

Bombay Teachers' Training College

In collaboration with AATMAN Academy

Organises a two day webinar on series on

"Preparing for Inclusive classrooms"

Resource Person: Ms. Manjushree Patil

Highlights of the day 1: written by Arwa Neemuchwala

Date: 29th December 2020

Timing: 10.30 am to 1.30 pm

A two day webinar series was organized by Bombay Teachers Training College in collaboration with AATMAN Academy. The topic for the webinar series was "Preparing the upcoming teachers for Inclusive Classroom." The resource person for this webinar was Ms. Manjushree Patil, the founder director of Aatman Academy, a customized learning inclusive school that caters to the diverse needs of unique children. Dr. Mandeep Kochar commenced the webinar by welcoming the resource person and all the other participants. It was followed by a formal introduction of the resource person. Ms. Manjushree began with a smiling face and an energizing dance. It set the right mood for learning. She then conducted an activity wherein she asked the participants to draw a flower and a sun on a piece of paper. The objective of this activity was to show how each flower is different from the other and the sun being universal yet was differently perceived by each participant. Through this she highlighted the fact that each one is unique in their own way. She beautifully explained how we need to make the shift from different to diverse and from calling students special to unique. She spoke about the campaign she ran a few years ago that was "Recognizing uniqueness and Respecting diversities #beginswithme." There was another interesting activity conducted by Manjushree ma'am wherein she created break out rooms and asked the participants to discuss "what are the diverse traits we observe in ourselves, our near and dear ones and the children in the classroom?" The participants came up with a lot of relevant and mindboggling answers. She then displayed a diversity wheel which systematically showed the various diversifying traits, some being more evident than others like age, gender, race, mental and physical abilities. The typically less evident traits being social class, religion and belief, sexual orientation and ethnic heritage. Some secondary traits that were discussed were education and training, health, income, expertise, birthplace/nationality etc. She threw light upon how we need to accept diversity with our surrounding first. She quoted that "Inclusion begins with an I" and showed a very engaging video on the same. She concluded the session by asking the participants to go and watch her TEDx talk in inclusion. There was a question answer session towards the end of the webinar. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Melvina D'souza at the end of the session with the enthusiasm to come back the next day and learn more with an open heart and mind.

Highlights of Day 2: Written by Rutuja Chalke

Date: 30th December 2020

Time: 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

The second session of the webinar of preparing for inclusive classrooms commenced with Dr. Mandeep Kochar who greeted the participants followed by the college prayer. Ms. Melvina D'Souza read the highlights of the first session held on 29th Dec 2020. Dr. Mandeep Kochar welcomed the resource person Ms. Manjushree Patil and all the participants. Ms. Manjushree

Patil maam began with energizing activity and appreciated all enthusiastic participants. Then she discussed how the students of AATMAN Academy learn to make salad, wall painting, embroidery work with lot of interest. Through this she explained us that it doesn't matter what is the student's percentage but their learning and enjoyment which fulfills the objectives set by AATMAN academy. Then she displayed a short film 'I am' it was very powerful and very meaningful film. She then shared a poem "TO THEM..." written by herself. The poem conveyed that we should not show sympathy or empathy and do not call them disabled, we all should treat them equally. Ma'am shared a film about a child's perspective and discussed about inclusion and belonging. She said that in AATMAN Academy there are no complaints about students there they take and give only feedbacks. Ma'am went on to explain about learning styles as in visual learners, aural learners, read/write learners and kinesthetic learners. At the end of session Manjushree ma'am shared her favourite poem which is really close to her heart. Dr. Mandeep Kochar expressed her gratitude to Ms. Manjushree thanked all the teachers and participants. Dr. Bhagwan Balani, incharge Principal of BTTC read out the words of appreciation for the resource person Ms. Manjushree Patil. Ms. Melvina D'souza, a student of Second Year B.Ed., gave the vote of thanks, she thanked the resource person, technical team and all the coordinating team, volunteers along with the participants. The session ended with the National Anthem.
Report moderated by: Melvina D'souza (S.Y. B.Ed.)