



XVII ANNUAL GPSC CONFERENCE

34 schools from Gurugram, who are a part of the Gurgaon Progressive School Conference and CBSE Sahodaya School Complex attended the XVII Annual GPSC Conference, “Co Creating a Safer School Environment” on Saturday, 9th February 2019 at The Palms Town and Country Club, Gurgaon.

The Chairperson, Managing Committee of GPSC, Ms. Aditi Misra accorded a warm welcome to all the founder members, Principals and delegates of the member schools present. This was followed by the Indian tradition of lamp lighting and the release of the brochure.

The theme “Co Creating a Safer School Environment” was divided into three different sessions - Physical Infrastructure, School Policies and Legal Issues supporting safety and security in classrooms which were efficiently carried forward by the three moderators, Dr. Indu Kheterpal, Ms. Charu Maini and Ms. Dhriti Malhotra.

First panel deliberated upon “The Physical Infrastructure”. Experts from different fields unanimously agreed upon the need for a conducive and safe environment for both students and teachers. It was highlighted that each school should have a plan outlining the actions that should be taken in order to deal with a particular problem and emergencies. The school buildings should be child friendly and should evoke positive learning environment.

Second panel discussion dealt with “School Policies and Legal Issues Supporting Safety”. The eminent panelists agreed that for students to achieve academic success they must be made to feel safe physically, mentally and emotionally. Students must feel connected to teachers, staff and other students. Schools can nurture these connections by focusing on students’ social and emotional learning. Dr. Saurabh Mehrotra, a senior consultant at the division of Mental Health and Quality of Life at Medanta shared that the students should be encouraged to speak up when they are bullied. It was reiterated that fostering a sense of community in the classroom can lower bullying incidents and facilitate healing for targeted students. He also emphasized on the need to have staff members who are trained to identify signs of abuse.

Session three on “Security in Classrooms” had renowned speakers. Mr. Rakshit Tandon, Director Council of Information and Security, as an expert highlighted the need for parents and teachers to be mindful about uncensored content available to children. Parents should be alert and not give their child latest gadgets without monitoring them. There is a strong need to teach netiquettes to both parents and students. Dr. Geet Oberoi, Founder President, ORKIDS talked about the special educators who are trained to work with students with different kinds of special needs especially, those with learning disabilities- ADHD, Autism, Intellectual Impairment and Development delay. The school should teach children how to protect themselves. Personal,

social and health education lessons should explain risky behaviour, suitable and inappropriate physical contact and strategies to deal with pressure.

Ms. Aditi Misra, Chairperson, GPSC welcomed Dr. Anurag Tripathi, Secretary CBSE for the valedictory session. In his valedictory address Mr, Tripathi stressed upon the need to take the school environment from knowledge to learning. He also laid emphasis on the need to discourage rote learning among students by using innovative teaching strategies which include relating the curriculum with real life experiences. These practices would reduce rote learning and make education more relevant. He focused on organizing enrichment and stress- relief sessions for students before exams, as they can go a long way in reducing stress, thereby, helping all the stake-holders achieve desirable results. The address by Mr. Tripathi was so full of passion that it made the happiness quotient of the audience palpable.

The Vice Chairperson, Ms. Arti Chopra summed up the event thanking everyone for their generous support to make the event a great success. The conference drew to a close with a vote of thanks being proposed by Mr. P.K. Jain, Patron, Former Chairman, Rotary Public School, Gurugram. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Anurag Tripathi, Secretary CBSE for his powerful address. He expressed his gratitude to founders of GPSC, facilitators, Executive Committee, GPSC Chairperson, Ms. Aditi Misra and Vice Chairperson, Ms. Arti Chopra for having organized this conclave.

