

## Synopsis New Moon Program 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### Topic – Teaching v/s creating learning opportunities at schools & at home in early childhood

The Speaker for this New Moon Program Aug 2022 was Mrs. Aditi Natu (also known as “Prachitai”). Who is an educational expert and having more than 30 years experience in teaching & training the educators of children in early childhood.

She is associated with ‘Maharashtra Balshikshan Parishad’ – a State Level Body and ‘Grammangal’ – NGO in different capacities in governing body & as a member.

She is imparting training to teachers on providing quality education to children. She authored various Books which covers various aspects of modern education system.

Over the years, she developed multiple ‘project & activity based learning & self development techniques’ for children at pre primary & primary levels.



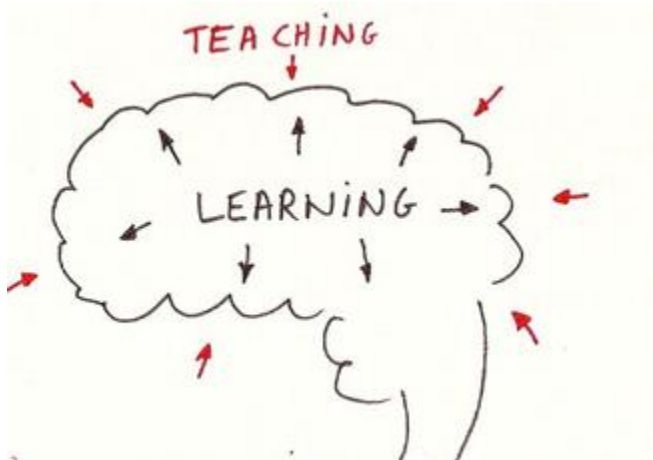
During the session, she shared her experience & findings on the subject of Teaching V/s Creating Learning Opportunities at Schools & at Homes.

### Key Take Away:

In an elaborative & interactive session, Prachitai explained the paramount role of teachers/ Schools & Parents in creating situation based self learning opportunities.

Excerpts of the session for our viewers are as follows:

1. Prachitai explained that instead of Teaching (either at homes/ at schools), we shall primarily focus on creating situations & atmosphere wherein the child learns himself/ herself. Many times, we are under false impression of teaching & imparting knowledge as a Source. Actually we are simply medium & atmosphere in which child learns himself/ herself.
2. Learning is more of an internal process for any child. This process shall be nurtured by parents & schools.



3. Prachitai emphasized on this self learning mechanism for children between the age group 2.5 yrs upto 8 years (loosely we may say from pre primary upto 2<sup>nd</sup> Std) & how critical it is since human brain is very receptive & analytical during this age.

This fact is recognized & adopted in framing New Education Policy 2020 which is due for implementation in next academic year.

4. She added that Creativity shall be nurtured in every child. Creativity is nothing but problem evaluation & problem solving capacity in every human being & it should be the foundation of education & learning.

5. Every child shall walk through the process of self learning which can be split as  
→ problem confrontation → working out multiple options as likely solutions → their evaluation → Actual application → Finally solving the problem situation.

6. In this entire discussion of Child learning & development, she emphasized that parents must have patience in attending the inquisitive mind of their kids. Listen more to them. Many times - this is misinterpreted as excessive appreciation to the child which is never the intention/ purpose.

7. Parents / schools shall provide thought provoking alternatives in the given situation & let the child walk through the process of evaluation & solution finding. The situations can be academic, real life, social etc.

8. Parents need to ponder upon & tide over their challenges of lack of time for their child.

9. Excessive external activism for children like Morning school, afternoon day care when parents are busy in their offices & later evening sports time – this kills his / her creativity in the burden of activities.

10. Parent & child joint time spending helps achieving many objectives of learning & development. This can be done in project based learning at schools while situation based learning at homes.



11. She explained a small project implemented in their Pre primary level schools at Vikramgad – wherein kids were taken on the main roads & were asked to differentiate between types of transport vehicles, then they were asked about vehicle occupancy & look for cars / bikes with single traveler. The kids on “multiple triggers” identified problem of plenty vehicles—& its impact on petrol consumption, traffic congestion & also suggested Car pooling method in a raw format to solve this problem.

IN another project, students were asked to prepare the constitution for the school activities in order to understand constitution of the India & how the country works in defined systems & procedures at different levels. In a similar activity learning exercise – she had used of different packing materials/wrappers to understand their scales & co-relation in different sizes thereof.

12. She insisted that main challenge for the parents/ teachers/ elderly is to drop their ego of knowing everything & acknowledge the advancement of new generation. We must remember that end product namely passing the exam is not important but learning & developing analytical mind is necessary for a good human being.

13. During this process- kids may tend to be lazy & may lose the thrust- in such cases small push is needed from the parents/ teachers.

While concluding her session, Prachitai mentioned that fears of extra time spending is superficial if we do WISE time management. Activity/ small Project based learning accelerates process from observation based learning to experience based learning. As a Teacher / School & Parents – we need to be more open for creating such opportunities for children.

Guruji Ajit Telang in his remarks; drew attention to the Quote of Swami Vivekanand which says - "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. But if character is lost everything is lost...." & insisted the character building & development of good human being shall be center point for our efforts as teachers & as parents at home.

He precisely pointed that in current times– in a rat race to make students SMART & MARKS ORIENTED, component of character building & developing WISDOM is overlooked. We need to re-focus on these aspects simultaneously. As they say, Good Citizen Make Good Society & Good Society Makes Strong Nation.

With deep regards  
Team DSPPL