial staff of MNIT, Jaipur. It started on 18th March 2014 and ended on 22nd March 2014. It had 28 participants from the administration of the Institute. Over the whole week, various topics were covered as per the requirements of the visiting institute. The classes were divided in the main categories of Speaking, Writing, Soft Skills and Language Lab sessions. Under Speaking, the areas covered were Professional Etiquettes & Courtesies, Introducing and Explaining, Making and Receiving telephone calls, Giving Directions to visitors etc. Writing covered the topics of Notice, Memo, Minute Taking, Advertisements etc. while Soft Skills undertook Body Language, Work Ethics and Values, Attitude and SWOT Analysis.

i. One-Week Film Appreciation Course

A Film Appreciation Course was conducted from 31st March to 6th April 2014. Resource Person(s) with experience in film production and teaching film studies at FTEE, Pune, conducted the course. There were 24 participants, essentially from the Institute, including members of the faculty, students and members from the public. The participants benefitted from the course as it provided insights into the interplay between literature and cinema. Cinema is one of the seven great arts. The course threw light on the different aspects of critical appreciation. The learning can be transferred to a better understanding of literature, cinema, language and society.

j. Two Week Course in Pedagogy and Using Multimedia Resources for Teaching English for Lecturers of Haryana School Education Department.

A two-week residential Course was held at the Institute for employees of the SCERT Haryana. The course was held from 3 March to 14 March. The course component included: Oral Communication Skills, NCF, Teaching Grammar, Vocabulary, Poetry, Writing, Reading, Textbook Strategies, Lesson Planning , CALL and Testing. The participants who were 21 in number were provided accommodation and hospitality at the Institute.

5. Short Courses for Students

a. 6th Comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh

6th Comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning Programme for the students studying in Class 9 and 10 in the Government Schools of Chandigarh was conducted at 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 use of Internet and Basic Communication skills. The students were provided with a conducive environment where they could share their inhibitions about language learning. The programme was goal oriented and was designed keeping in consideration the inadequacies of everyday classroom learning. The students were provided with an opportunity where they could participate in activities like, role plays, picture description, storytelling, narrating a tale and word games. The aim of the course was to provide a natural environment where language learning skills was the preferred outcome. **60** students were trained in two batches.



6. Project Based Courses

a. RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development (2013-14)

The sixth batch of ‘RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development’ was launched on 25 July in six Government Colleges of Chandigarh. Approximately **3295** final year students enrolled themselves for the course. The objective of the programme has been 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.

b. C-Toss Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh (2013-14)

The Fourth batch of C-Toss Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh was launched on 13 July onwards. In the present academic session C-TOSS recruited 17 trainers and 5 Coordinators that included a chief coordinator. The programme is running successfully in seventeen schools.



The highlight of the present academic session was that the C-TOSS faculty revised the modules and the trainers made use of technology and picture books in the classrooms. The technological component has been so far introduced in the classrooms of five Model schools as pilot project. The students listened to podcasts, short news reports and stories after which they had to answer a series of questions. The activity was repeated in other classes and the students felt immensely encouraged to participate in the discussion which followed after. Topics Covered During the Session were Subject and Verb Agreement, Pronouns, Irregular Verbs, Tenses, Presentation Skills (Extempore), Modifiers, Prepositions, Listening Skills, Reading Skills Models, Punctuation, Vocabulary Exercises, Pronunciation, Capitalization, Role Plays, Vernacular English, telephone Etiquettes, Letter Writing, Team Building, Interview Skills. **2314** students enrolled for the course.

(Sharda Kaushik)

Director