

Understanding and moving with the NCF 2005

Objective: Understand the guiding principles of NCF 2005 and the position papers and their importance in today's school system.

After a very thought provoking workshop on Day 1, the teaching faculty of the school was excited to bag new ideas and learning on the morning of Day 2.

To make this workshop more interactive, the entire teaching staff of St. Mary's was divided into various groups. Each group was asked to read the NCF 2005 and position paper on a particular topic, during the summer holidays. This pre-planning helped us to comprehend the crux of the NCF 2005 during the day long session of "Why NCF 2005?"

The facilitators for the day were Dr. Asha Singh and Ms. Meera Balachandran.

The session started with a brief introduction on NCF 2005 by Ms. Meera Balachandran. She laid stress on making the learning and teaching process dynamic. Her views reflected on the NCF's idea of adapting and adopting to the new methods of teaching.



Thereafter each group presented a 5 minute presentation on their understanding of the NCF 2005 and the position paper assigned to them. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session by the panelists and the peers to help a better understanding of the viewpoints.

Maths group presented a very creative way of teaching the method of division using biscuits. The science group was no less. They very well explained that children cannot understand

science by rote learning. To cognize the concepts and apply them, children should learn through hands on activities. English and Hindi language presentations focused on the core point that language skills like speech, listening, reading and writing should be built through various resourceful and inventive activities in a school system.



Presentations on Art and Music, Physical Education, Languages, Social Science and Heritage crafts reflected that a child should be provided with an environment where he or she can learn without any hindrance, pressure and fear.



One of the groups also presented their perspective on reforming the examination system as recommended in the NCF 2005. They stressed on creating a stress free and flexible examination system. There was also a presentation on Educational Technology. It focused on the viewpoint that technology should be considered as a tool to enhance the teaching and learning process. It should act as a change to make learning more responsive. The emphasis should be on helping the children learn to work efficiently with a computer rather than learning about the technical knowhow.

Presentations on sensitizing with the society and gender indifferences were also very interesting and thought provoking.

Dr. Asha Singh gave her valuable inputs after each presentation.



Although the groups had different topics to present and discuss about but the core vision of all were the same. The vision and perspective of the workshop in connect with the NCF 2005 was:

- a. Develop child's thinking and reasoning skills. Make him an active learner.
- b. Make teaching more creative and child oriented.
- c. Learning should shift from the concept of rote learning to doing and learning.
- d. Develop and design a methodology that caters to the need of every child.
- e. Planning a curriculum so that it goes beyond textbook.
- f. Restructuring the examination system to make it stress free.
- g. Compassion towards gender, caste and class equality, peace, health and needs of children with disabilities.

The workshop initiated lot of thinking and as teachers it helped us to introspect the methods we use in our classrooms.

“More important than the curriculum is the question of the methods of teaching and the spirit in which the teaching is given.”

Bertrand Russell