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DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

MIRANDA HOUSE

University of Delhi, Delhi 110007



*Education is not preparation for life: Education is life itself
- John Dewey*

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Established in the year 2006, the Department of Elementary Education is the youngest department of Miranda House. It has just completed a decade in the college.

The Department runs a four-year professional degree programme known as the Bachelor of Elementary Education (B.El.Ed). Offered after senior secondary school (class XII), this bilingual programme is different from other teacher training programmes because it integrates pedagogical knowledge with the study of subject knowledge, human development and communication skills. Both the professional and academic options are available to students who graduate with a B.El.Ed degree.

The rationale for introducing the programme in Miranda House is that through the B.El.Ed Programme, the concerns of elementary education get integrated into the University system. Also, ever since the programme started in the University of Delhi in the year 1994, it has upgraded the professional status of the elementary school teacher by providing for a University degree for elementary education.

“The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves.”

**Paulo Freire “We Make the Road by Walking:
Conversations on Education and Social Change**

BEST PRACTICES

1. Collaborations with government schools

During 16-week long school internship in the fourth year of the programme, student-interns develop a Resource Centre in their respective schools. The Resource Room is equipped with teaching-learning resources including children’s literature. After the internship is complete, many of the resources are left in the school by interns for teachers and children to use. The purpose is to provide material support and ideas for innovative teaching practices for regular teachers and children’s literature for students in the school.

2. Community Outreach Programmes

Visits to Studio Safdar Library

The students of B.El.Ed 2nd year visit *Kitabghar*, a Library at Studio Safdar of Jan Natya Manch (JANAM) at Shadipur Depot. The Library is an initiative by well known theatre activist and educator Ms Moloyashree Hashmi to bring children from the neighbouring ‘Basti’ into the mainstream education by developing their early literacy skills and a sustained interest

in reading and writing. B.El.Ed students visit the library in groups of 6-7 and spend about two hours in a week to interact and read out stories to them. They engage these children in storytelling and other pre-reading & post-reading activities. It has been found that the number of our students visiting the library independent of college has substantially increased over the years. Some of our ex-students too continue to be associated with JANAM/ Library in formal and voluntary capacity.



Students with children from Shakurpur Basti at *Studio Safdar* during Library Sessions

Kilkari Shelter home

As a part of the Community Extension Programme, 2nd year students visited Kilkari Rainbow Aman Biradari Shelter on Nov 12, 2016. A walk through the by lanes of old Delhi, inhabited by beggars and people sleeping on the pavements brought a different side of the city to the students. They realized how children bring different realities and different versions of ‘childhood’ by virtue of living a life that has experiences of marginalization. B.El.Ed. students interacted with the shelter home children to understand their life and their social embeddings. They also designed decorative material for children’s day celebration, posters about the awareness of hygiene and stories & poems for the shelter home Literacy Unit. Some of our students continue to be associated with the organization as volunteers.



1. Expanding the boundaries of Curriculum

- Based on the re-envisioning of the practicum paper ‘**Art & Craft**’ by the Department, a wider and richer exposure is given to 1st year students at Miranda House. They explore rich folk art traditions of India and prepare a PPT, choosing one art form such as *Gond*, *Madhubani*, *Pattachitra*, *Phulkari*, *Warli* etc. Pottery workshops are also an initiative of Miranda House which is now being followed in a few other B.El.Ed. colleges also.

- As a part of the colloquium paper ‘**Story Telling and Children’s Literature**’ in the 2nd year of the programme, a series of poetry workshops were organised for students under the guidance of Mr. Prabhat Jha (Ankur Society for Alternatives in Education). The sessions focused on reading, recitation and appreciation of poetry followed by writing process. Students began by writing short compositions on a given theme and moved on to free writing on a subject of their choice. Students’ poems have now been compiled into a booklet entitled ‘*Har Cheez ek Jadoo Hai*’ and it is available for students and faculty as a resource.



Beyond the classroom

1. Exploring Historical and Cultural Trajectory of Indian Society

- B.El.Ed First year students visited the National Museum situated at *Janpath*, New Delhi for observing and exploring the historical, cultural and artistic significance of the society as a part of Art and Craft practicum paper and Contemporary India on Thursday January 12, 2017. Students were accompanied by their Art and Craft resource person Mr. Vijit Bhargav and teachers from the department. This visit was beneficial for the students in gaining insight about artistic significance of the society.



A glimpse into the Heritage: Walking through National Archaeological Park, Mehrauli

- A Heritage Walk in National Archaeological Park, Mehrauli was organised for 1st year students. Facilitated by our Theatre resource person Mr. Lokesh Jain, it provided students with an opportunity to have discussion about the history of their own city. The objective is to give students an exposure to the heritage and history of the city they have been living and studying in. The walk also familiarises the students with the lives of people in this high historical importance old part of the city.



- Visit to NCERT**

Information and technology (ICT) has become, within a very short time, one of the basic building blocks of modern society. Students of III year visited CIET on 16th February 2016. Prof. A. P. Behra gave a detailed presentation and hands on experiences on NROER, e-pathshala, MOOCs, curricula for ICT in Education, audio-video and multimedia programmes.



- Visit to the Cultural Hub of Delhi**

An excursion to Mandi House Circle focussing on Bharat Rang Mahotsav at National School of Drama with B.El.Ed first year students. Mr. Lokesh Jain facilitated the exposure of students which opened up a window to the cultural life and legacy of Delhi. Students get to interact with artists preparing and performing drama.



■ **Participation in Doordarshan Programme -”Beti bachao, beti padhao”**

Students and teachers of the department participated in Doordarshan Programme *Meri Baat* on topic *Beti Bachao Beti Padao* on Nov 4, 2016. After detailed discussions by eminent speakers in panel from diverse fields on the importance of education and gender related issues, students recited poems and shared their own experiences at home, school and community. Teachers and speakers talked about relevance of *Beti Padao Beti Bachao* programme in contemporary India, addressed and motivated parents about importance of girl child, their education and the way forward.

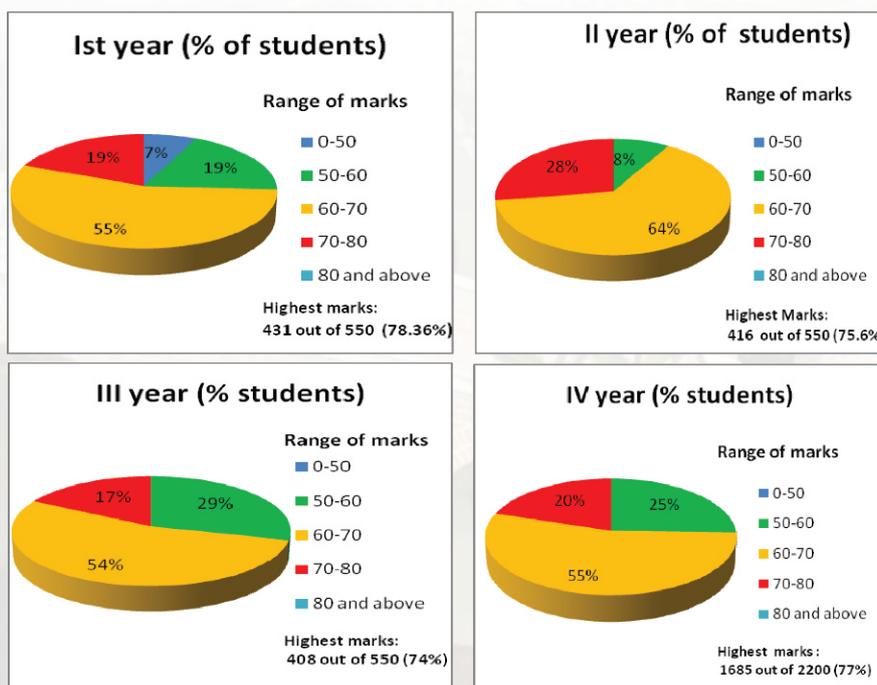


■ **Self-Defence Workshop (In collaboration with Delhi Police)**



“We entered hesitated but we left confident- this is the best way in which the 15 days self defence camp can be described that three of us from the Department of Elementary Education, Miranda House attended. It was organized by the Special Police Unit for Women and Children, Delhi Police and was called “Ab Nahi Hai Darna”. The camp not only built confidence in us but made us realize that keeping quiet is not the solution and fighting for our rights and safety is our duty and how if, we become conscious and careful for ourselves, many of the present problems can be solved.” -Anju, Hemika, and Rupali

STUDENTS’ PERFORMANCE IN 2015-16



Academic Award: Highest Cumulative marks in Part I, Part II, Part III: 1277 out of 1650 (77.39%)

FEEDBACK SESSIONS WITH STUDENTS

- Since B.El.Ed is an interdisciplinary programme, students need to engage with varied subject domains and related readings (ranging from Linguistics to Psychology). Not all students may be able to cope with the curricular content. To address this issue, the Department identifies students facing academic challenges and organises subject specific small group sessions to help them on individual basis.
- Internship being one of the most important and major component of B.El.Ed in fourth year, a Mid Term Feedback is given to students by the Department as a part of continuous evaluation. For this purpose after 8-10 weeks of internship, an assessment session is planned where students are given a qualitative feedback on individual basis.
- Mentoring sessions are regularly conducted with the students where the students get an opportunity to discuss their issues and concerns.

PATH AHEAD FOR B.EL.ED GRADUATES

- Teaching in schools: Government and Private
- Further studies: M.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.
- Working with Non-profit organisations
- Teaching in colleges

NATIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

The department hosted the National integration Programme for North-Eastern students organised by the Principal, Miranda House on November 7, 2016. A total of 33 participants including school girls and teachers from North East and army personnel were a part of the programme. The programme started by Welcome address and Introduction to college by the Principal in the Sanyukta Chaudhary Seminar Hall. The address was followed by Visit to College Premises lead by Dr Jolly, teachers and student volunteers from department of Elementary education.

STUDENTS SPEAK

Pragyan Naugain (3rd year)

बी.एल. एड. अध्यापन क्षेत्र में हो रहे शोधों से विकसित हुई एक नयी सोच की ओर अग्रसर करता है। इसने अध्यापन, जिसे सबसे आसान व्यवसाय आँका जाता है, के प्रति मेरा नजरिया बदला है। एक बी.एल.एड. विद्यार्थी होने के नाते अब मैं बच्चों को और बेहतर तरह से समझने का प्रयास करती हूँ। साथ ही, यह मुझे बातों को तर्कसहित और बहुपरिप्रेक्ष्य में देखने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

बहरहाल, इनके पाठ्यक्रम के रूपांकन में समय-समय पर कुछ बदलाव और सुधार किये जाते रहने चाहिए।

Rachna singh (4th year)

B. El. Ed gives us an integrated and creative approach to understand the situations around us. It has helped me evolve into a critical human being. It has enabled me to and looks at the ground realities and analyse them not just in relation to education but in relation to me, as an individual. Being a part of this learning process, I have learnt that 'Learning never ends'.

Education

مِلْعَتْلَا

教育

Εκπαίδευση

Bildung

Образование