

Focus Group Discussion on “Problems faced in Maths by Class 10th Students”

A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on “**Problems faced by Class 10th Students preparing for Maths Exam**” was held on 3rd February at the Tarraqi GAIN Centre – Mewat. It was facilitated by Mr. Syed F. Sattar, (Senior Maths Faculty at GEMS International School, Gurgaon; Ex-Manager – Training & Curriculum, Bharti Foundation). Several teachers from Mewat schools attended and appreciated this effort. They suggested that such type of workshops should be held in summer vacation to hone their mathematics teaching skills. Seven middle and senior school teachers from five schools enriched this discussion. We greatly appreciate their support and sincere desire to improve the teaching and learning of Maths in Mewat. Below are further details.



A Discussion on “Problems facing by a Teacher in Teaching Mathematics”

S.No	Name	School	Classes Taught	Subject	E-mail	Phone
1	Bijendra Singh	Mewat Model School, Nuh	Upto 10th	Maths		9813013483
2	Vikas	MMS	10-12th	Maths		9813785720
3	Pooja Joshi	SOS HGS, Palla	6,8 & 10th	Maths & Science	Pooja.150291@gmail.com	8053775241
4	Zahida Khatoon	SOS HGS, Palla	7-10th		Zahida.khan2516@gmail.com	8814017416
5	Saroj Nayak	SOS HGS, Palla	Primary	Maths	Saroj73nuh@gmail.com	9812576979

6	Asif Hussain	TGC	Upto 10th	Maths & Science		
7	I Shamsi	MMA, Bhadas	Upto 10 th	Maths		8930863839, 9671450564

Most teachers felt that the main challenge faced when teaching Maths is that student's basic mathematical concepts are not clear. Since most of these teachers were middle & senior school teachers, it would be essential to conduct a similar FGD with primary school teachers. Also, trainings must be planned and organised for all the levels.

It is worrying to note that almost all teachers said that the students lack interest in the subject or in studies in general. Some called it a lack of response and attention too. Each of these are important issues which needs to be addressed by giving ideas and strategies to generate interest in the subject/topic by making the lesson interactive and captivating.

Some teachers also stated the quantum of syllabus as a burden. The situation is aggravated when lack of understanding of various concepts accumulates over the years and then new ones are further introduced. No wonder teachers mentioned that students fear math.

The topics that were particularly hard for students were Geometric Theorems, (especially proving these theorems), Algebra, Trigonometry, Mensuration. Word problems become all the more complex as along with the lack of understanding/skill of Maths, there is also tremendous lack of language skills (reading & writing), in Hindi as well.

All the teachers unanimously expressed that they need and shall welcome support in improving their pedagogical skills and eventually the learning of the students.

Most teachers desire and need more time to teach Maths, especially to clear the basic concepts or the learning gaps before introducing a new or a higher level of a concept.

It was encouraging to learn that all of them wanted the training and they shared areas they would wanted to prioritise. Many mentioned Algebra followed by, Trigonometry, Mensuration, Equations, Geometry, Construction, Height & Distance.

Other than the training, teachers also expressed the need for Visual support like models & pictures and activities related to various concepts, to make the lessons interesting. They also mentioned the need for reference books for teachers as well as students.

Since TGC is striving to be self-sufficient and sustainable in the long run, it is also encouraging to note that half of the teachers were willing to pay a moderate fees for the training.

Most teachers suggested longer duration trainings in March-Apr or during summer holidays and were also willing to come for short workshops on holidays once or twice in a quarter. It was suggested that the desirable training time should be 6 to 7 hours every day.

All the teachers were truly mesmerised by the facilitator Mr. Sayyed, who in a short demo of an hour gave them a lot of interesting tips on estimating the distance and height, ratio of angles, etc.

TGC team greatly appreciates the valuable inputs of all the teachers and thanks Mr. Sayyed for facilitating this discussion which will lead to planning and implementation of the Mewat Teacher Training program for the teachers of this economically and educationally backward region where rarely get to attend any capacity development workshops and mentoring. As a result students who struggle and are able to at least graduate from schools leave with very low understanding and skills in maths and science.