

9TH INSPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

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13-15 Nov. 2019: The 9th International Conference of Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA) began on 14th November 2019 at the PDPU campus, Gandhinagar alongside a parallel three day workshop on School Psychology Competencies from 13th – 15th November 2019. The welcome address of the conference and workshop was given by Dr PanchRamalingam, Secretary InSPA and Prof B. Mukhopadhyay, President, InSPA.

The workshop comprising of 12 training sessions received more than 30 participants from premier institutions in Chandigarh, Chennai, Kanpur, Mizoram, Bangkok, Bangladesh and within Gujarat. Prof. Jagdish Joshi, Director, HRDC-Gujarat University gave the inaugural address and stressed on the importance of raising awareness about child psychology given the recent rise in stress-related suicides among the youth. He emphasized on the importance of team-work and collaboration. In his keynote address, Prof. Ratna Natrajan, Director, State Training Centre, Chennai emphasized on skill-development as well as the need to understand a child's mind in today's highly competitive environment. The other esteemed speakers emphasized on building confidence among teachers (Prof. Panch Ramalingam, InSPA Secretary), understanding the difference between education and knowledge (Prof Md. Kamal Uddin), importance of indigenous approaches like Yoga and Meditation to enhance well-being (Prof. B. Mukhopadhyay, InSPA President) and the role of a teacher in cases related to bullying (Prof Parvathy Varma). The workshop was concluded by a valedictory address from Dr. Santhakumar, VC, GNLU and Dr Joshi, Registrar, GLS.



On the first day of conference, in the inaugural ceremony, Shri Pankaj Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Gujarat was the honorary guest for the special address where he emphasized the importance of research in the area of school psychology for ensuring holistic wellbeing of children and youth. Prof. Tarun Shah, Registrar, PDPU and Prof. Nigam Dave-Director, School of Liberal Studies, PDPU welcomed the conference participants. Dr. Daniel B. Greenberg, USA delivered the keynote address on 'Bringing Education to Life' wherein he explained how Ecovillages as campuses can be developed for transformative education. Alongside, the ceremony witnessed distribution of InSPA awards, release of the International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology, release of the InSPA journal of Applied and School Psychology and the release of the InSPA decennial book (2009-2019).



The three day international conference hosted delegates from seven countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangkok, Sri Lanka, US and India). The conference was quite enriching with 32 expert sessions including Invited Talks, symposiums, thematic address and workshops.

As dissemination of research findings is one of the primary purpose of an academic conference, we received an overwhelming response with 240 paper presentations in the concurrent scientific sessions. The papers were presented by young scholars (including more than 60 undergraduate and postgraduate students of PDPU) as well as senior experts, professors, academicians and practitioners. All the research papers reflected hard work and sincere efforts to examine the common issues in school psychology. Some of the themes covered by researchers were: parenting styles and resilience among adolescents, social competence in context ECA activities in school, predictors of happiness among school going students and educational challenges of school teachers. Some very practical issues were also covered namely: effect of air pollution levels on stress levels of students, social phobia among the youth, emotional labour and its impact of job satisfaction, personality and religious prejudice, effect of stress on suicide probability and non-verbal creative thinking.

