



HDCS DEPARTMENT

ACADEMIC FESTIVAL REPORT

12th -13th February 2021

2/18/2021 HDCSAcademicFestival2021Programme.jpg

Department of Human Development and Childhood Studies, IHE
Academic Festival 2021

Friday, 12th February

10.30 am **Address to students** by Director IHE, Dr Geeta Trilok Kumar
 10.45 am **Learning Disabilities** Inauguration of Short-Term Course and Course Presentation
 11.00 am **Who does our Body belong to?** Body acceptance, privilege and liberation, by Ameira Sikand, founder Unmute Files
 1.30 pm **Parenting a Child with Special Needs**, Conversations with Ms Pragya Sharma, author 'When I met the unexpected'
 3.00 pm **Content Development for Young Children**, Workshop with Ms Sukhna Sawhney, Senior Manager content and Curriculum, Sesame Workshop India

Saturday, 13th February

10.00 am **Working with Communities: Experiences from the Field**, by Jyotsna Lall, Director, AKDN
 11.30 am **Dialogues with Women: Narratives of Professional and Personal Journeys** Panel Discussion with HDCS Alumni
 Chair: Sunisha Ahuja, Education Specialist ECCE, UNICEF India
 Prachi Sinha, India Head, National Association for Child Development
 Aishwarya Chaube, Consultant, Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog
 Gaurika Daussa, Pursuing M.Ed Special Education, BCU, Vancouver, CANADA, former special educator

Links for all webinars will be shared soon. Pre-registration required at <https://forms.gle/kn33ALjVhCBkqMx8>

2/18/2021 Poster collage.jpg



Department of Human Development and Childhood Studies held its academic festival from 12th February 2021 to 13th October, 2021. A wide range of webinars were held to mark the event. The two-day academic festival was held online via Google Meet. Day one of the academic fest started with the Director, Dr. Geeta Trilok Kumar addressing the students. The director talked about the unprecedented times that we find ourselves in and how usually academic fest would have been a time of great learning and fun for the students within the college. The address ended on a positive note with the director emphasising on hope of life back to normalcy, students coming back to campus.

A short-term course on Learning Disability organized by the department was inaugurated by Dr. Renu Gulati and Dr. Kavita Vasudev in the presence of the director and other faculty members. Dr. Renu Gulati shared with the director that the short term course has received overwhelming response from people from diverse educational backgrounds like IGNOU, BE.LED and our own college students have enrolled in the course. The director was briefed regarding the contents of the course by Dr. Kavita Vasudev. Dr. Mila Tuli, Teacher –in – Charge extended her thanks to the director for her gracious presence.

The first session on **Who does our body belong to? Body acceptance, privilege and liberation** by Ms. Ameira Sikand, Founder, Unmute Files as the resource person engaged the students in building an understanding of how body acceptance moves beyond the flimsy notions of self -esteem, how various systems perpetuates unattainable and flawed standards of beauty. She wonderfully explained how system has wronged the people, leaving them with a sense of long-lasting worthlessness and how important it is to question the system that would eventually leads us to path of liberation. The session proved



to be very thought provoking for the students which led to many of students sharing their own personal insights in the form of questions like trolling on social media and its impact, to issue like acne and freckles being a cause of concern specially among females and lastly how intentionally or unintentionally we judge people on their skin colour, body type etc. The Session was moderated by Dr. Mila Tuli.

The second session of the day was on **Parenting a Child with Special Needs by Ms. Pragya Sharma, Author “When I met the unexpected.** The session exposed the students to personal journey of the author. Ms. Pragya Sharma shared the struggles she had to face while rearing a child with special needs. The fact that she came across as a positive and strong person who took the challenge heads on was really appreciated and applauded by the faculty and students alike. During the conversation with students, she talked about how she told her family about her son’s diagnosis with autism, she also touched about the behaviour of the society towards her son and how anything that’s different than the rest is regarded as being bad. She also talked the importance of early intervention. The session proved to be really meaningful to the students. At last when the session was opened for questions, there were many questions ranging from the stigma attached with disability, role of special educators, importance of peer interaction, to struggles of being a mother of a child with special needs. The session was moderated by Dr. Geeta Chopra and Dr G. Krishnaveni.

The third session on day two of the academic fest was on **Content Development for Young Children by Ms. Sukhna Sawhney, Sesame India.** The session helped in building a better understanding towards the importance of early childhood years. During the session Ms.Sukhna touched upon the status of



young children during Covid -19 crisis and how it disrupted the lives of children and led to loss of learning, exposed the children to many risks. She also emphasized on use of media to make content for children fun and attractive. Multilingual content, self-paced learning, ensuring equity and inclusion by tailoring platforms were some of the areas discussed. She also emphasized on catering to social emotional needs of children to ensure well -being of children. The students got to learn a lot of new things with the help of examples from the field like importance of routine to foster sense of stability and security. The session was moderated by Dr. Preetika Badgular.

The second day of the academic fest started with an inspiring session by **Ms. Jyotsna Lall, Director Programmes, AKTC, Aga Khan Development Network on Working with Communities: Experiences from the Field.** Ms. Jyotsna candidly talked about her experiences of working at Nizamuddin Basti renewal project. The session exposed the students to realities of the field like permission from government bodies, difficulties faced while working with different agencies, problems encountered by the organization in getting the support of the community during initial phase of setting up the project. She also enthralled the students with the impact of various projects in the lives of people of Nizamuddin Basti, an area predominantly inhabited by people working in unorganized sector as domestic help, rickshaw puller, auto rickshaw drivers and factory workers. The project in the area of education particularly targeted the women of the area with the help of various programmes to prepare the women of next generation for a better life with focus on vocational education, increased involvement of women in the education of their children. Another project on urban services in the area of health – clinical and community health helped in improving the health infrastructure in and around Nizamuddin basti, training



community health teams along with improvement of infrastructure like public parks, toilets, roads and dump sights etc. The session captivated the attention of the students and the students very enthusiastically put up their questions as soon as the session was opened for questions. Some of the questions asked by students were safety of women in public spaces, role of parents in ensuring education of their children, how did the husbands in the area allow their women to work in the various projects, questions on stakeholder negotiation, funding and permission from government agencies for urban redevelopment. She held meaningful discussions that help the students to understanding the realities of working in the field. The session was moderated by Dr Veenu Wadhwa.

The last session of the two day academic festival was a panel discussion on **Dialogues with Women : Narratives of Professional and Personal Journeys.** The panellists included Sunisha Ahuja , Education Specialist, ECE , UNICEF, Aishwarya Chaube, Consultant ,Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, Prachi Sinha , India Head, National Association For Child Development, Gaurika Daussa, Special Educator & M.E.d Student , University of British Columbia. The panellists talked about their personal journeys as a student of Home Science and how they chose to study the same. All the panellists emphasized on the ample opportunities the course offered to them and how it helped them to grow as a person. The discussion ranged from the exposure to different activities during their time as a student to how the course helped them to develop a better understanding of themselves and the world around them. They all emphasized the importance of exploring all the avenues with focus of the individual calling. The panellists also grabbed the attention of the students with their professional journeys. The panellists touched upon the vastness of the course and the importance of following one's instinct. The different career trajectories of the panellist really opened the young minds



of the students to different possibilities. The panellists also shared the challenges faced by them as a student and in their professional lives. What really captivated the attention of the students was the ways the esteemed panellists navigated the various challenges thrown at them in their professional lives from not being taken seriously, to being a woman in a male dominated profession, to seeking approvals and permissions from the government agencies, to juggling multitude of responsibilities etc. The session proved to be of great relevance to the students as a lot of students had variety of questions in their mind regarding future prospects of the course. The panellists answered each and every question put forth by the students like how to choose an appropriate field of HDCS, what are some strategies to be followed in deciding what to opt for, Can one become a lawyer after pursuing HD, can one become a special educator after doing masters in HDCS or is there any need of doing B.ed special education, can we get a job directly after graduation? The session provided the students with a platform to put forth their concerns related to career and the panellists provided their own insights into the concerns of the students. The session ended with three cheers for the department of HDCS. The session was moderated by Ms Bhavna Negi.

Overall, the fest encompassed a series of themes for students to become aware of and appreciate the differences around. All sessions were attended by 100 participants, with many more being unable to attend due to the limitation of participant capacity in the Google Meet platform provided by the University of Delhi.



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