

## **REPORT OF CAMPUS PLACEMENT 2016-2017**

### **MOCK INTERVIEW**

*Get Rid of those Interview Blues!*

In today's job market, it is more important than ever to have strong interviewing skills. The most common reason for this is that college graduation rates are increasing and one will be leaving college with more competition. If one fails at an interview or fails to make a good impression, it could cost you an opportunity. It was with this in mind, that Dr. Bijoy Thomas and Ms. Priti Sivaramakrishnan organised a mock interview workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with the support of Principal in-charge Dr. Vini Sebastian. Mr. Savio D'mello, Vice-Principal of St. Xavier's Boys Academy, who has 27 years of experience, conducted the workshop.

The first thing to strike us about Mr. Savio D'mello is that he was very humble. He began the workshop by conducting an interview in a formal set-up. One of the student teachers, Ms. Greeti Chacko, presented her CV to Mr. D'mello, following which he interviewed her. He started off by asking her to tell him something about herself, thus giving her a chance to feel comfortable. His questions were tailored to her responses. When he questioned Greeti about her strengths and weaknesses, he pointed out how she chose 'stress' as a weakness, mentioning that as a teacher, it is sometimes stressful to meet deadlines. His questions included experiences from the internship, the use of technology in the classroom, the expectations from the teaching-learning process, reasons for becoming a teacher, and also questions about what the interviewee knew about the school she had applied for a job at.

After he was done with the mock interview with Greeti, Mr. Savio D'mello shared some tips on how to answer some of the common interview questions. He reminded us that we should not go into too many details for questions like "tell me something about yourself", as there is barely a minute to respond as to why you are a suitable candidate. The response to such a question should include one's school, college, subjects learned, B.Ed., professional experience before B.Ed. and personal qualities should be avoided and focus on professional qualities. Mr. D'mello mentioned that questions like "What else can you do?" give the interviewee a chance to distinguish oneself from other candidates. It is very important to be prepared for questions like "Why did you choose to be a teacher?" and maintain eye contact when answering such questions as the interviewer is seeing the resonance and how passionate one is.

Mr. Savio D'mello welcomed further questions. Doubts were also solved and clarified by Principal In charge, Dr. Vini Sebastian and Assistant Professor, Dr. Bijoy Thomas. It was a very useful session for all the students as the recruitment process is already underway.

**- Shalom Fernandes (S.Y. B.Ed.)**

## CAMPUS PLACEMENTS

The ultimate aim of each student in a professional course is to find a suitable job at the end of it. S.X.I.E. helps its students to find a job and transition into the professional world by inviting schools to conduct placement interviews on campus.

The campus placement process this year was over a month long affair. It began with schools making pre campus placement presentations to students in the month of February, and culminated in the main placement event on 22<sup>nd</sup> March when 44 S.Y.B.Ed. students met representatives from 27 recruiting schools in face-to-face on-campus interviews.

### ***PRE CAMPUS PLACEMENT PRESENTATIONS***

In the run up to the main campus interview event on March 22<sup>nd</sup> recruiting schools visited S.X.I.E. to make pre campus placement presentations to students seeking jobs. In the presentations the schools oriented students to their culture, ethos and remuneration package, so that students could decide whether or not they wanted to interview with them on the final day. Beginning with Dubai Scholars Private School on 11<sup>th</sup> February a total of 9 schools made pre campus placement presentations to students. Each school was given a 15 minute slot in which they summarized what they stood for. The presentations helped the students to short-list which schools suited their own personal ethos. Andrea Monterio a student who attended the presentations said, “There are many schools coming for interviews on the final day. I can’t interview with all of them. Based on these presentations I can decide which ones to interview with.”

Pre campus placement presentations by:
1. Dubai Scholars Private School
2. Gems Education, Dubai
3. Lilavati Lalji Dayal High School
4. Edubridge International School
5. Avalon Heights International School
6. St. Peter's School, Panchgani
7. Aga Khan Education Services
8. Gateway School of Mumbai
9. Annasaheb Dange International School, Sangli

### ***CAMPUS INTERVIEWS***

The campus was abuzz with activity as students of the S.Y.B.Ed. batch met representatives from 27 recruiting schools in face-to-face placement interviews on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. The students assembled in college at 8:30 am. There was nervousness in the air as they did a last minute recap of answers to probable interview questions and organised their documents. Dr. Bijoy Thomas and Ms Priti Sivaramakrishnan, the professors in charge of the placement cell activity gave the students a pep talk. The interviews began at 9:30 am as scheduled. The recruiters were seated on tables set up for them in the lecture hall and the library area. The students queued up to meet the recruiters of their choice. The choice was large indeed since recruiters from 27 schools were present on the day. Students tried to meet as many recruiters as possible to increase their chances of obtaining a job. Fatema Sangotwala, a student who participated in the interviews said, “Initially I was very nervous. But by the time I met the third

or fourth school my confidence increased and I knew how to answer the recruiters' questions." The training in interviewing skills that had been provided by the S.X.I.E. professors and the exposure to the mock-interview that the college had provided boosted the students' confidence. Students put their best foot forward and highlighted their achievements in the few minutes that they had with each recruiter. Many showed the teaching portfolios that they had prepared along with their resumes in order to obtain an edge over other candidates. Recruiters asked candidates questions about why they wanted to become teachers, where they saw themselves five years hence and what distinguished them from the other candidates. Greeti Chacko, a student who participated in the interviews said, "Schools asked about my extracurricular activities besides my academic achievements. I.B. schools also asked about the co-teaching lessons and the interdisciplinary lessons that we had conducted."

For most of the 44 students who participated in the campus interviews the day was a successful one. Many were told that they would receive a call back for a second round of interview and some were called for giving demo-lessons in the following week.



**List of schools that conducted on-campus interviews:**

<b>1. Children's Academy</b>
<b>2. Universal Education</b>
<b>3. Christ Church School</b>
<b>4. Gopi Birla Memorial School</b>
<b>5. JBCN International School</b>
<b>6. Tridha – A Rudolf Steiner School</b>
<b>7. Lilavati Lalji Dayal High School</b>
<b>8. Edubridge International School</b>
<b>9. Fazlani L'Academie Globale</b>
<b>10. Aspee Nutan Academy</b>
<b>11. Trinity International School</b>
<b>12. Sishu Bhuvan</b>
<b>13. Dr. Pillai's Global Academy</b>
<b>14. Vibgyor High School</b>
<b>15. Arya Vidya Mandir</b>
<b>16. Bombay Scottish, Powai</b>
<b>17. Aditya Birla World Academy</b>
<b>18. St. Mary's I.C.S.E.</b>
<b>19. Billabong International</b>
<b>20. Avalon Heights International School</b>
<b>21. St. Peter's School, Panchgani</b>
<b>22. Aga Khan Education Services</b>
<b>23. Gateway School of Mumbai</b>
<b>24. St. Francis School, Borivali</b>
<b>25. Annasaheb Dange International School, Sangli</b>
<b>26. Aseema Charitable Trust</b>
<b>27. Akanksha N.G.O.</b>
<b>28. Dubai Scholars Private School</b>
<b>29. GEMS International</b>

**- F**