

Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh Administration Chandigarh

Report: April 2015 – March 2016



Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh

<http://www.rieni.org>

The Institute caters to the ELT needs of Punjab, Haryana, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh and functions within the purview of Chandigarh Administration.

1. Regular Courses

a. PGCTE

103 PGCTE started on 27 July and concluded on 26 October. The course is bifurcated in two modes. Face to face or On-Campus mode consisted of 5 weeks and online mode or Off-Campus mode was of 8 weeks. The total number of participants were **27** including Prospective Teachers and In-service Teachers. The PGCTE Course was aimed at achieving integrated Communicative Competence by training Trainees in seven modules (Communication skills, Methodology, Action research, Grammar, Phonetics Linguistics and Computer assisted language learning or CALL). The online mode of the course began on 31 August 2015 and commenced on 26 October. The CALL module was introduced formally during 102nd PGCTE as computer is believed to be the guiding force for all the future projects related to education. In the existing batch a step forward was taken to promote computer literacy by increasing the sessions of CALL. The participants were trained rigorously in comprehending Moodle, a Platform for Off-Campus mode. The trainees had umpteen opportunities for honing their language skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. The module on communication skills was self-contained and exhaustive. Micro-Teaching was organized in the last week of On-campus mode to enhance the pedagogical skills of the Participants. The idea was to achieve a holistic output of the Programme. The educational visit to Pinjore was organized on 24 August (during the face-to-face mode). The Participants had an opportunity to participate in three types of competition (Extemporore speech, Creative writing and Paper reading Competition). The participants had an opportunity to attend 'Creative Writing Workshop' under the aegis of the Institute. The Workshop turned out to be very productive for the Trainees.

104 PGCTE started on 16 November and ended on 28 February 2016. The course is bifurcated in two modes. Face to face or On-Campus mode consists of 5 weeks and online mode or Off-Campus mode, is of 8 weeks. The total number of Participants were **29** including prospective Teachers and In-service Teachers. The online mode of the course began on 4 February 2016 and will ended on 28 February 2016. The educational Movie was organized on 11 December 2015 (during the face-to-face mode). The Participants got an opportunity to attend 6 hour session on Lesson Planning, Communication Skills and Vocabulary development by Dr Julu Sen, an eminent professor from EFLU, Hyderabad.

b. MA in English

RIE is the first institute of its kind that offers utmost flexibility to our MA students in academic choices. We are also the only institute which offers Linguistics as a primary subject and not just as an Optional choice. Also, after the first year of MA, our students are given the option of working part-time with RIE's C-TOSS program without disturbing their classes. In the month of July the Department of Postgraduate Studies started the 2015-16 session with an intake of **18** students in MA Semester I and **18** students in MA Semester III. Following activities were done during the period:

Date	Event
8 th July	Workshop to celebrate Digital India Week in Language Lab attended by MA II by Kanwar Randeep Singh
15 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Literacy Club was made with - Mr. Bikram Singh as Student Incharge. • Under community Extension Programme forwarded Mr. Pooran's case to the Secretary State Legal Services Authority.
20 th July	Induction Program

21 st July	Library Orientation
24 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A talk organized by Student's Legal Literacy Club on "Human Rights & Gender Sensitivity" by Ms. Simran Kaur and Ms. Prarthna Duggal • Academic writing classes start
20 th & 21 st August	Two –day Creative Writing Workshop by Dr. Usha Bande
24 th August	Excursion to Pinjore Garden, Gurudwara Nada Sahib and Elante
7 th & 8 th Sept	Workshop on Presentation Skills by Ms. Rashmi Tomar
10 th & 11 th Sept	Seminar on Dickens by Ms. Monika Kumar
23 rd Sept	Extension Lecture for MA II by Dr. Sakoon
24 th Sept	Talent Hunt-cum-Freshers Party
26-30 September	Students participated in the Punjab University Zonal Youth and Heritage Festival 2015(Zone A) conducted PGGC-46 by and at Postgraduate Government College premises, Sector-46, Chandigarh from 5. In creative writing (poetry writing) competition, Rajan, MA I student, secured first position.
16 th November	The first meeting Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) of RIE 2015 was held in the office of DRIE. The Director chaired the meeting and it was attended by faculty members and 9 Parents. The members were unanimously elected from the present parents. Sh. Vikrant Sharma was elected Vice-President. Other three members included in the board are Mr. Dharambir Singh, Mr. Princejit Singh and Mr. Balwinder Singh. The Parents suggested three things to be considered for the welfare of students; Provision of UGC-NET coaching classes; Inclusion of sports as a regular activity and sending of monthly attendance report to parents.
16 th November	Swachh Bharat Mission Quiz for MA students was organized by the department in which Sukhvir Kaur and Galazy were declared as winners.
9- 16 November	Slogan Writing Competition for MA student was organized by the department in which each participant was asked to survey the city and submit two photographs on unhygienic or clean areas of the city. The students were further then asked to write slogans on the pictures taken.
26 th January' 16	Republic Day was celebrated at RIE with great enthusiasm. Dr. Vandana Lunyal encouraged the students to be as duty conscious and also aware they are about their rights. Rajan Arora, a student from M.AI sang two very moving patriotic songs.
10 th February'16	A lecture on Peace and happiness was delivered by the volunteers of Youth Peace Foundation. They addressed the students about the need of peace and non violence in the anxiety stricken world. They inspired students to be upright by becoming responsible for every small act they do in their daily life.
16 th February'16	Librarian of the Institute took a session on Use of INFLIBNET, DELNET and other E—Resources of the Library
17 th February'16	A Talk on Special Interest group (SIG) was delivered by Dr. Vandana Lunyal. She emphasized the need of developing special interest groups in the classrooms in order to incorporate certain ideas like Learning Difference of Culture through world-films, use of critical thinking skills for to enable them to be independent decision-makers.
28 March 2016	Extension lecture on poetry of Nirala by Monika Kumar
29 March 2016	Extension lecture on Chhayavaad of Nirala by Monika Kumar
31 March 2016	Extension lecture on Short Stories of Munshi Premcahnd by Prof. Yojna Rawar, USOL, PU, Chandigarh



Executive Body of PTA



Swachh Bharat Mission Quiz



Slogans Writing Competition

2. One day Orientation Course on Educational management for the Principals of the Government Senior Schools of Chandigarh

One day Orientation Course on Educational management for the Principals of the Government Senior Schools of Chandigarh was successfully held at the Institute on 7 December. The Principals and representatives of **39** schools participated in the course. The Director, Higher Education, UT Mr Rubinderjit Singh Brar inaugurated the Course. RIE's journal FELT-Focus on ELT, Vol-30 No 2 was released. The journal over the years has endeavoured to present ideas and research of esteemed ELT practitioners from various centres of the world. The Course was intended to deliberate upon the relevance of two key themes of New Education Policy i. e. Skill Development: Strengthening of Vocational Education and Ensuring Learning Outcomes with focus on Classroom Management & Lesson Planning. The session on conflict management was included to make the administrator understand the essence of innovation that the teachers are bringing in the classroom after National Curriculum Framework 2005. The sessions on communication Skills highlighted the relevance of developing communication skills and soft skills in school teachers and students.

3. Continuing Professional Courses

a. ICT workshop for teachers of Jawahar Navodaya Vidhalaya, Mouli, Panchkula

ICT workshop for teachers of Jawahar Navodaya Vidhalaya, Mouli, Panchkula was organised by the Institute on 26 June which was attended by **37** teachers. The ICT session for the participants of Jawahar Navaodaya Vidhaya focused on different learning and evaluating web tools and resources. For educators with limited access to resources, attempting to incorporate technology can be a challenge. In such a scenario, what options exist? What are the best practices in using

various technologies to promote language practice, interaction, communication and collaboration among language learners? What criteria might an educator use to determine which technology is likely to have the biggest impact in a specific context. The low tech technology tools demonstrated in this session ranged from smart pens, talking books and best use of mobile phone where there is little or no internet access.

b. 1-3 Four Day workshop on Academy of Teaching English to the Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) for Cluster Resource Centre coordinators of UT Chandigarh

In order to give cascading effect to the TESOL workshops the Institute organised 3-four day workshop for Cluster Resource Centre coordinators from 7 July to 10 July and 20 July to 23rd July and 3 August to 6 August. The main objective of the workshops was to make the participants aware of different pedagogical tools so that they as coordinators can make the teachers aware of variety of situations in which the children learn to experiment, discover and socialize according to their aptitude and learning style.



The course content of the workshop included The five P's of effective leadership and professional development, Taking ELT Materials to Task, Creative ways of Improving Language skills, Formative assessment in South Asian context: some practical possibilities, Strategies for student-centered, rule based activities and spontaneous, incidental learning, Tech solutions for Low Tech Situations, Lesson planning and lesson Observation: Different components of lesson planning and observation were discussed in detail. Teachers were given intensive practice in useful classroom language for ESL teachers for interaction in the classroom. Practical sessions were conducted in the teacher coming into a room full of students, the students coming in, Greetings, Introductions, Taking the roll call Initial chit chat waiting to start Discussion Questions. In the Reflective Teaching sessions teachers thought of their teaching practices, analysed how something was taught and how the practice might be improved or changed for better learning outcome. Towards the end of the program participants started rethinking their approach towards teaching English .It was evident from the nature of their subsequent participation in lessons. They now associated language teaching with creative practices. The mode of the workshops was interactive and discussion based. **20, 45 and 45** participants participated in the three workshops respectively.

c. One day Orientation program on Educational Management For Headmasters/ Headmistresses of Periphery Schools (Rural), Chandigarh Administration

2-One day Orientation programs on Educational Management for Headmasters/ Headmistresses of Periphery Schools (Rural), Chandigarh Administration were held at the Regional Institute of

English on 14 & 15 September 2015. **29** and **32** participants participated in the orientation program respectively. The focus of the orientation program was to bring attitudinal changes as per RTE and create conducive environment in schools through an inclusive, participatory and holistic approach for improving teaching and learning process.

There were six sessions: Ensuring Learning outcomes in Elementary Education (Dream Schools), Importance of Soft Skills / Personal Development, Conflict Management, Skill Development: Strengthening of Vocational Education, Integration of students from EWS of society in Private School Education System, Strategies to overcome Barriers and Learning Styles. After the day's deliberations there was a half an hour session devoted to discussions and feedback of the program. Dr Vanita Gupta, Director, State Aids Control Society, was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory function on 15 September. She spoke about teaching young girls the difference between aggression and assertion and to train them in life skills. Participants found her lecture very inspiring.



d. 1-3 Workshops on Petals for Class Two

A set of practice sheets were developed at the Institute in 2014 by a team of teachers from government schools of Chandigarh. These set of practice sheets named **PETALS** became part of school curriculum in 2015. Three consecutive workshops of Class two teachers from government schools of Chandigarh were conducted to share their problems related to worksheets. Sessions on developing ELT materials: Strategies and barriers were also undertaken during the workshop. The concept of English across the Curriculum was discussed at length. The course design included ELT materials, Using Text book Marigold and Classroom language. **93** teachers attended the workshops.

Date	No. of Participants
5 th October	33
6 th October	30
7 th October	30

e. 8 One – Day Orientation Program on TESOL Cascade workshops For TGT (English) of Class 7th & 8th

In order to give cascading effect to the Academy of Teaching English to the Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) the Institute organised a series of One Day Workshop for TGTs of Class 7th and 8th, teaching English in Government Schools of Chandigarh Administration Cluster Resource Centre coordinators from 12 - 15 October and 2- 5 November. The main objective of the workshops were to make the participants aware of different pedagogical tools, so that they can transfer this to the teachers by making them aware of variety of situations in which the children learn, experiment, discover and socialize according to their aptitude and learning style. The course content of the workshop included: Taking ELT Materials to Task, Creative ways of Improving Language skills, Formative assessment in South Asian context: some practical possibilities, Classroom Management through the power of personality, Lesson planning and lesson Observation: Different components of lesson planning and observation were discussed in detail. **144** teachers attended the workshops.

Date	School	No. of Participants
12 October	Sr. Sec. Schools	14
13 October	High Schools (Urban)	18
14 October	High Schools (Rural)	26
15 October	Govt. Primary Schools	11
2 November	Sr. Sec. Schools	27
3 November	High Schools (Urban)	18
4 November	High Schools (Rural)	23
5 November	Govt. Primary & govt. High Schools	7

f. 3 One- Day Orientation of Follow up Program on PETALS for Class Two

A set of practice sheets were developed at the Institute in 2014. These set of practice sheets named PETALS became part of school curriculum in 2015. Class two teachers from Govt schools were called to share their problems related to worksheets on 14, 15 and 17 December. Two sessions on developing ELT materials: Strategies and barriers were conducted. The concept of English across the Curriculum was discussed at length. The course design included ELT materials, Using Text book Marigold and Classroom language. 65 teachers attended the programme.

g. 4 One – Day orientation Program on TESOL Cascade workshops For TGT (English) for Class 5 and 6

In order to give cascading effect to the Academy of Teaching English to the Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) the Institute organised a series of One Day Workshop for **TGTs of Class 5 and 6 , teaching English in Government Schools of Chandigarh Administration** Cluster Resource Centre coordinators from **1- 4 February 2016**. The main objective of the workshop was to make the participants aware of different pedagogical tools so that they as coordinators can make the teachers aware of variety of situations in which the children learn, experiment, discover and socialize according to their aptitude and learning style.

The course content of the workshop included: Taking ELT Materials to Task, Creative ways of Improving Language skills, Formative assessment in South Asian context: some practical possibilities, Classroom Management through the power of personality, Lesson planning and lesson Observation: Different components of lesson planning and observation were discussed in detail. **132** teachers attended the workshops.

Date	Class	No. of Participants
1 February 2016	Class 5 and 6	49
2 February 2016	Class 5 and 6	46
3 February 2016	Class 5 and 6	21
4 February 2016	Class 5 and 6	16

h. One-Day Orientation on Educational Management for Principals of Sr. Sec. Schools, Chandigarh Administration

Institute organized One-Day Orientation on Educational Management for Principals of Sr. Sec. Schools, Chandigarh Administration, on 7 December. The main objective of the workshop was to make the participants aware of different management tools so that they as administrators can make the teachers repetition understand the importance of various management tools, which can further be shared with teachers. Main stress was laid on managing conflicts in the school, developing skills of under privileged children for better employment avenues. Administrators were made aware of the role in child's learning in the school.

The course content of the workshop included: Skill Development: Strengthening of Vocational Education, Conflict Management, Importance of Soft Skills / Personal Development, Ensuring Learning outcomes in Elementary Education, Education - The American Perspective through the power of personality, and Integration of students from EWS of society in Private School Education System, Strategies to overcome Barriers. The sessions were very interactive and discussion based. **39 Principals** attended the course.

h. Induction Course for Trainers of PD Programme

Trainers of PD Programme were provided with an intense training that included introduction to the programme, teaching methodology/strategies and time management. Trainers were trained in Sounds of English Language and related exercises, Work Ethics and Values, Introduction to Group Discussion and Types of Interviews and Group Discussion including Demo and feedback. Further, the programme devised a mechanism where the trainers are supposed to attend weekly-trainings held every Thursday. The weekly trainings were primarily planned to provide the trainers teaching material (lesson plans), to discuss their grievances, to take weekly feedback and to prepare the schedule for upcoming week. The training schedule also had a provision for micro teaching that is done by C-TOSS trainers. **19** trainers have been trained for the programme.

j. Creative Writing Workshop

A three-day workshop on creative writing was conducted in the Institute for MA and PGCTE students from 20-22 August. Dr Usha Bande, former fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, and retired principal of Government College, Arki, was the resource person for the workshop. According to the resource person creative writing also involves a lot of critical evaluation in the process of selection of raw material, rejection of irrelevant elements, pruning and achieving a sort of balance and sense of proportion which goes under the name of form. In this way our academic training helps us indirectly and subconsciously

k. RUSA Workshops

- **Enhancing Employability Skills Workshop**

A one day workshop on "Enhancing Employability Skills" was organized at Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh on February 19, 2016. It was organized under the aegis of Department

of Higher Education, Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh sponsored by Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). The workshop was organized with a view to impart an orientation and guidance on skills needed for better employability and ways of pursuing. The participants who attended were students of different colleges of Chandigarh. It is particularly important for the postgraduate students to have such kind of training because most students look for jobs after completing their degrees. Participants were given an insight into techniques of self audit to critically examine one's possible employment opportunities. The participants were shown various samples of good and bad web content. 54 students registered themselves for the workshop.



- **Two day workshop on “Research Methodology” for Postgraduate Students from colleges of Chandigarh**

A two day workshop on “Research Methodology” for Postgraduate Students from colleges of Chandigarh concluded was held at the Institute on February 24- 25, 2016. The workshop was conducted with a view to introducing basics of Research Methodology to the students and exposing them to the various aspects involved in it. Dr. Sanjay Arora, an eminent ELT expert from Central University Rajasthan, who is also the President of English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI) took a three hour workshop on ‘Writing a Synopsis: in which he introduced the participants to the nuances of choosing a topic, writing a synopsis and the documentation involved in the process. Dr. P Venkata Rao, Librarian and Course Director of Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration (MGSIPA), Chandigarh took a session on ‘Avoiding Plagiarism’. The faculty of RIE also took sessions on ‘Foundations of Research’, ‘Problem Identification and Formulation’, ‘Research Design and Sampling of Data’, ‘Data Analysis and Presentation’, ‘Use of Library and Online Resources for Research’. Dr Vandana Lunyal, took a comprehensive session on ‘Conducting Research’. The workshop was a step towards capacity building of the participants.



- **Two Day Workshop on "Everyday Matters" for Group-D Staff**

A two day workshop on "Everyday Matters" for Group-D Staff was held in the institute on 16-17 March 2016. The workshop was conducted with a view to introducing everyday language and conversation etiquette and office behaviour to the group D staff of various colleges of Chandigarh and exposing them to the various aspects involved in it. There were 22 participants for the workshop.



l. Material Production for the C-TOSS Programme

In order to facilitate students of Govt Schools under Chandigarh Administration with better curriculum, material production work under the C-TOSS Programme was carried out during the months of April, May and June 2015. Activities during these months include updating the existing C-TOSS lesson plans and prepare new lesson plans as well. New lesson plans were prepared on topics like Natural Disasters, Bullying, Drug Menace, Fast Food, Climate Change, Endangered Animals, Traffic Woes and bio-sketch of Sachin Tendulkar. These lesson plans were primarily prepared with the aim of providing students with ample opportunity to practice speaking skills in pairs or groups in the classroom and thereby motivate all students to actively participate in classroom discussion. The format of the lesson plan was kept uniform with minor variation in the activities within the lesson plans. The topics thus chosen from an exhaustive list are contemporary in nature and of prime interest to the learner.

m. Material Production for the PD Programme

In order to facilitate students of Government Colleges under Panjab University with better curriculum, material production work under the PD Programme was carried out during the months of May and June 2015. Activities during these months include, updating of the existing PD lesson plans, Group Discussion Topics and preparation new lesson plans. New lesson plans were prepared on topics like Negotiation Skills: The process, Sales Call: How to tackle that NO, Sell Yourself: Way to a more confident YOU, Conflict Management, When I am 64 by Eva', Happy New Year by ABBA, YMCA by The Village People, Can't Smile Without You by Barry Manilow, Lemon Tree by Fool's Garden, Mambo No. 5 by Lou Bega.

Some Group Discussion topics were also prepared by the team : Ethics in Medicine, Make in India, RTE: Education for all, Political Youth Brigade, Agriculture: The waning food bowl, Drug Abuse, Black Money and the Indian Economy, Sanitation Drive: Cleanliness for all, Ethical Hacking, IMF vs BRICS: How is India placed?

These lesson plans and Group discussion topics were primarily prepared with the aim of providing students with ample opportunity to practice speaking skills in pairs or groups in the classroom and hereby motivate all students to actively participate in classroom discussion. The format of the lesson plan was kept uniform with minor variation in the activities within the lesson plans.

3. Short Courses for Students

7th Comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh

A comprehensive Computer Aided Language Learning was provided to the students of Govt. Schools of Class 8, 9 and 10 for one month. The programme was conducted at the Institute's Language Lab with a batch of **30 students** of GMSSS-33, GHS-32 and GMSSS21. The focus of the programme was to introduce the students to Computer Skills, i.e. Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point and Internet and basic Communication skills.



The students were provided with a conducive environment where they could share their inhibitions about language learning. The programme was goal oriented and was designed keeping in consideration the inadequacies of everyday classroom learning. The students were provided with an opportunity where they could participate in activities like, role plays, picture description, storytelling, narrating a tale and word games. The aim of the course was to provide a natural environment where language learning skills was the preferred outcome. At the end of the course, the students were provided with academic financial assistance in the form of a stationary kit containing a school bag and a Geometry box.

4. Project Based Courses

a. RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development (2015-16)

The RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development (PD), a 100-hour need-based programme has emerged as a successful course focusing on the personal development of students. It concentrates on enhancing their communication skills, soft skills and life skills. The programmes conducted in six colleges of Chandigarh Administration for the final year students pursuing graduation in different streams. It has benefitted over 15000 students between 2010 and 2014-15. With the students showing keen interest in the programme, the attendance has risen from 60-65% in 2010 to almost 85% in 2014 in all the colleges. Most of the students have found placements with companies like IBM, Concentrix, Aviation Hub, Tommy Hilfiger and Aviva Life Insurance. In the first month of the current session i.e. 2015-16, RIE has been able to place 50 students in Concentrix Daksh Services India Pvt. Ltd and Ernst & Young.

Vocabulary Building, Resume Writing, Interview Skills, Group Discussion Skills, Team Skills, Leadership Qualities, Time Management and Stress Management. Attention is also paid to Personal Grooming, developing a Positive Attitude and building Self Confidence.

The programme adopts an activity-based approach to teaching and learning by using activities such as Break the Ice, Elevator Speech, Oral Testing and JAM Sessions. Such activities motivate students to engage in group work as well as individual participation. The course uses a variety of materials both print and electronic, comprising Handouts, Worksheets, Power Point Presentations, Audio-Visual Aids, Excerpts from Newspapers & Magazines and Web-Based Resources. The RIE Certificate Course in Personal Development commenced on 3rd August 2015. Orientation classes were held in the institute for the trainers from 24 July to 31 July 2015. The classes commenced from 3 August 2015 (1 August being a Saturday) in colleges. **3155** students have been enrolled for the current session.

b. C-Toss Programme for the Government Schools of Chandigarh (2015-16)

For the academic session 2015-16, Regional Institute of English (RIE) was once again entrusted with the responsibility of conducting C-TOSS training in 81 Govt. Schools covered under the Chandigarh Administration. The Programme was officially announced on 31 December 2015 and was implemented in schools on 11 January 2016. To engage the quality trainers, advertisements were placed in all leading newspaper and three rounds of interview were conducted to engage 81 trainers and 6 coordinators

The induction/orientation training of C-TOSS trainers was conducted in two different batches. The first batch attended the training on 9 January 2016 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. The second batch attended the training on 22 January 2016 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. The trainers were provided with an intense training that included introduction to the programme, teaching methodology/strategies and time management. The trainers were also provided with the required stationary kits.

In order to make the programme more beneficial for students and realize the best potential of engaged C-TOSS trainers, RIE made provisions of training session which were conducted by RIE faculty members. The following training sessions were conducted by the Coordinator of the Programme, Ms Tulika Kakkar, who introduced the objectives and goals of the programme to the trainers and imparted the orientation cum Introduction training along with discussion on how to use the teaching material. The second training session was also taken up by Ms Tulika Kakkar on 'Positive Attitude' which was followed up by Micro teaching done by C-TOSS Trainers.

The English Language Fellow at RIE, Ms Jane Hoelkar, conducted a series of workshop with C-TOSS trainers. Her workshop on 'MBTI, Classroom Management through the Power of Personality' dealt with varied nature of personalities a teacher encounters in his everyday classroom teaching and methods of dealing with them. Her second workshop 'Time Management and Personality: The Clock is ticking' explored how different personalities respond to teaching and learning.

Mr Shivinder Kang did a workshop on 'Personality Development' which gave the trainers the necessary tips on improving their students' personality. Mr Ashutosh Sharma did a workshop on 'Teaching Grammar Effectively' which aimed to remove the conventional barriers which exists in teaching of grammar. Later Ms Sarita Tiwari did a talk cum lecture on 'Classroom Methodology'. The last training session was taken by Tulika Kakkar where outcomes and challenges of the programme were discussed with the trainers.

The Regional Institute of English (RIE) started a pilot project under the guidance of Dr Vandana Lunyal in GMSSS-Sector 8 under C-TOSS program 2015-16. The project aimed at bringing about attitudinal change and honing the extracurricular talents of students enrolled in the C-TOSS program. The project was termed as 'I Can' Club. With the objective of optimizing students' potential and enhancing their confidence, the programme gave students a platform for self expression.

The 'I Can' Club organized a "Talent Show" at GMSSS- Sector 8. The students of Class 9 participated in the talent show which included various literary activities. During the event, students performed a skit, made speeches, recited poems and sang English songs. In order to motivate students, prizes and certificates were given to participants

The programme concluded on 29 February 2016 with a valedictory function and a group photograph.



Ms Jane Hoelkar, ELF and Mr Shivinder Kang, PD Coordinator, taking a workshop session with C-TOSS trainers.



Students' performing various activities under RIE-C-TOSS "I Can" Club at GMSS- Sector 8, Chandigarh.

5. TESOL International Association Academy on 'Changing Classrooms, Supporting Teachers'

Regional Institute of English (RIE), in partnership with Regional English language Office (RELO), US Embassy, New Delhi presented the first ever TESOL International Association event in India. The 2 day TESOL International Association Academy on 'Changing Classrooms, Supporting Teachers' was designed to help teachers in India and surrounding regions meet the needs of their students, who come to a classroom from diverse backgrounds and with a variety of learning styles and expectations. Grounded in the latest research, the academy features 6 workshops that relate to pedagogy, assessment, technology in the classroom, and course design. 6 ESL experts from the US and India conducted the workshops for over 180 teachers of which 35 were from 11 countries and the rest from 17 states of India.

TESOL President, Dr. Andy Curtis, the first TESOL President of Indian heritage, in his keynote address highlighted how culture and language are important in establishing one's identity in the global scenario as he himself has a multi-national background.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Mr. Vijay Dev, IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, Chandigarh, taking Dr. Curtis's perspective further, stressed on the importance of English language learning in the local context and also spoke on how difficult but not impossible learning English language is for the speakers of other languages. He also stressed on the need of such events in order to facilitate upward movement on the ladder of success in terms of language learning.



Ms. Diane A. Millar, Regional English language Officer, RELO, US Embassy, New Delhi, enlightened the audience as to why events like the one conducted by TESOL are important and divulged that ELTAI, the local Indian teachers' association has also become an affiliate of TESOL. Ms. Sarah Sahr, Director Education Programmes, TESOL, stressed on the need to train teachers to teach English language to the speakers of other languages.

Heading the premier institute of teacher education, Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh, the Director, Dr. Sharda Kaushik highlighted how the institute integrates teaching the teachers and students at all levels and adapts to the changes around, inventing new techniques of pedagogy to impart education and empower the students and teachers.

At the Valedictory address, Prof Arun Kumar Grover, VC, Panjab University, Chandigarh, appreciated the efforts of the institute in organising an international event and applauded it for epitomising the RIE motto of "Reinvent", "Inspire" and "Empower" by example.

The six workshops conducted were: *Tech Solutions for Low-Tech Situations* by Karen Price, Boston University, USA; *Formative Assessment in South-Asian Context: Some Practical Possibilities* by Geeta Durairajan, EFLU, Hyderabad; *Strategies for Student-Centered, Rule-Based Activities and Spontaneous, Incidental Learning* by Stephen DeGiulio, English Language Fellow, RIE, Chandigarh; *Creative Ways of Improving Language Skills* by Rajni Badlani, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi; *The Five Ps of Effective Leadership and Professional Development* by Neil J. Anderson, Brigham Young University, Hawaii, USA; *Taking ELT Materials to Task: A Template Process for Effective Materials Development* by Jayme Adelson-Goldstein, Lighthearted Learning, California, USA.

This academy brought together school, college and university teachers, teacher trainers and aspiring teachers under one umbrella. RIE has been collaborating with organisations and this time, with Chandigarh Administration's strong support, it collaborated with RELO and TESOL to bring the first ever TESOL International event to India.

6. Workshops based on TESOL Academy

a. **Workshop 1: Tech Solutions for Low-Tech Situations / Karen Price, Lecturer, School of Education, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA**

This workshop capitalized on the idea of changing and supporting teaching and learning environment where there is limited or no access to technology. For teachers who want to infuse technology in their everyday classroom, limited access to technology and web tools could prove a challenge. However, in the emerging scenario, rapid innovation in the field of technology and communication have led to invention of Smart Pens, Manipulative Games, Talking Books, Paper based Computing and mobile apps which run on smart phones and tablets without access to internet. The workshop directed its energies towards determining which technology to be used in a specific context.

The workshop demonstrated how the use of such tools has created a breakthrough in the field of interaction, communication and collaboration and thereby effectively removing the barriers that currently exists. The workshop also took into cognizance the importance of planning and preparing online lessons which can be used on a common platform like Schoology. Schoology is a Learning Management System and Social network for teaching academic content and is ideal for online courses. The participants were also familiarized with various web resources which can be easily integrated into Schoology.

The workshop also presented opportunities for participants to learn how the use of technology can reduce social barriers and disparity that exists between students. As students work in group/pair they collectively assume responsibility towards a common goal and their well directed collective efforts cuts across barriers of learning.



b. **Workshop 2: Formative Assessment in South Asian Contexts: Some Practical Possibilities/ Geetha Durairajan, Department of Materials Development and Evaluation, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India.**

The aim of this workshop was to focus on the different facets of using assessment as a pedagogic tool in ESL classroom. The participants were made aware of the concept of formative assessment that is to monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to

improve their teaching and by the students to improve their learning. The workshop helped the participants identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that needed help. Participants were introduced to different forms of Formative assessment which is most misunderstood in the classrooms. The concept of **for** learning, as learning and **for** learning was made clear through activities and different tasks. Different task based activities were conducted to make the concept of formative assessment come alive.

c. Workshop 3: Strategies for Student-Centered, Rule-Based Activities and Spontaneous, Incidental Learning/ Stephen DeGiulio, Senior English Language Fellow, The Regional Institute of English, Chandigarh, U.T. India

The workshop at the TESOL Academy was aimed at strengthening the approach of focusing on the learner. The ELT trainers from around the globe shared their ideas about the approach of focusing on the learner. Different learners have different needs depending on the cultural surroundings. The teacher must adapt according to the needs of the learner and develop activities that aim at the “spontaneous” and “incidental” language acquisition. The participants received the workshop very positively and took a lot of ideas back with them with a promise of applying those ideas in their English language classrooms. Prof. DeGiulio held the 2 day workshop together through some brilliant activities that were interesting for young learners and at the same time very effective too.

d. Workshop 4: Creative Ways of Improving Language Skills/ Rajni Badlani, Chief Advisor: English Language Assessment, Cambridge University Press, India Private Ltd, Jasola, New Delhi, India

The workshop stressed on the use of literature as a resource to teach English Language. The focus was on content-related language teaching. Highlight was on how literature better serves the interest of language than other content as it provides the socio-cultural context of the language used in a given speech community also on how it lends itself to a discussion of topical issues with a humanistic dimension. This workshop aimed at using different genres of literature as a means of enhancing the language skills. Creative texts that added both rich content and language use in the teaching of English were used as a resource. The workshop mode was in itself an example to be used in a classroom to enhance the listening, conversational, writing, reading and critical thinking skills, which go a long way in helping one wield the language well. Participants learned to develop a variety of discourse, to use language within a context, become aware of language style and register and the ways to improve pupils’ overall ability to use language.

e. Workshop 5: The Five Ps of Effective Leadership and Professional Development/ Neil J Anderson, Professor, Department of English Language Teaching & Learning and English as an International Language, Brigham Young University, Hawaii, USA

In order to facilitate *changing classrooms*, leaders must prepare for *supporting teachers*. This workshop focused on the five Ps of effective leadership and professional development: (1) purpose, (2) personalization, (3) priority, (4), passion and (5) professionalization. The workshop provided an in-depth examination of each P to assist leaders in ELT programs in developing effective leadership skills. Objectives of the workshop were to identify characteristics of effective leaders and recognize areas of personal strengths and weaknesses in relationship to the characteristics; to formulate culturally appropriate ways for personalizing the characteristics of effective leadership to support teacher development and growth; To draft a plan for how to engage in strategic planning in their programs; to facilitate the development of teacher motivation and passion for language teaching; and to make Participants list five ways that teachers can participate in reflecting on their own professional development and select from 13 tools to aid in encouraging reflection on professionalization within their respective language teaching programs.

f. Workshop 6: Taking ELT Materials to Task: a template process for effective materials development/ Jayme Adelson-Goldstein, Educational Consultant, Light hearted Learning, LLC, Northridge, CA, USA

The workshop addressed the need for adapting, differentiating, and expanding ELT materials in order to meet learners' needs, manage the classroom setting, and cope with technology. It provides instructors with flexible task templates, planning checklists, and rubrics for increasing their ability to address these challenges. It also engages participants in a series of collaborative tasks, beginning with the analysis of typical classroom materials and culminating in the creations and presentation of materials using the workshop tools and templates.

7. Innovative Practices

a. Plantation Drives

On the occasion of Republic Day on 26th January 2016, trees were planted in the campus. Dr. Vandana Lunyal planted a 'MaulSree' Tree. The other faculty members, the office staff and the students also planted a few other trees. This drive was organised specially with a view to create eco-consciousness among the students and to sensitize them to protect and nurture their environment to maintain the ecological balance.



On 25th February 2016 a plantation drive was organized at the campus to give a new look to the herbal garden of the Institute.

b. Community Outreach Programmes

Pronunciation Activity undertaken with Students of Hamari Kaksha,; A Society for Underprivileged and Dropout Children: 29 January



In order to sensitize MA students towards the needs of children who face economic hardships and at times have to drop out of school because of financial constraints, RIE authorities decided

to undertake a Community Outreach Programme with an NGO, Hamari Kaksha which helps such educationally deprived students to complete their primary education. The MA students reached the NGO premises on 29 January 2016 and were greeted by a joyous roar of children of all age group. The Children who were excited, listened with rapt attention to MA students who decided to take a session on vocabulary and pronunciation. The MA students who were ten in number took turns to write and spell out simple vocabulary words which the students had to string in a sentence. The students were taught situational vocabulary and were told the correct pronunciation of the common mis-pronounced words. The event was a success as the students did not want their class to end that day.

c. Singing Songs and Poems with of Visually Impaired Students of Sector -26, Chandigarh: 5 February

The Department of Post Graduate Studies undertook a Community Outreach Activity with visually challenged students of a school which is run by **Society for the care of Blind** in Sector 26. The programme intended to sing rhymes and songs with them. The team comprising of ten MA Students along with two faculty members led this initiative. The special children by all means were happy to meet the RIE team. To break the ice with the special children, few MA students started playing games like ‘throw the ball’ with them. After the students were comfortable talking, RIE team introduced themselves and told them about the programme. The students were pleasantly surprised and happy to meet their new teachers. Songs were first played on tape recorder and once the students have taken note of tone and the rhythm, MA students gradually took the lead and started singing songs on their own by clapping hands and clicking fingers with the children following them. Songs like We shall Overcome, Do-re-me, Five Little Monkeys, Old Mac Donald, Jingle Bells, Five Little Ducks were sung and enjoyed by Children. The MA students were also shown the campus of their school. At the end the RIE team distributed candies and thanked the students’ for their time.



d. Hand Washing Activity with Children of GMSSS-37, Chandigarh: 10 February

In the month of February 2016, RIE organized an awareness activity involving the students of M.A. English. In the activity the participants were asked to do some introspection and regarding creating awareness about our personal hygiene and inculcate the habit of cleanliness by teaching students the correct procedure for keeping body parts, especially hands clean.



In pursuant to it, the Director, RIE, contacted the Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Sector 37-B, Chandigarh for a lecture on personal hygiene. The RIE-MA team decided to do a practical training session on importance of 'hand washing' with the school students'. The RIE team comprised of ten students and two faculty members who reached the school on 10 February to implement the programme related to cleanliness. Firstly an interactive session was held with the students where the MA students talked to the students' about the importance of cleanliness and asked them question as to how they can keep themselves clean. Later on a demonstration was given on the correct procedure adopted while washing hands. Students were also encouraged to come forward and do practical hands -on activity on correct way of hand washing. At the end, many of the students were given free soap cakes by the RIE team as an incentive towards maintaining hygiene.

Director