“We reap what we sow we are the makers of our own fate. The wind is blowing; those vessels whose sails are unfurled catch it, and go forward on their way, but those which have their sails furled do not catch the wind. Is that the fault of the wind? We make our own destiny.”

----- SWAMI VIVEKNANDA

Examinations ongs again

--Before anything else, preparation is the key to success

Semester I Exam of M.Ed commenced from 7th December to 11th December. Semester I Exam of B.Ed commenced from 17th December to 21st December. Preparing students for the examinations, tutorials were conducted; guidance and feedback were given based on the performance in prelims examination.
Connect......Collaborate......Create

--empowering with leadership skills

The second day of the Workshop on ‘Promoting Institutional Effectiveness: Development and Evaluation of an Instructional Leadership Training Program for the Leaders of Higher education’ was organised on 9th December 2013. This workshop is a part of the UGC sponsored research project on the above mentioned title. This project consists of three phases namely Diagnose Phase, Develop Phase and Deliver Phase. The first day of workshop was conducted on 26th November 2013.

2nd day of the workshop too was filled with various activities. The workshop began with recap and sharing of experiences to ensure learning mind-set and continuity from day 1. This was followed by experiential activities like ‘6 A Framework’ i.e. Awareness, Acknowledgement, Aspiration, Abilities, Action and Acknowledgement, ‘Johari Window’ to allow the participants to use self-discovery and communication to build trust and respond to the value of understanding oneself better and how others view us. Then effective feedback skills, ‘Ask-How’ Framework to demonstrate the importance of ‘Asking’ powerful questions in ‘Empowering Conversations’, essentials of being a ‘Conflict Competent Leader’ was arranged. This enabled the participants to
learn various aspects of conflict and finally, to discover personal preferred style and effective means of handling the same.

Day 2 concluded with the discussion of progress made by Project Teams in Action Learning Project and support needed, if any and the ‘Next Steps’ on the project was also discussed at length. At the end of the 2nd day of the workshop the educational leaders were prepared to,

- Formulate evidence-based approaches to transforming and improving teaching and learning
- Adopt innovative approaches to instructional and student learning and school management and
- Communicate effectively with staff, students and parents
Paper Presentations

Dr. Kalpana along with Mr. Amol Ubale presented a research based paper "Empowering the visually impaired learners for facing the disasters: An Educational Intervention in the international conference on "Disability and Disaster management" organised by NAPSIPAG a body of UNESCO and hosted by Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi on 7-9th of December 2013.

Dr. Kalpana Kharade and Ms Hema Peese presented a research based paper “A Journey of Visually Impaired Learners towards Planets" A welcoming Promise of Technology based Inquiry Learning Approach” in an international conference UNIDAT organised by the Department of Assistive Technology of ISIC New Delhi on 19th -21st December 2013.

Sacred or Secular History

Somaiya College of Education, Training and Research along with Buddhist Centre of Education were overwhelmed to receive Dr. Samuel Wineburg for delivering an interesting Lecture on History. He is a Professor at Margaret Jacks College of Education and of History (by courtesy) at Stanford University. Professor
Wineburg has volumes of achievements to his credit, his interdisciplinary scholarship sits at the crossroads of three fields: history, cognitive science, and education, and has appeared in such diverse outlets as, Journal of American History, Smithsonian Magazine, and the Los Angeles Times. His work has been featured on C-SPAN, NPR, WBUR-Boston, and stories about his work have appeared in newspapers across the nation, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA TODAY. We are fortunate enough to have called Dr. Wineburg who through his profound lecture on the Topic “Sacred or Secular History? Must they be at Odds? contributed to our knowledge of History, through his unique blend of knowledge of Psychology and History; he elucidated on how History is created, taught and learned. Through his profound lecture he tried to bridge a gap between sacred and secular History by giving real life examples ranging from day to day life to religion to science. His humour, easy language and childlike gestures made the lecture lively. Though being a history lecture all were glued to their seats and listening attentively; enjoying every word of it.
Goal setting workshop

Goal setting workshop was conducted on 13th December 2013. Teaching and non-teaching staffs were divided into groups for appropriate implementation. Groups met exactly at 10.30 am. Each member aligned individuals’ goals to institutional goals and wrote about action plan and time line regarding their contribution towards vision and mission of the institution.
Students-Parents /Spouse Alumni Meet

Students-Parents /Spouse Alumni Meet was conducted from 3.15 pm – 4.45 pm on 21st December, 2013. Principal Dr. Vasundhara Padmanabhan elicited upon the vision & mission of the institute. There was an interactive session between alumni & present B.Ed. students. Some of the alumni spoke about their experiences in this institute and also about the benefits & achievement they got from this course. ‘Ganesh Vandana’ was sung towards the end of the meet followed by vote of thanks by faculty member.
Orientation on geogebra and gchempaint

--an IIT Mumbai Initiative

Geogebra is mathematical software including Algebra, Geometry and Calculus Application. Representatives from IIT Mumbai on 24th December 2014 enlightened on Geogebra and Gchempaint. Participants were given a brief introduction on how to use Geogebra and different purposes for which it could be used and were told to practice it individually. They taught how to use an input bar, polygon tools, segment tools and told about two lines on geogebra – first is algebra view and second is graphic view. Representatives from IIT, Powai also provided a structured presentation on the use of Gchempaint. It allows us to draw and display a 2D chemical structure which facilitates a better learning experience with chemistry. Its use also ensures better understanding of the concepts and provides a platform for the study of complex chemical structures and in devising efficient learning materials.
Session on Psychological testing

As the M Ed students needed to be empowered with the skills of administering the different psychological tests for doing research, a session on administration of latest psychological tests was conducted. The students were shown the list of psychological tests so as to create an awareness of different categories of tools – inventories, scales, battery’s etc.
Paper Reading Session

Paper reading session conducted by Ms. Rosemary Dolphy on 21st of December 2013 regarding research work carried out by her.

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Guest Lecture on Counselling

-- By Ms. Sweta Padmanabhan

Guest lecture by Miss Sweta Padmanabhan was organized on the 25th December, 2013 to facilitate the understanding of counselling & basic work etiquettes. She is a practising counsellor at a clinic in Chembur and was at great ease handling all the queries of the students. She concentrated on the most important topics such as counselling, anger management, work place harassment
and improving teaching methodology which are of great relevance at this juncture, where mere theories and training do not help. The session was extremely valuable for the students as they are novices in the field of teaching & handling stress. All the misconceptions regarding counselling were cleared & it proved to be an interactive event. She not only emphasised on various problems prevalent in the work place but also the efficient ways to tackle them, so as to prevent any kind of problem arising from the same. Meanwhile she also gave insights on the ways of handling the temper tantrums, which can act as the barrier in the professional development of teachers. She concluded her speech by discussing various current issues followed by a question and answer session.
For grant of academic autonomy

A committee comprising of five members from various prestigious institutions visited the college on 24th Dec, 2013. The objective was to review the effective functioning and infrastructure availability, so as to grant academic autonomy to the institution. The committee interacted with the staff members to gauge the preparedness towards attainment of academic autonomy. An interactive session was held with the students wherein the need & importance of granting autonomy was discussed. It was an informal interaction where all the students were free to express their views and opinions. It was a highly appreciated effort on part of the committee members to have maintained such a composed nature which not only facilitated a stress free discussion but also paved way for many new viewpoints regarding the grant of autonomy.
Christmas Celebrations

The event started by a welcome speech followed by lighting of the lamp by Dr. Vasundhara Padmanabhan. A dance drama was organized by the students to elucidate upon the importance of Christmas with Carol singing and dancing performance by the students. A game of musical chairs was arranged for the teachers followed by a game for students. The event was concluded by a speech by Principal Dr. Vasundhara Padmanabhan followed by the National Anthem.