



SPELT Celebrated its 35th Anniversary

EQUITY AND ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



Thirty-five years ago, a group of English language teachers initiated a movement to create awareness that the way English is taught in education institutions needs to be improved for enhanced learning outcomes. Normally, graduates’ ability to use English as a language for communication in Pakistan is inadequate, except for a few elite, who have had a greater exposure to the language in their homes and private schools. It is observed that as the latter use the language well, they tend to grab the top slots in all professional fields- from business and commerce, to government and diplomacy. Hence, this small group of enlightened educators decided to initiate a change – and so SPELT was born in 1984. In 2019, more than 3 decades down the line, it is heartening to see that SPELT stands out for its quality, dedication and unique spirit of volunteerism that is difficult to find or emulate.

To mark the 35th year of SPELT in empowering teachers through its various professional development programmes, teachers’ journal, and its

CELEBRATION 2019

PANEL DISCUSSION

*Equity and Access to Quality Education:
Opportunities and Challenges*

Panelists

 <p>Amreena Sayid DBE, Ex-Managing Director, Oxford University Press</p>	 <p>Sediga Salahuddin Founder and Executive Director, Intra Resource Center</p>	 <p>Shahnaz Waqar Ali Trustee, Nore Educational Trust, Karachi</p>	 <p>Michael Houlgate, Director South and Rajasthan, British Council</p>
 <p>Dr. Mohammad Memon Chairman, SEC&HC Examination Board, Hyderabad</p>			 <p>Dr. Fozia Khan Chief Advisor, Curriculum Wing, Government of South</p>

unique annual international travelling conference, SPELT organized a panel discussion entitled “Equity and Access to Quality Education: Opportunities and Challenges”



The panel, moderated by Rehmat Ebrahim, included leading educationists both from the public and private sector. Siham Gheewala, a Harvard education graduate and a teacher in the USA, in her introductory remarks, addressed the questions - What

is equity? What is Access? What is quality education? It was interesting to hear that educators are also trying to grapple with these questions globally. Ameena Saiyid (OBE), former Managing Director of Oxford University Press, a stalwart and an education supporter through publishing of quality textbooks, also explained the difference between equity and equality. Her main contention, however, was on the need for teacher training in providing quality education.

Shahnaz Wazir Ali, trustee Nasra School System and President, SZABIST, also spoke about the dire need for teacher education as a way to achieve quality in education. She emphasized that the current cascade model of training needs to be re-evaluated and other models need to be explored. Dr. Memon, Chairman SSC & HSC Examination Board, Hyderabad, emphasized that teachers can and should learn from students. He elaborated that teachers need to change their authoritarian mindset and be ready to teach through adopting a problem-solving approach. Sadiqa Salahuddin, Founder and Executive Director of Indus Resource Center (IRC), an NGO that runs schools for the low-income group in interior Sindh, described the challenges she faces with teachers in the schools that IRC has adopted. However, she also shared a strategy that she uses with her teachers to create awareness of how changing mindsets can benefit the teacher, the students, and the community at large.



Michael Houlgate, Director British Council Sindh and Balochistan, shared the three-pronged approach

the Council uses to increase school enrolment, involve the community in school infrastructure development, and the Council's role in teacher development. He mentioned that quality education included the twenty-first century skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

To sum up, the panelists, emphasized that teachers need to be trained in the twenty-first century skills in order to enable them to help students acquire the very skills that could remove the barriers and could contribute to equity and access in providing quality education to all.



Mr Qazi Sahid Pervaiz, Secretary Education, Sindh, speaking at the end of the panel discussion, reiterated the governments' commitment to providing quality education to all children in Sindh. He also invited SPELT to join hands with the government in this endeavor.

Report by Rehmat Ebrahim



DAWN has covered SPELT 35th year event. Visit the link below:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1493074/teacher-development-must-connect-to-student-development>

SPELT Working Committee Updates

Conference Committee

Register now for the biggest event of the year!

SPELT 35th International Conference

happening in different cities of Pakistan!

Conference Venue (Karachi) Iqra

University, Main Campus, Defence View,

Karachi

LAST DATE FOR ABSTRACT

SUBMISSION: 31 JULY 2019

For further details, please call:

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Registration Fee (Only For Karachi)		
Category	Members Fee	Non Members Fee
Early Bird Up to August 31, 2019	PKR 1400/=	PKR 1600/=
Regular September 1 to October 25, 2019	PKR 1700/=	PKR 2000/=
On-Site	PKR 2400/=	

Limited Seats only in Karachi

Workshop Committee

Howard Gardener's theory of Multiple Intelligences is a topic when introduced often leaves participants with an air of "I know all this stuff.....", it is only after a brief introduction of the theory that we came to the large buffet of project ideas that had to be listed under each intelligence respectively, did the penny drop. To be able to work with the intelligence, it is extremely important that the teacher recognizes first her dominant intelligences and then the student's intelligences and bringing them together to create a strong environment conducive for learning to take place. The workshop geared teachers with ideas of tapping their students' intelligences all within the expanse of their classroom and then just as the workshop title suggest it went further into

acquainting and equipping teachers with lesson planning ideas, they could take back straight to their classrooms.



Academic Committee



June's free academic session was held at Star Links School

Free Academic Session

July' 2019

Topic: "Teaching writing through fun activities"

Date: 27th July' 2019, Saturday.

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Venue: SPELT House.

Facilitator: Ms. Alia Farooqui

SPELT Abbottabad Chapter

Abbottabad Chapter holds four monthly sessions every month in four cities of Hazara Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Haripur, Mr.Safdar Ali Khan held a session on '*Norms of Connected Speech*'. In Havelian, Prof. Muhammad Farooq organized a session in Al-Arqam Academy on '*Components of Language*'. In Mansehra, Mr. Abeer Aslam conducted a session on '*Techniques of Designing an Effective ELT Lesson*'.



The last session of the month was convened by Mr.Rustam in Abbottabad on the topic '*Present-day Digital Gadgetry in ELT Classroom*'. This session was a demonstration-cum-workshop. Participants were provided hands-on-the-job training on how to use various online and offline resources using smartphones, tablets, laptops and PowerPoint.

Edited & Designed by: Farheen Hasan

Compiled by: Sadia Jameel