

REPORT

ONE- DAY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR ANGANWADI –WORKERS AND PRIMARY TEACHERS ON FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY

As one of the activities of G-20 celebration in NERIE, one-day orientation programme for the Angawadi-workers and Primary Teachers on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy was organized on 15 June 2023. The programme was attended by 48 participants which include Head Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Primary Teachers, Pre- Primary Teachers, Helper/ Cook of Anganwadi Centers of Ri-Bhoi district . Resource Persons involved in the programme were Prof. Sandhya Sahoo from RIE, Bhubaneshwar, Dr. Loverwell Tham and Ms.Elirine Joycee Lyngdoh from DIET, Nongstoin. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Ph. Brajayanti Devi.

At the outset ,Prof. F.G. Dkhar, I/C In-charge NERIE, welcomed the Resource persons, NERIE Faculty Members and the participants during which she emphasized the need and importance of sensitizing the stakeholders in achieving foundational skills in literacy and numeracy in general and particularly the NEP 2020 which is a unique of its kind in terms of infusing Indian ethos at a greater extent. The participants were encouraged by Prof. Dkhar and informed them to carry home maximum benefit and utilize it in their respective institutes. Following the welcome address, Dr. B. Devi, briefed the participants about the programme after which there was self-introduction session.

The first technical session was delivered by Mrs. Elirino J. Laloo, DIET, Nongstoin, on the topic Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. She began her deliberation with the status of Meghalaya students' performance in different subjects as reflected in NAS 2021 in which scores for languages, Mathematics and EVS were found to be below the national average. She continued the session during which illustrations and elaborations on specifications for literacy development stages, various foundational literacy skills such as oral language development, phonological awareness ,decoding, vocabulary ,reading for comprehension, reading fluency, concept of print materials were taken care of along with strategies and examples so as to make it more concrete for the participants . For easy understanding and more lucid, presentation was done in bilingual form – English and Khashi.

The Second technical session was on foundational Numeracy which was delivered by Dr. Loverwell Tham , DIET Nongstoin. He focused his interaction more on the strategies and pedagogical resources rather than explanation for conceptual meaning and elements of numeracy skills. He quoted what R. N. Tagore said as “ I want to see , the children of India drink from a running stream but not from a stagnant pond” which signifies the need for all Indian teachers to be a running stream. He emphasized that all the teachers should reflect on what, we as a teacher, are doing; do we define ourselves, do we define the children/ learners or do we understand that teaching includes – pre-teaching session, action session, post-teaching session and remedial session which are the essential components of education in true spirit. Dr. Tham also highlighted few important ways for introducing concepts of mathematics for the beginners which included breaking psycho-fear for mathematics as a hard subject, use of songs or poems or rhymes or story –telling or open interaction as a method for learning language of numbers, maximum use of real objects and concrete materials and examples for identifying numbers, relate the concepts with symbols and signs, coordination of concrete materials with symbols and action through application of “Think Down, Think Round, Think Over ,Think Left-Think Right” approaches, E .L.P.S. Strategy etc . The participants had been briefed with some suggestive activities/ games for teaching idea of number ,place value, face value, concept of Zero and different shapes by using very simple methods such as tracing of numbers from the backsides by left hand writing of numbers in the space/air, playing number games , telling self-made stories on shapes ,group work on shapes in cartoon way together with rhyme or songs. It was pointed out that SLIP and HIDDEN lesson planning by the teachers is very crucial for developing numeracy and literacy skills in children at foundational stage . Dr. Tham opined that teachers who deal with children at foundational stage should demonstrate love for the children in schools as their own child and should assess themselves on how much they taught more than assessing children on how much they learned.

The third session delivered was on foundational literacy and numeracy as a whole stressing on implementation of foundational literacy and numeracy in blended mode with exemplars from DIET ,Kendrapara, Odisha. It was presented by Prof. Sandhya Sahoo, RIE, Bhubneshwar. The session began with the need and importance of FLN skills as per NEP2020 and proceeded on different aspects of implementation such as need for age appropriate curriculum, different approaches to be used in teaching learning for language acquisition and language learning at home

, school and society. The participants were informed that in order to nurture foundational literacy skills, children should be gradually provided with engagement with oral languages and prints, exposure to language, input-rich and print-rich environment as well as variety of relevant children's literature, accept and encourage for mixed use of home language and school language, facilitate meaningful interaction, introduction to additional scripts etc. She added that assessment of children as per learning style of individual and provision of space and time is the key to ensure development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Some of the exemplars referred and described from DIET Kendrapara, Odisha are listed as below :

- a) Language corner which has three forms namely Flex matters, TLM and Reading Materials
- b) Mathematics Corner which has three forms namely Flex Matters, TLM and Reading Materials
- c) Craft Corner which has Color Box, Color Pencils, Drawing Sheets, Florescent papers, Gum paste, Patraru Chitra Pustika, Chitrakana Pustika
- d) Digital Corner which has Desktop, Multimedia DVDs, Smart TV/Projector, Interactive E-contentlike Audio Book, A V Book and Interactive Lesson.
- e) Cultural Corner provided with A Big Mirror, Music System, Songs, Dance, Acting, Miming, Drama, Cultural and Local Games.

After the technical sessions got over, Dr. Sarajubala proposed vote of thanks . The programme was ended with national anthem.