

**ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**  
**REPORT ON WEBINAR- "GEO MATTERS!"**

**Day 1**

The Geography Pedagogy Unit of St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai conducted a two-day free webinar on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020 on the topic '**Geo Matters!**' The coordinator of the event was Asst. Prof. Ms. Nishi Kumar of SXIE, Mumbai. There were over 160 participants for the webinar and it was conducted on the Zoom Meeting App and it was live-streamed on YouTube.

On the first day of the webinar the session started at 4:40 p.m. The session began with the host for the day, Ms. Sharen Raphael welcoming all the participants and giving instructions to the participants. After that the coordinator, Ms. Nishi Kumar spoke about the St. Xavier's Institute of Education and its vision and mission. Ms. Nishi Kumar, gave information on the schedule for the webinar and then talked about why the name of the Webinar was kept as '**Geo Matters!**'

After the coordinator, the manager of St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai, Rev. Fr. Blaise D'Souza s.j. spoke on the importance of Geography and brought forth a new perspective of Geography. Next, the Principal of St. Xavier's Institute of Education, Mumbai, Dr. Sosamma Samuel declared the session as open.

After the session was declared open Ms. Sarah Asda introduced the resource person for the session Dr. Mahesh Lavate, Head of Department of Humanities- KES Shroff College of Arts and Commerce. The resource person, Dr. Mahesh Lavate then began his session on the topic '**How to create interest in the subject Geography?**' He started by introducing the subject Geography. He emphasized on the fact that a geography teacher should be thorough with the geographical concepts and should have knowledge of all the basics of geography. He also stressed on the point that teachers should understand the interdependence of the elements of the Physical Geography among themselves and also the interdependence of the various elements of Human Geography among itself and how these two categories of Geography have an impact on one another.

He then went on to explain the ways one can as a teacher create interest of students in Geography and the skills that a Geography teacher should have. Lastly, he also gave new ideas to teach geography without a textbook.

After the resource person's talk there was a Question and Answer session curated by Mr. Saheel D'Mello. He took up questions posted by the participants in the chat box and Dr. Mahesh Lavate answered those questions in an excellent way.

The session thus concluded with the Vote of Thanks given by Ms. Nicole Fernandes.

## **Day-2**

The second day of the webinar started at 4:00 p.m. The session began with the host for the day Ms. Sharen Raphael welcoming all the participants and giving instructions to the participants. After that the resource person for the session Dr. Juri Roy Burman (Asst. IGCSE Coordinator Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai) was introduced by Ms. Adelaide Pereira.

After her introduction Dr. Juri Roy Burman began with her topic- Creativity in Geography by talking about the extinction of good Geography teachers' and that we are a rare species and she then also stated that how teaching is a delightful profession in itself. And in order to explain the really essence of teaching she showed a movie clipping from the movie '3 Idiots'. She emphasized that in order to bring creativity in geography we need to plan our lessons in an interesting way well in advance and should constantly use new methods or ways of teaching. She also mentioned that we have to create a culture of creativity in schools and classroom then only children will share their opinions otherwise we will be destroying the student's creativity. Dr. Juri Roy Burman focused on two areas: How can Geography and creativity can be brought together? How can young people be engaged in Geography?

Dr. Juri Roy Burman also gave six creativity skills that we could as geography teachers develop in students through Geography. She concluded by giving some tips of how to be creative.

After the session was over, there was a Question and Answer session curated by Ms. Sarah Asda. She took up questions posted by the participants in the chat box and Dr. Juri Roy Burman answered these questions very beautifully.

Lastly the manager Fr. Blaise D'souza and the Principal Dr. Sosamma Samuel gave the concluding remarks for the session and the webinar ended with the vote of thanks given by Asst. Prof. Ms. Nishi Kumar.

## **FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

(The feedback was collected with the help of Google form)

### **Day-1**

Most of the participants felt that the topic chosen for the session was relevant with 46% strongly agreeing, 52% agreeing and 2% disagreeing. The session was useful to the participants as on a scale of 1-5, 44.7% of the participants gave a score of 5, 37.1% scored it 4, 14.4% gave the session a score of 3 and 3.8% gave the session a score of 2.

The thing that the participants liked the most about the session were- the presentation, the detailed explanation, the apps list provided by the resource person, the examples

provided, the various approaches of Geography given by the speaker, the areas covered by the speaker, the knowledge of the resource person, the methods suggested to take the teaching of Geography outside the classroom and the do's and don'ts as a Geography teacher.

The comments that we received from the participants about the session were that - they found the session interesting and informative, helpful and useful, enlightening and enriching. The feedback that we received- was to make the session more interactive, extend the question and answer session, keep to the timings provided, the fluency of the speaker in the English language should be better and for the institute to conduct many more such sessions in the future.

### **Day-2**

Most of the participants felt that the topic chosen for the session was relevant with 81.9% strongly agreeing and 18.1% agreeing. The session was useful to the participants as on a scale of 1-5, 81.9% of the participants gave a score of 5, 15.5% scored it 4 and 0.9% each giving a score of 3, 2 and 1.

The thing that the participants liked the most about the session were- the passion of the resource person towards the subject of Geography, the entire presentation, the perspective and input of the resource person, the content of the topic, the examples and simple and lucid way of explanation of the speaker, the subject knowledge of the speaker, the proper usage of videos, the personal and hands-on experience shared by the speaker, and lastly the techniques, ideas and tips provided of how to teach geography creatively.

The comments/feedback that we received from the participants about the session are- the resource person was amazing; the session was excellent, enlightening, enriching, interesting, lively, useful, helpful, fruitful, engaging, effective, well organised, amazing, systematic, well thought out and brilliant. The participants also wanted that the question answer session be increased, to have the resource person again and that the institute organise many such sessions in the future.