

Capacity Building Program for the Master Trainers of Kerala State on
Art Integrated Learning (AIL)

A Report

Summary

Program By: NCERT, Delhi

Program Coordinator: Professor Pawan Sudhir, NCERT

State Coordinator: Professor J. Prasad, Director SCERT, Kerala

Program Venue: Socio economic unit, Kalavoor, Allappuzha

*Local Course Director: Dr. Gopalakrishnan Pillai, Research Officer,
SCERT, Kerala*

Program dates: from 20.09.2016 to 30.09.2016

Duration: 10 days

Number of participants: 40 (from all over Kerala)

This is a PAC program of NCERT for the year 2016-17. It is an initiative of DEAA, NCERT to promote quality primary education through Art Integrated Learning (AIL). This program is first phase of the master trainers training on AIL in Kerala. Second and final phase of the program will take place next year (2017-18). The main objective of the program is to train master trainers for further trainings of primary teachers on AIL approach in the state of Kerala.

The initiative started on 24th of June at NCERT, where Sh. Manekkala Gopalakrishnan, Research officer, along with Director SCERT Kerala participated in the one day Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to orient the state representatives and decide (i) the program dates (ii) identification of teachers and teacher educators to be trained as master trainers (MTs) and (iii) suitable venue of the program in their states.

I must appreciate the foresight of Director SCERT J. Parasad of SCERT (Kerala) for selecting Socio Economic Unit, Kalavoor, Allappuzha as venue and making Dr. Manekkala Gopalakrishnan to be the local Course Director of the programme. Dr. Manekkala Gopalakrishnan was able to manage the local coordination flawlessly. Since it was a 100% residential program, it became even more important to organise stay and meals for all the participants and resource persons. Arrangements were appreciated by one and all.

Training

The training was conducted as per planned schedule of ten days, based on the Training Package prepared for the purpose. The package consists of seven need based modules, supported with a multimedia DVD.

All Resource Persons of this program are experienced in this approach and are trained by the NCERT especially for the task.

The training approach was 100% participatory, supported with experiential learning. All sessions included mock sessions were planned to provide adequate hands-on-practice of AIL pedagogy to all the participants.

The Programme was inaugurated by the State Research Officer SCERT Sh. Manekkala Gopalakrishnan, where in the purpose of this program was explained by the NCERT team.

Areas covered in the program, include;

Ice-Breakers: - *Art Based* ice-breakers were the integral part of all the sessions in this program. This helped in creating a positive and live group atmosphere throughout. Teachers were trained on creating their own ice-breakers and also to make its use for energising learners to maintain the interest and participation till end of the day. This helped our teachers shed away their inhibitions and take part in artistic and creative expression. Ice-breakers used here were on sharpening the; (i) cognitive skills (ii) psycho-motor skills and (iii) the skill of application.

Art in everyday school Activities: A discussion was initiated on the topic in the areas where the art can be included in school time, for example; Morning Assembly, Special Days and Celebrations. Inter House/Class Competitions, Field Trips/Visits, Mid-day Meals, Bal sabha etc.

How a teacher can plan innovative experiences with the active participation of children and other teachers. There were interesting initiatives from all participants in making assembly time more meaningful for the children.

Methods and Materials: Resource persons were able to create an appropriate environment for facilitating 100% participation of participants in art activities (visual as well as performing) by demonstrating different methods, techniques and materials to give hands-on-experience to all the participants. Everyone was able to learn and produce art work which are relevant for initiating AIL in their classroom. All participants created their folders, which they will take back to their schools. All the work created has been displayed in the training hall. Sessions on methods and materials gave participants the necessary know-how on the skill part of the arts. Participants also learnt the skill of puppetry and its pedagogical significance which they appreciated a lot. The possibilities and the aspects of process theatre to be used in classroom was also discussed and practiced by the participants. Each group displayed exemplary proficiency and skills to incorporate theatre to classroom experiences with outcomes set as targets

They were made to utilise these art experiences for teaching /learning of the concepts of other school subjects.

Integration of arts with other subjects: The main focus of Art Integrated Learning (AIL) is on this aspect of arts education. Participants were explained the concept of AIL, they were made to brainstorm the concept and skill of AIL in groups of 6-7 teachers each. They prepared mock sessions on integration of arts with other subjects. There were presentations followed with critical observations from other groups and experts.

There were sessions on viewing of films on the AIL concept which portrayed the various ways to integrate art in classroom and school. Teachers were explained and given orientation on Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) and how art itself can be an evaluation tool and technique.

There were discussion on tools of evaluation, process and product, quantitative and qualitative evaluation, learning indicators etc.

Role of museums/field trips in Education: Teachers were taken on the field trip to the backwaters of allappuzha and the allappuzha beach. There were discussion and hands on session on the importance of Field Trip to the learners. Activities on topics such as; (i) How to plan a field trip? (ii) Preparing worksheet for children before taking them on a visit (iii) How field trip can be a tool of educational process? Etc. were also done. They were asked to take pictures and videos of interesting facts/figures of the subjects/objects etc. Back in the training they were asked to present their documentation and it was worth an exercise because most of them made short video films on backwaters, water pollution and other subjects.

Film making and documentation: Participants were given exposure on use of ICT in classroom learning. Movies can be a great resource for the teachers in communicating facts and demonstrating procedures which are otherwise difficult for the teachers to impart in classroom. They were given the practical training of movie making in which content and technical aspects were also discussed. The participants were very enthusiastic and made 16 movies on art integrated learning.

There was a special lecture cum demonstration made by the Research Officer of the National Institute of Coir, Allapuzah to make participants aware about there local resource (Coir) and its possibilities

Last but not the least, I would like to appreciate the enthusiasm of the participating teachers and RPs in making learning a joyful and meaningful experience throughout the program.

Cooperation and coordination of Sh. Manekkala Gopalakrishnan, the local coordinator of the program needs to be acknowledged for the quality and success of the program.

Prof. J. Parshad Director SCERT (Ex. V. C. Sankrit University and Kala Mandlam) visited the venue on September 26th and emphasized the need of

Arts in education . While sharing with the participants he said that art and education cannot be separated, in fact they supplement each other as right and left side of the Goddess Sarswati. He also recited many Shalokas in support of ARTS in Education .

Director Education and DPI Mr. M. Kumar (IAS) visited the venue On September 29th to interact with the participants and also take feed back of the AIL training. He spend half day with the participants, listening about their experience and reviews very carefully. He requested participants to do a mock session on integration of arts with subject learning and spent time watching movies created by them.

He said that he was deeply impressed with the impact of this ten day long training and AIL as an approach to learning. He ensured that AIL will be carried on further to the grass root levels, and state will put in all efforts to train all its Elementary Teachers on AIL.

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