



Santa Maria Integrated Learning Environment

4, Green Avenue Lane, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Circle Time – What is Education? : A workshop by Ms Nandita Tripathy ,Ms. Mussarat Begum and Ms. Elizabeth Varghese.

Venue – St. Mary's School

All are but parts of one stupendous whole, whose body nature is, and God the soul.

--Alexander Pope

The Santa Maria teachers were all prepared to resume their duties with all of their might and with the utmost dedication all while learning from the workshop that were planned . Ms. Nandita, Ms. Mussarat and Ms. Elizabeth Varghese, conducted the workshop on Circle Time - What Is Education? It was an engaging workshop that helped teachers

The day began with Dr. Annie Koshi Ma'am welcoming the teachers. She made us realise that we are all aiming to achieve the same objective, which is stated in the school's motto **तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय** which means "**may the light of knowledge remove the darkness of ignorance.**"

Circle time 1- what is Education?

Ms. Nandita Tripathy and Ms.Elizabeth led the first session of the workshop; teachers of Santa Maria were a part of this session.

We were first shown a short clip of a teacher and children dancing to the song "Superhero". We were asked to share what we had understood from the clip. In response, the teachers stated that: children were enjoying and their participation was active. They were having fun because they were experiencing a sense of acceptance.

The session started with a mental journey in which we all went down our memories into our childhood at different point of times. Throughout the journey we were guided to recall what we were enjoying doing the most. The journey continued till

we reached our school days. After the mental journey we were asked to reflect our life experiences.

Q.1 What is it that you enjoyed doing the most?

Q.2 What is it that you looked forward to when you went to school?

Q.3 Your most memorable engagement, interactions with your teachers and friends?

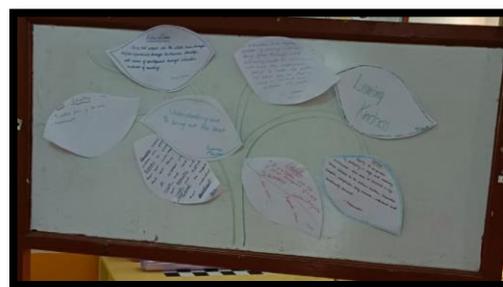
All teachers shared their experiences. It was realized and understood by all that nobody spoke about academics while they shared about their experiences. All the experiences were largely related to our emotions, our understanding of self and world around and how they shaped us.



Activity 1: My Perspective' "Education to me means..... .

Teachers were encouraged to write their own opinions about what education means.

Education is an ongoing process of learning which continues throughout our life while we interact with our environment and respond to it.



Activity 2: Understanding the School's Vision:

The activity gave teachers a clear understanding of the school's vision. It helped us realize that our goal is to facilitate and enhance each child's development in the following areas:

* **Socio-Emotional**

* **Physical and Motor**

* **Language**

* **Intellectual**

to help him/her become happy, confident, and emotionally secure individual.

- a) Describe the school's vision either through word/action/sentence.
b) Which part of the vision talks about inclusion?
c) How as a teacher do you think you will achieve the school's vision ?

How to achieve school's vision?

A short discussion was held to bring an understanding of the three most important domains with which the teacher engages.

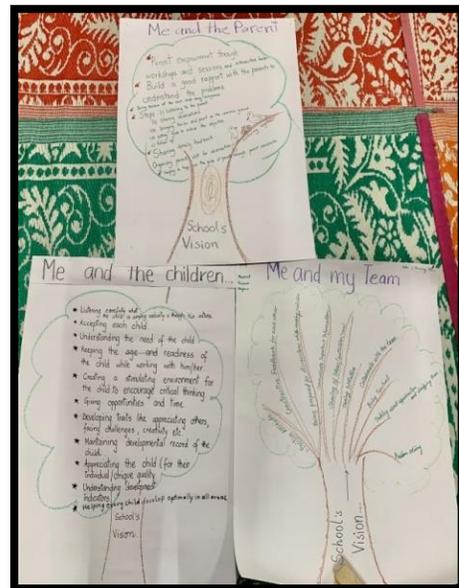
- Teacher and the child
- Teacher and the parent
- Teacher and her team

Discussion was followed by a group activity in which teachers were divided into 3 group and given the following topics. They were required to think and list out the points that would indicate their engagement with the three.

Group 1 – Teacher and the children

Group 2 – Teacher and the team

Group 3 – Teacher and the Parents



Circle time session 2

My responsibilities – Institutional and Professional

The ultimate goal of the cup challenge was that teams needed to make a pyramid of the cups and without touching the cups with their hands. Because of this activity, we were all able to comprehend what the game's objectives were.



The following were the learning objectives:

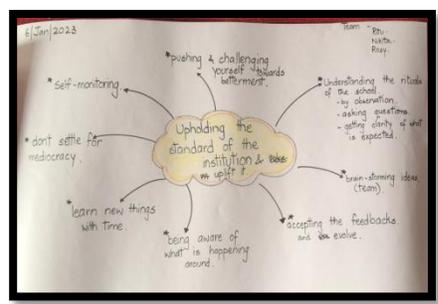
- **Understanding team dynamics**
- **delegation and leadership.**
- **Practice teamwork skills.**
- **problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration.**

As the activity came to an end, we could see delight and a sense of achievement on everyone's face. When asked what exactly was required to reach the objective of the game? Teamwork, listening skills, coordination, assisting others, problem solving, and time management were mentioned by the teachers as their answers.

Similarly, we understood that as teachers, we have certain responsibilities to our profession and the institution where we work. A

brainstorming session was held to explore what teachers would suggest as ways to demonstrate responsibility for their profession and institution. Teachers' responses included "being committed, taking the initiative, having a positive attitude, learning from their colleagues, and many more." After hearing the responses, important points were listed to have a clear understanding of our responsibilities to the institution.

1) Uphold and uplift the standards of the school.



2) Understand and follow the institute's pedagogy.



3) Continue to evolve



There was a group activity in which every group was given one component (from the three mentioned above) to elaborate, why is this component important and how it is achieved?

Activity 3 – Group Activity

The next activity was a 'group activity'. The objective was to complete a set of tasks in a team in 7 minutes. After completing the task, teams were asked to reflect on how it was accomplished?

Teams scored points while they presented the outcome of each task.

Group Activity - To be completed within 7 minutes

- 1 person to do 25 jumping jacks (5 points)
- Make up a nickname for each member of the group (5 points)
- Get every person in the room to sign a piece of paper (15 points)
- Form a conga line and conga from one end of the room to the other (5 points, 10 bonus points if anyone joins your group)
- Retell a fairy tale using given objects (5 points)
- Click a picture of the tallest member in the group (5 points)
- Share one fact about anyone tree in Santa Maria (5 points)
- Find out a person in this room who has the last name that is 6 or more letters long (5 points)

During the presentations, a simultaneous discussion helped everyone to understand why one team did better than the other. The reasons were analyzed.

The objective of this activity was to make us understand 'team dynamics, understanding how to fulfill our responsibilities' and how they should be used to deliver the best results while working in a team. Only through an awareness of our inner realm can we truly connect with ourselves and form a good team and accomplish our institutions objective. Our connection with others encourages growth, insight, and new ways of thinking.

Warm Regards,

C.B. Prerana Virginia Raj

S.M.I.L.E