



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

“NISHTHA”

(Noble Initiative to SHarpen Teacher’s Holistic Abilities)

A Faculty Capacity Building Program – AY-2022-23

Dates: 26th August 2022 to 28th August 2022

Venue: The Fern Resort, Vijayanagar, Polo Forest

Summary of the event:

Day 1: 26th August 2022

All the faculties reached the venue of the event (The Fern resort), after a joyful bus ride from GTU- Chandkheda premises. Upon arrival, the faculties were allocated rooms on sharing basis with fellow faculties, from different discipline, to encourage *bon-homie* and better interaction. A pre-workshop interaction and welcome event was organized in beautiful Parihar hall, at FERN resort upon arrival, which started with motivational song “Dharti ki Shaan....” . The rendition of this beautiful song by the entire team of GSET followed by recitation by all the fellow faculties, set an appropriate mood for the upcoming encouraging sessions. Few lines from song still continue to reverberate and it has indeed become an anthem for everyone to memorize and remind oneself of our own potential whenever we are feeling low.

This was followed by a formal brief about the unique name of the event “NISHTA” and the objective of IQAC in conducting this event by Dr Kaushal Bhatt, GTU IQAC coordinator. Prof S D Panchal in his introductory talk, further explained in-depth the vision and the objective behind conducting this program and why sharpening of holistic abilities in teachers was needed periodically. He put across his objectives behind NISHTA program through an audio video presentation, which talked about several key take away messages for life. His talk emphasized the need to know oneself, not live in past mistakes and regret about things, do our work to the best possible capabilities without being lax, and the importance of team work. This was followed by address of Honorable vice chancellor (Prof. Navin Sheth) in which he shared some of his academic experiences. He emphasized the need of empathy for overall holistic development while dealing with students. His impromptu talk was filled with words of wisdom and was very motivational for all the faculties. The event concluded with vote of thanks by Prof Pankaj Patel and was followed by an elaborate dinner which was heartily enjoyed by all.

Day 2: 27th August 2022

The official event began at 6 am with yoga and meditation session in the morning while being in the pristine and serene lap of nature. The venue with its beautiful surrounding mountains, river and melodious chirpings of birds made the ambience even more beautiful. The yoga session was accompanied by few light activities for all the faculties which set the mood for the upcoming event and was followed by breakfast.

Session 1: Pedagogy and Active Learning

This first expert session of the day was addressed by Dr. Hemant Trivedi, Former Provost, C. U. Shah University and Dean North Cap University, Gurugram after formal introduction by session coordinator by Dr. Pankajray Patel. Dr Trivedi in his session put forward some interesting perspective for all to ponder and think about even after his session was over. He deliberated on the some important paradigms of learning, with focus on having necessary Knowledge, Skills, Attitude, and a thorough understanding of amended Bloom's Taxonomy etc. in order to be a good teacher and mentor. He also elaborated upon the importance of understanding the categories of students namely deep learners, surface learners and strategic learners for better pedagogical results. He asked his audience about some good and bad experiences about their respective teachers, and tried to explain how repetitive learning helps one to gain and remember knowledge for longer duration and different approaches of pedagogy. He also expected the faculties to classify their students in cohorts of deep learners, surface learners so that etc. so teaching and mentoring session for them could be accordingly tailored to suit their needs. He laid a lot of emphasis on problem based learning, case studies and concept mapping for better understanding of a problem. Dr Trivedi described the concept of scrumming used by rugby players to build teams for problem solving and to have a better understanding of a problem. One of his innovative teaching practice which stuck a chord with all the fellow faculties was the concept of co-delivering the lecture by mentoring a student on the topic. It was very informative session for all with different perspective on varied pedagogical approaches.

Session 2: Effective Communication Skills

The second expert speaker for the session was Dr. Paresh Joshi, Professor, Department of English, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, who was formally welcome by Dr. S. D. Panchal. This was a very interesting session and Dr Paresh simply captivated his entire audience with his exceptionally good presentation skills, verbal and nonverbal skills. His talk was all about how to transmit the ideas in the mind of audience effectively, using verbal and nonverbal cues, get hold of their attention and sustain the same till the idea is communicated with conviction. He explained how rhetoric could help one to control the mind of audience, and be an effective tool to be skillfully used during communication and presentations in the class/ interpersonal communication or other public forum. Dr Paresh based on excellent examples explained how contents of ones talk has only 7 percent contribution in communication while rest all is through body language both verbal and nonverbal. He very skillfully demonstrated the importance of proxemics, and voice modulation to convey an idea

into the minds of others with utmost conviction. It was indeed a very helpful session for everyone as the message was communicated very effectively. He also advised all to read book by Allan and Barbara Pease for better understanding of common body language mistakes we often while expressing our ideas. The audience could practically experience the magic of his expression style and voice tones which he very effectively used to put across a point. Overall this session was highly informative and enjoyed by all. Dr Paresh happily answered the queries raised by some of the fellow faculties.

Session 3: Student Handling and Counselling

Our third expert speaker for the session was Dr. Vandana Patel, Founder and Director, Teacher Talks Academy, Vadodara who deliberated on how to handle students and counsel them. This session was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Chauhan who officially introduced and welcome her in the beginning. Dr Vandana with her vast experience of dealing with students shared several personal and insightful ways of handling students and learning their perspective in resolving any situation. She also explained how following a 5 x 5 rule (not to worry about a problem which will not be there with you in the next five years), respecting yourself, and be proud about one's profession, could help one in becoming an effective teacher. She shared several personal anecdotes about how she ensured that students heeded her advice and were willing to share their problems with her. She also mentioned the need to maintain confidentiality while mentoring and advising students, especially when they come to you seeking any advice, be in professional or personal matter. Her session very effectively communicated the importance of having a personal touch within the frame of professionalism, for effectively handling and mentoring students and was very well received by all the attending faculties

The schedule was driven with a lunch break.

Session 4: Effective Classroom Management

This post lunch session was continued by Dr. Vandana Patel, Founder and Director, Teacher Talks Academy, Vadodara. This was in continuation to her earlier session and she deliberated upon how it is equally important for teachers to learn, unlearn and relearn to be in tandem with the thought process of students. She also explained how using the method of role play, she could garner the attention of students while conducting her classes on pharmaceutical jurisprudence, which was otherwise a very boring subject from students' perspective. She highlighted the importance of having wittiness to have better understanding of student's psychology and better manage them. She also mentioned about the concept of EPIOPI- Empathetic Punctual Interactive Organized Planned Innovative, and how it is very essential for

teachers to be effective, as they are the role model for students. Her talk also deliberated upon the importance of verbal and nonverbal cues which teachers could use to be an effective communicator. Her talk ended with an interesting take of Gujrati delicacy on khaman dhokla, and beautifully correlated it with life principles of being open to suggestion, living in present and be willing to change. She aptly ended her talk with importance of power of word, which could be more dangerous than actual weapons. It was highly informative session for all and gave several ways of making classroom teaching effective.

Session 5: Fun and Learn

The last session of fun and learn of day one was from team Krida tantra of, managed by Mr. Gajanan Pawar, who is the Founder and CEO of Krida Tantra Academy, Ahmedabad and his team. It was very good icebreaking session amongst all the faculties of different discipline, as teams came together to play, compete and display exemplary team building skills. His simple game of placing an object at the maximum distance was highly enjoyed by all the teams with all kind of funny strategies being used by the participating teams to be ahead in the game. He twisted simple games to ensure that our minds remain active to instruction of starting, stopping, running or jumping once the game was played. All the faculties irrespective of gender, cadre and age enjoyed it thoroughly. Through these simple games team Krida tantra could beautifully pass on the message of team building, and helping one another in times of needs instead of pulling the legs. Many games were played by the team and were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The activities by Krida tantra ensured that we all got to know each other and enjoyed our stay creating many lifetime memories.

Day 3: 28th August 2022

This was one of the most eagerly awaited events of this program, despite the fact that we were all supposed to be ready at 5.30am in the morning for this nature trail. The trek included walk through rough and mountainous terrain of the Aravalli range, beautiful locales, with several waterfalls and rivers in the lap of nature. The entire team enjoyed their walk and soaked the beauty of the nature in its pristine form. The sounds of the birds, and the silence of the woods provided perfect ambience for one to enjoy and contemplate about the concept of Prakruti Parichay while trekking in the Polo Forest.

Session 6: Technical Writing and Developing Research Proposal

The session was delivered by Dr. Manish Kumar, Professor and Head of Sustainability Cluster, School of Engineering, UPES, Dehradun, India. The session was about the writing of a research proposal and an effective oral presentation in which some points like A) Before you start B)

During the slide preparation C) After slide preparation D) During presentation and E) Question and Answer session. It was very elaborate and nicely explained session by Dr Manish with several examples being used to explain what to expect from a reviewer. He explained the importance of designing a good figure and importance of displaying data in tabular form which could be viewed as good by the journal, using several illustrations.

He also deliberated about how to write an idea into a project and ensure that your idea is effectively communicated to the reviewer especially for grants. It was very informative session for all especially for writing research/ review articles and technical grants for funding.

Glimpse of the Event









