

1. Report of 61st Panjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival Zone-A, Chandigarh

The event was organized at Government College for Commerce and Business Administration, Sector 50, Chandigarh, from 27 September to 30 September 2019. Twelve students of MA I and II participated in eleven events namely Poem Recitation, Rangoli, Collage Making, Debate, Pakkhi Designing, Khiddo Making, Embroidery Dasuti, Poem Writing, Story Writing, Essay Writing, and Hand Writing Competition. Sonam Rani of MA II won second prize in Poem Writing competition. She was selected to take part in InterZonal Youth Festival held at Guru Nanak College, Doraha from 1 November to 4 November 2019.

2. 110 PGCTE Batch Report

The 110 PGCTE batch started on 12 November 2018 and concluded on 15 March 2019. The course is bifurcated in two modes—Face to Face or On-Campus mode and Off-Campus mode of 3 months duration. The total number of participants in the 110 PGCTE batch were 17, including prospective teachers and in-service teachers. The PGCTE Course aims at achieving integrated communicative competence by training participants in seven modules (Communication skills, Methodology, Research & Reflective Practices, Grammar, Phonetics, Linguistics and Computer Assisted Language Learning, also known as CALL). The online mode of the course began on 15 February and concluded on 15 March 2019.

No. Of Sessions in 110 PGCTE

| Paper | Communication skills | Methodology (including Lesson Planning) | Linguistics | Phonetics | Grammar | Research and Reflective practices | Library | Language Lab |
|----------|----------------------|---|-------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Sessions | 30 | 25 | 10 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 20 |

The participants were trained rigorously in phonetics. They could use various sounds effectively. The trainees had umpteen opportunities for honing their language skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. Many practice sessions were organized for morphology and phonetics training. The module on communication skills was self-contained and exhaustive. Several technology-oriented sessions were taken by Dr. Preeti Sharda on Google classroom teaching, podcasting and MOOCs, which immensely helped the participants in understanding latest technological aspects. In the last week of on-campus mode, teaching practice was organized at Government High School in sector 32, to enhance the pedagogical skills of the participants. The idea was to achieve a holistic output of the programme. At the end of the Face to Face mode, the PGCTE faculty organized a farewell get-together on 15 Feb 2019. The participants had an opportunity to participate in different types of competitions such as Extempore, Declamation, Paper-reading and Poster-making. They also arranged potluck for the RIE staff. It was a unique initiative to accustom us to the culinary diversity of India. The participants were also taken for an educational tour to Sukhna Lake followed by lunch.



3. Extension Lecture on Cross-Cultural Communications: The Dynamic

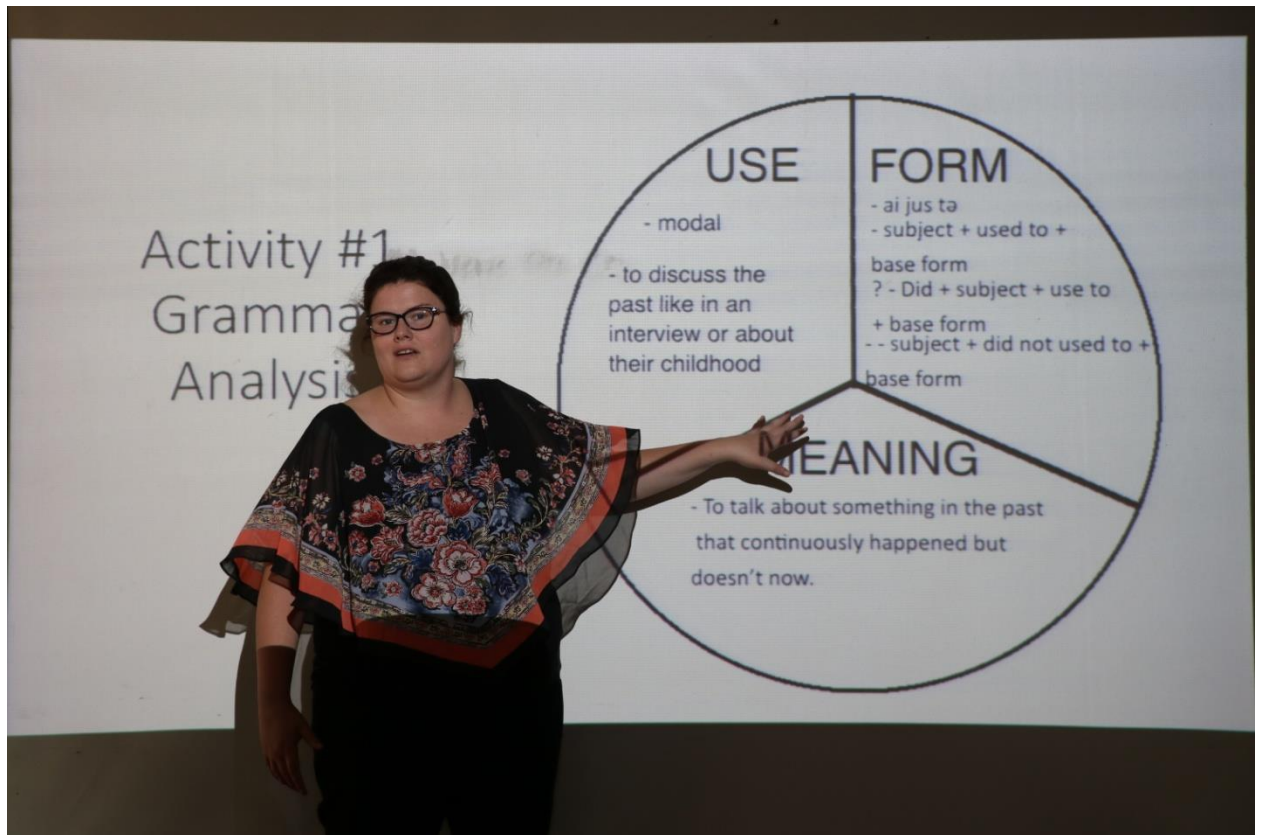
An extension lecture on *Cross Cultural Communications (CCC): The Dynamic* was organized at RIE, Chandigarh, on 25 March 2019. Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Board Member, United Way, Hyderabad & Corporate Vice President at AMD delivered the lecture on Need for CCE, Advantages (speed and efficiency, innovation and learning, productivity, relay race/team work), Challenges/Barriers, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. MA English students, participants of the Continuous Professional Development Programme and MA faculty participated in the lecture and discussion.

4. Workshop with School Teachers on “Writing and Grammar for Future ESL Teachers”

The workshop was organized for 40 school teachers by Regional Institute of English in collaboration with RELO, Delhi, at RIE on 10 May 2019. The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Eileen Finn from Portland, Oregon, USA. With more than fifteen years of teaching experience, Ms. Eileen has many distinguished academic awards to her credit and is currently associated with RELO, Delhi as an English Language Fellow.



The workshop provided a good platform to address academic issues on writing and grammar. The stakeholders were provided an opportunity to get a deeper understanding on the concepts. The sessions aimed at equipping the teachers with varieties of activities in teaching and learning especially in writing and grammar.



It further strengthened the teachers in planning and visualizing lessons in writing, grammar, preparing concept/mind map, designing worksheet and knowing various learning strategies. In the entire session, the participants had learnt the pedagogy of presenting grammar using visuals, demonstrations, and situations. Additionally, they also learnt how to analyze grammar points, as well as activities that can be used in the classroom. At the end of the workshop, all the participants were provided with a feedback form to be filled, followed by a group photo.



5. Workshop with College Teachers on “Academic Writing”

The workshop was organized for 36 college teachers by Regional Institute of English in collaboration with RELO, Delhi, at RIE on 11 May 2019. The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Eileen Finn from Portland, Oregon, USA. Ms. Eileen has many distinguished academic awards to her credit and is currently associated with RELO, Delhi as an English Language Fellow. With an MA from Concordia University, November 2015 a Graduate Program: TESOL Thesis: “The Possible Effects of Middle Eastern Accents on Employability in the United States”, Ms. Eileen has had over fifteen years of teaching experience.



The teachers were trained in basic academic writing rules, cohesion in writing, avoiding plagiarism with paraphrasing and summarizing, and the process of writing a basic 5-paragraph essay. The workshop provided a good platform to equip the teachers with varieties of activities in teaching and learning with regard to academic writing. It also

trained the teachers to create enabling environments for students in planning and visualizing material on academic writing. Further, through several interactive tasks, the teachers were introduced to preparing strategies that would lead to more conceptual understanding of academic writing. At the end of the session, all the participants were provided with a feedback form to be filled, followed by a group photo.



| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Sessions | 35 | 35 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 8 |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|

The participants were trained rigorously in phonetics. They could use various sounds effectively. The trainees had umpteen opportunities for honing their language skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. Many practice sessions were organized for morphology and phonetics training. The module on communication skills was self-contained and exhaustive. Microteaching practice was organized in the last week of on-campus mode to enhance the pedagogical skills of the participants. The idea was to achieve a holistic output of the programme. The faculty of PGCTE organized a farewell get together on last day during the face-to-face mode. The participants had an opportunity to participate in different types of competitions (Extempore, Declamation, Paper-reading and Poster-making). The participants celebrated teacher's day for the RIE staff. It was a unique and affectionate gesture. The participants were also taken for an educational tour to Sukhna Lake followed by lunch. The purpose of the course was to promote scholastic as well as co-scholastic aspects.







7. Cleanliness drive at Burail, Chandigarh

Under Swachh Bharat Mission programme, a cleanliness drive was taken up in Burail, Sector 45, Chandigarh by M.A. students along with faculty members on 16 August 2019. The students cleaned the area, and made the local residents aware about cleanliness. Photographs of the drive are attached below.



8. Talent Hunt Competition cum Fresher Day

A Talent Hunt Competition cum Fresher Day was organized for M.A English students at RIE, Chandigarh on 6 September 2019. All the students participated in the activities and showcased their talents. The Director and faculty welcomed the new students and congratulated them. The event was engaging and interesting.

9. Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

The 111 PGCTE Participants and M.A English students celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at the Institute on October 2, 2019. They enthusiastically raised slogans in favor of non-violence, truth, and patriotism. They had an informed discussion about the life of Mahatma Gandhi and the values he stood for. It was followed by a cleanliness drive which exhorted everyone to shun unhygienic and dirty practices. The participants cleaned the surrounding area of the Institute.

They also indulged in plogging (picking waste while jogging). The drive encouraged everyone to embrace cleanliness in all spheres of life. The participants brainstormed over various values he espoused and how these can be upheld during trying times. The spirit of love, collegiality and camaraderie was in the air.

10. One Day Workshop on Integrating Technology for Enhancing Collaborative Writing Skills

RIE is a nodal agency for pedagogical training teachers of English in the North of India. The Institute was thus approached by the meritorious school organization to conduct a teacher training session for their teachers. The session was organized on *Integrating Technology for Enhancing Collaborative Writing Skills* on 4 November 2019.

Needs Analysis of the teacher-participants was done as part of the first phase through questions put to the officials of the schools. An online survey was designed and given to the participants on Google forms that was posted on Google Classroom in order to gain an insight into their needs, level, and areas of interest. This helped RIE to design a workshop that helped the participants become aware about how online technology as an effective teaching tool can change the way they deliver their teaching of writing. Telephonic inputs from the Meritorious Schools Organization were also taken and guidelines were decided for preparation of the modules and materials for the participants.

As per the discussions and decisions taken during the meetings held for preparation, a diagnostic test and set of rubrics on a five-point scale were prepared to test the writing skills. A detailed analysis of all the scripts was done to identify the problem areas. The diagnosis was then shared individually with the participants so that remedial measures could be taken.

A basic text for certificates was sent by the Meritorious Schools Organization which was heavily edited by the coordinators as per the acceptable conventions. It was also decided that the Superintendent of Meritorious Schools be contacted to get the logo and the text, to be inserted in the certificates.

The workshop commenced with the registration of 35 participants. An introduction to writing as an important means of communication was given. Different genres of writing such as academic writing, business/institutional writing, creative writing, public writing, personal writing, social writing, study writing, sensory descriptive writing, imaginative narrative writing, informative practical writing, analytical, expository writing were discussed. The second and third sessions were on *Technological Tools for Enhancing Collaborative Writing Skills*. The aim was to give hands-on training to use technological tools for enhancing collaborative writing skills using Google Docs. Google Docs is a great online alternative to Microsoft Word. When one is collaborating with a group of readers or writers on a project, it is a huge boon to know that there is no need to download special software and end up encountering compatibility or versioning issues. It also provides you an option to add and download multiple tools to enhance your writing skills. Such affordances have opened broader avenues for Digital writing. Digital writing has changed the way we work, socialize, communicate, read, and share knowledge, but while the medium has changed, the fundamental skills required to write well have not. Tools can help make our process more streamlined. Thus, the objective of the workshop was to give a hands-on training of the different kinds of technology tools available to educators and writers alike for collaborative writing.

The workshop concluded with handing out certificates and collecting informal feedback. A group photograph was also taken and shared, on the whole, the workshop was well received.

The final phase involved posting material on Google Classroom, checking scripts, evaluation of answer sheets, submission of the report to concerned authorities, and preparation of financial expenditure.

11. Report of Constitution Day celebrated at RIE

The existence and successful survival of 'Democracy' in diverse conditions, with the constitution as its backbone, is the most celebrated fact about our country. To reinforce the significance and importance of constitution, the Government of India declared 26th of November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification in remembrance of the Father of Indian Constitution, Dr. B R Ambedkar. This year, the government resolved to celebrate the spirit of fundamental duties. The occasion was celebrated at RIE on 26 November 2019 in all its solemnity. Ms. Sapna Bharti from State Legal Cell Service,

Chandigarh, addressed the gathering and discussed various aspects of fundamental duties which a citizen is bound to perform for the welfare of the society. In her talk, the speaker also took participants through the journey of the Indian constitution, its dynamics and vicissitudes that it faced. The participants also asked various questions on fundamental duties and their significance for citizenry.

12. Report On The 4 Days Course On ‘Teaching With Learner In Mind’ (Embassy Of United States Of America, New Delhi)

A four-day workshop was held at RIE, Sector 32, Chandigarh, from 23 December 2019 to 27 December 2019. It was meant for a group of 30-35 teachers teaching English in various Govt. schools of Chandigarh. The overall objective of the workshop was ‘Teaching with the Learner in Mind’. The resource person for the same was Sara Denne Bolton from U.S., currently working with English Language Specialist Program, US Embassy, New Delhi. Born and brought up in Ireland, she has worked with teachers and students all over the world as an English Language expert.

On the first day of the workshop (Introduction) the issue of, ‘Why students face difficulties speaking English in their classes’ was addressed. The session commenced in a lively manner with warm-up exercise of shaking hands and legs to beat the chilling cold. Sarah introduced a new character ‘Mithu’ (a stuffed toy) to all the participants and they in turn introduced themselves. Various activities and games kept all the participants engaged as well as entertained. The second day’s session (Assessment) began with a little warming up, which was followed by introduction of a new interesting object named Snicker Snacker (another toy). It was creatively used in a dialogue repetition game requiring proper stress and intonation. Everyone found it amusing. Many useful and practical techniques were also shared with teachers. Throughout the session, a ‘learning by doing’ approach was employed. A number of communicative games such as Simon says, charades, board games, jazz chants, role-play with secret line, spot checks, and group tasks on rubrics.

The third day (Teaching Creative Writing) was targeted towards the following objectives:

- Teaching creative writing in EFL class
- Quick write method
- Creative writing activities

- A process writing lesson
- Editing symbols for students to help them self-correct
- Peer editing techniques

The creative writing activity named ‘My special object’ for paragraph writing was admired and appreciated by everyone present there and they all were convinced by its usefulness in every class irrespective of its size.

The fourth and the final day (Lesson Planning) of the workshop was completely devoted to the skill of writing Lesson Plans. The various aspects covered included the need of lesson plan, smart objectives of Lesson Planning, steps involved, and assessment tools like question activity board, student interviews, and action cards.

The workshop concluded with the felicitation of participants by Sara Denne Bolton, Maria Snarski and the RIE Director Dr. Vandana Lunyal. Group photographs were taken and feedback was collected from the participants. The resource persons were heartily thanked for their useful and relevant inputs. They were also highly praised for their enthusiastic, lively and motivating approach that sustained throughout the workshop.

13. Published Volume 33 of FELT

The Institute publishes a journal, FELT, bi-annually. FELT is a non-profit, non-commercial journal. It is devoted to English language teaching from the primary to the university level. It provides a forum for teachers of English to discuss their problems related to the teaching of English in India through papers, abstracts of reports related to language teaching and book reviews. In the latest FELT issue, writers from across the globe discuss the relevance of need specific syllabus and further stress on the importance of shift in mindset of teachers to accommodate the current pedagogical trends.

14. Released Disaster Management Newsletter

Department of Education and Regional Institute of English (RIE), jointly organized 20 workshops for the 2018-2019 session on Disaster Management for School Teachers of Chandigarh. Department of Education’s primary purpose in conducting these series of workshops was to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. The focus of training was to give hands-on experience and drills for managing disasters. This

exercise proceeded on the conviction that development cannot be sustainable in the absence of adequate and timely response to any disastrous hazard. RIE played the key role in preparation and execution of the programme. Need based modules were prepared; competent resource persons were engaged to train the participants. RIE collaborated with department of Fire Safety, UT Chandigarh, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), various experts such as doctors, psychologists, academicians, in the field to impart the training with a view to capacitating the schools in managing disasters which involve preparation, response and recovery plan for dealing with a full range of man-made and civil disasters.

15. Faculty Development Programme on Education and Pedagogy in the Times of Digital Humanities

A seven-day Faculty Development Program on *Education And Pedagogy In The Times Of Digital Humanities* was organized by the IQAC, Departments of Philosophy and Psychology of PGGCG, Sector 11, Chandigarh, in association with HRDC, PU, and RUSA, UT, Chandigarh at PGGCG-11 from 09 January 2020 to 15 January 2020 in which 40 Faculty members from different colleges participated.

Dr. Anita Kaushal, Principal of the host college extended a formal welcome to the guests. She introduced the theme of the FDP and drew attention to the upcoming digital humanities, globally. She touched upon the vision of the concept in light of its contribution towards national development. Dr. Kaushal mentioned that global interface and knowledge beyond paper were the new possibilities.

Prof. Pramod Kumar, Institute of Development and Communication, Chandigarh delivered the inaugural lecture and discussed five themes. Holistic knowledge and transdisciplinary approach, over and blind dependency on the black box as the source of learning, categories of social analysis in terms of speed of technology and its impact on ways of thinking, error in analyzing social situations within digital purview and the possibility of imbalance in learning. He established through his lecture the need for the academicians to look at the social position of the research attempted, or the information used, and suggested to use reflective opportunity before implementing these, to link it with the context and purpose, and then constantly question on one's role as facilitator in the process of teaching-learning.

The presidential remarks were given by Prof. S.K. Tomar, mathematician and Head, HRDC, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He linked digital usage and application to state attempts of checking on dropouts, and to think and bring in global experiences and research by digitalization. He also emphasized the importance of learning, unlearning, re-learning and new learning through training programs such as the FDP. Prof. Tomar brought attention to need for supplementing live interface along with digital ways of learning.

The resource persons interactively discussed the different dimensions of the topic relating to the Indian context along with the implications. The workshop was engaging, thought provoking and informative.

16. Workshop on Human Centered Design Thinking

The Regional Institute of English (RIE), Chandigarh, organized a one-day workshop on “Human Centered Design Thinking” for its Postgraduate students on 18 February 2020. Dr. Ashita Chadda, from Chandigarh University, was the resource person for the event. The workshop comprised three sessions from 10:30 am till 1:30 pm. It began with a candid interaction with the students on career options after pursuing a Masters in English. Dr. Ashita sensitized them towards an informed approach with regard to making career decisions and the importance of sustaining a good lifestyle. She introduced the concept of Design Thinking (DT) and emphasized on DT for a better future. In her talk, she explained various features of DT and guided the participants towards pondering over effective communication and employability skills. The students were informed that DT as a process helps to innovate by focusing on creativity. It is, thus, the ‘creativity’ part which makes the entire process human-centered.

The first session of the event was on *Empathy*. The students were asked to work in pairs and draw a bag or wallet for a partner based on the partner’s requirements. The aim was to understand the purpose, feelings, and requirements of the partner and cater to his/her needs. The activity stressed on the importance of interaction for better understanding. The second session was on *Ideation*. The students were required to share individual ideas on employability skills. This was further segmented in two parts – personal attributes and professional attributes. Personal attributes focused on ethics and values while professional attributes focused on organizing and planning involved in teaching. The participants were required to identify traditional ways of teaching and suggest

modifications. A few of the ideas suggested included outdoor teaching and more conversational way of teaching. The third session was on *Brainwriting*. The students were introduced to Game theory and were asked to work in groups. The task was to generate ideas on specified problems. Some of the issues discussed were—what problems do learners face while learning English, and what to do to improve teaching of English. The students gave insights and highlighted issues of mother tongue influence, peer pressure, difficulty to find the right vocabulary for the first question while for the second, the responses included better infrastructure, and positive reinforcement.

Overall, the sessions were interesting and informative for the participants. The workshop offered an opportunity to stay abreast with the trending concept of Design thinking for a better future. With meticulously designed sessions, the participants were given a hands-on experience aimed at activating their creativity. Amidst technological advancements, Design thinkers are required at various levels of any organization; thus, the workshop served as a perfect platform to equip the students with tools to become innovative thinkers and enhance their employability skills.

17. Faculty Achievements: Information Not Received

18. Tree Plantation: Information Not Received