

## Report

Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel, organized a one-day National Level Seminar on 'Re-envisioning Education with Smart Skills' on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

The inauguration session was graced by the presence of dignitaries of various institutions of MES and intellectuals from different colleges. Mrs. Devanshi Praveen, the organizing secretary of the seminar, in her welcome address, elaborated the concept and rationale behind the topic of the seminar.

The first session of the seminar was on the sub theme "Creating and Exploring new Possibilities". Mr. Kailash Tandel, academic trainer, TISS, along with his associate Mr. Karan, mesmerized the audience with his interesting and eye-opening talk based on different motivational stories, videos and self exemplifying anecdotes on the theme. He brilliantly put across the concept of possibility thinking- developing one's own strength with the right attitude, will power and determination. He introduced the audience to a very informative and interesting technique of identifying the currency notes and coins that left everyone enthralled. It helped to train the thinking faculties of one and all. He advised each one to meditate, and repeat some positive affirmations to oneself every day and experience the miracle of introspection.

The second session was on the sub theme 'Smart Skills and Instructional Strategies'. This session was conducted through Skype by an eminent speaker Dr. J. Dinakaral from Nagarcoil, Tamil Nadu. He effectively brought out how today's children are comfortable with ICT in the modern world of fast developments. He gave various examples of impacts of technology seen on all segments of life. According to him, our children have brought in a shift from: Mataji, Pitaji, Guruji and Bhagwanji to Mataji, Pitaji, Googleji and Bhagwanji. With the changing trends in education, the role of a teacher has transformed to that of a facilitator. Hence, the teachers should update their knowledge regularly and be actively involved in the teaching learning process. Along with hard skills, the students should be inculcated with smart skills too. While hard skills are linked with IQ, smart skills are linked to EQ. Smart skills which are a cluster of personality traits, enhance the performance of an individual, and ensure the successful and efficient functioning as an individual, and also as a part of a team. Smart skills have to be imbibed or inculcated- they cannot be taught as a subject. Dr. Dinakaral very efficiently kept the participants engrossed in his talk. His talk was a brilliant combination of stories, anecdotes and effective PowerPoint presentation.

The Skype session was followed by excellent paper presentations by the participants

under subtheme 1 and 2. This was a parallel session, thus enabling the 22 paper presenters to share their views.

Overall the seminar triggered new ideas to make us from *smart- smarter- to smartest!!* The participants expressed their views and appreciated the efforts in making the seminar a platform to help bring an inner transformation.