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Teachers learn lessons of life

HT Correspondent

IT WAS a day out for teachers—a day when they, for a change, became the taught and learnt a few lessons of life. The occasion was the annual PACE Teachers' Seminar where 450 educators from Delhi and the National Capital Region opened their minds to look into a world of opportunities.

The seminar, which featured a talk on 'World of Possibilities' by Anand David, dealt with making choices in everyday life. Mr David, a transformational trainer, conducted the talk on looking at possibilities and bringing in a change. He talked on the need for breaking the monotony of routine and looking at the world from a different perspective.

"No breakthrough has ever been achieved in a comfort zone. You have to step out of the trap to make a change and being educators you have to bring a

change in you rather than thinking of a change in students," said David who heads the Manford Centre that aims at building an environment conducive for Peace education, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution.

His interactive sessions dealing with curbing the monotony in life evoked a good response from the participating teachers who thoroughly enjoyed the two-hour session.

"There must be a better way" and "I am committed"—the two statements made by Mr David impressed the teachers who felt that seminars like this acted as a motivational tool for them. "We too are stressed out and such workshops are a refreshing

change for us," said Vibha Bhalla of Father Agnel Public School, Gautam Nagar.

For others the seminar was a platform that left them thinking about their interaction with students.

David who spoke about the need for lateral change urged educators to move ahead with time and bring in a consciousness amongst students. "Our assumptions are so strong that we rarely look at other possibilities. Besides, developing a divergent thinking approach we need to make a clear-cut distinction between important and urgent work," said David who urged the educators to develop a positive approach to life.

The seminar started with a song presentation by students of Amitasha School and the other highlight of the day was the launch of HT PACE website www.htpace.com by Sanjay Trehan, chief executive, Internet, HT Media Ltd.

And, in the end, the lucky draw saw a few teachers walking away with prizes sponsored by Samsung India Ltd.



Anand David making a point with two volunteers from the audience

Harpal Bhalla
Mother's International School

"At times we teachers get bogged down by values and tradition and view things with closed mind. The workshop was an eye opener. We will go back and share all this with our students also, to make them aware about the different possibilities of life."

Neetu Bakshi
Delhi Public School, Mathura Rd.

"The session was enriching and I intend to pass it on to my students. Think of it scientists who made inventions and discoveries worked on the same premise, where they looked beyond the obvious and discovered a range of possibilities."

Rita Sawhney
St. Francis De Sales

"All teachers present here are taking back some good ideas. Such sessions serve like refresher courses for us teachers and help in reconditioning us. We get to share information with other teachers too, which makes it even more worthwhile."

Renuka Anand
Apeejay School, Faridabad

"The session was enriching. Now we will motivate our students to open up a world of possibilities. We need such seminars to stimulate us occasionally. I realise that the need is to know the importance of things and not judge them by their urgency."

Suman Mittal
DI DAV School, Pitampura

"The workshop has opened our minds to a world of possibilities. We some times face a problem in getting slow learners and average students to perform better. But now we will help guide our students to look for other possibilities to do a task better. Not just we teachers but students will benefit too."