



SPELT ebulletin

34 Years of
Empowering
Teachers

FROM THE SPELT DESK

'Learning to Learn' and 'Teacher as a Learner' are two buzz phrases that have been around for a while on the education scene, but unfortunately not so common in most developing countries like ours. Learning to learn basically puts the learners center stage. Instead of the traditional view of teacher as the sole source of knowledge, which pupils passively imbibe, research has shown that learning best takes place when learners process knowledge and connect it to what they already know, or what they are interested in and want to learn. Research also indicates that there are different learning styles and strategies, which learners employ to take in the knowledge they are exposed to. In one sense, it absolves the teachers of the burden to be the only givers of knowledge. But from another perspective, it places upon them a greater responsibility to find suitable strategies for individual learners, and also

to look for relevant and appropriate materials suitable for their learners' contexts and needs. This is the only way to empower learners to face the challenges they would encounter in their future lives and careers in the fast-changing world of today. Gone are the days when a 'pin-drop silent class' was considered an impressive class. Such a class is now seen as a 'graveyard'. Learners need to question, discuss and critically weigh and select what knowledge they want to take in.

This is the scenario in which teachers have to become learners. First of all, they need to learn that the knowledge base in today's world is fast changing and evolving. And even as teachers, they just cannot 'know all', therefore not knowing something is nothing to be ashamed of. In fact, in many situations, learners know more than what their teachers know, as they are quick to manipulate digital

tools and have varied sources of knowledge on their fingertips. When learners question teachers on what doesn't make sense to them, teachers have to learn not to feel threatened, or consider learners disrespectful, and disruptive. Once teachers come down from the high pedestal of knowing all, and also see the questioning as a form of learning, they can learn along with their learners. This will make the teaching learning process much more effective and fun too in the bargain!

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E-bulletin Team

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SPELT Working Committee Updates

Academic Committee

February's Academic session was conducted at Dr. Ziauddin Intermediate College, North Nazimabad. It was a well-received session attended by about 80 participants. In March, we will meet at the SPELT Head office to learn about creating positive environment in the classroom. You may also invite your colleagues to get benefit from these free sessions. Looking forward to see you at the Academic Session.



Participants engaged in the academic session

Join us for next month's academic session at SPELT Head Office

Topic: Creating Positive Environment in a Classroom
Facilitator: Aida Tasneem Zafar

| Day | Date | Time |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Saturday | 30 March 2019 | 3:00 to 5:00 |

Workshop Committee

A workshop on Differentiated Instruction was conducted at SPELT house on Saturday 23rd February' 2019 by Zehra Gheewala.

The concept of Differentiated Learning was delivered by having the teachers actually experience a differentiated lesson. This four-hour interactive workshop took the participants through all the stages of a differentiated classroom. Stations of tasks were set out for each level of learner. The teachers completed the tasks while they learnt about the ways of differentiation and its advantages. The variety of activities and the feedback sessions kept the participants engaged and involved as they learnt how to conduct this teaching strategy in their own classrooms.

Conference Committee



Save the Date!!!!!!

The biggest International Conference of the year will be held on

26th-27th October 2019 in Karachi.

2nd-3rd November 2019 in Lahore.

2nd-3rd November 2019 in Islamabad.

9th-10th November 2019 in Abbottabad.

Good News for SPELTers!!!!!!

ICELT is happening this year

150 hours Cambridge ELT Training Programme

Commencing June 13th, 2019.

Last Date for registration: April 15th, 2019.

For complete details, check the given link

For registration, contact Head Office at 0335-1233626

Or Email at speltheadoffice@gmail.com

[Click on the link below for complete details of ICELT](http://speLT.org.pk/icelt/)

<http://speLT.org.pk/icelt/>

SPELTers at TESOL 2019

Several SPELTers from Pakistan attended the TESOL International Conference 2019 held in Atlanta, USA, from 12th-15th March. This was a good opportunity for sharing their research work as well as networking with colleagues from all over the world. Prof Zakia Sarwar, as SPELT's official representative, attended the Affiliate Assembly and several other sessions with TESOL's 122 affiliates from across the globe.



Prof Zakia Sarwar and Dr. Fauzia Shamim also attended the TESOL leadership and business meetings as affiliate representative and Chair of TESOL's Research Professional Council respectively.

We hope that our links with TESOL International and its affiliates will be strengthened further in the future with more representation from SPELT, and Pakistan more generally, in TESOL 2020.



Chapter News

Abbottabad

Spelt Abbottabad Chapter plans to hold 4 monthly Academic Sessions in March 2019 in the 4 big cities of Hazara Division as follows:

Venue: Modernage Girls Abbottbad

Presenter: Ms Mehreen Ansar
Date/Time: 25th March from 3.00 to 4.00pm

Topic: What are the characteristics of a suitable topic for pair work.

Venue: WILS International Public School, Haripur

Presenter: Mr Safdar Ali khan
Date/Time: March 26th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Topic: Suitable practices for Incorporating the 'falling tone' in our day to day speech.

Venue: Dar-e- Arqam, City Branch, Havelian

Presenter: Mr Muhammad Farooq

Date/Time: 28th March from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Topic: Developing worksheets for practicing universal present tense for routines, habits and universal truths.

Venue: Jinnah Basic Public School and College, Mansehra

Presenter: Mr Abeer Aslam on
Date/Time: 30th March 2019 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Topic: How to help students speak English fluently without pauses for a chunk of 2 minutes on topics of their choice?

