

MINUTES OF THE WEBINAR

GURGAON PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS COUNCIL, GURGAON

The 8th webinar in the series, of #GPSC WEBINARS, was conducted on 21st August 2020 by Gurgaon Sahodaya under the aegis of the Gurgaon Progressive School Council, on “Assessments – an integral component to teaching and learning”. The panelists were Ms. Anuradha Handa (Principal, GD Goenka Public School, Gurugram) and Ms. Arpita Acharya Principal (Officiating), Bluebells Public School, Sector 10, Gurugram. Dr Anshu Arora, Principal, Amity International School, Sector 43, Gurugram moderated the session. The Principals, Vice Principals, Headmistresses and teachers of all the GPSC school attended the webinar held on the Zoom virtual platform.

The minutes of the webinar held are as follows:

1. The session started with a *Welcome Note* by Ms. Aparna Erry, Chairperson GPSC, who introduced the panelists to an enthusiastic group of participants.
2. Ms Anuradha Handa, began by referring to the emphasis on Assessments ‘as’ and Assessment ‘for’ as being an integral component to the teaching and learning process, which is also being highlighted in the New Education Policy. The main points from her presentation included the following:
 - Learning how to learn and transformative learning that aims for character building shall eventually lead to the ‘Education for life, and not for living’.
 - Assessment ‘For’ learning Includes both formal and informal assessment by the teacher and helps in providing effective feedback, and is also termed as Formative Assessment.
 - Assessment ‘As’-Learning occurs when students are their own assessors. Learning requires students to ask questions about their own learning, maintains interaction between students and teachers, includes informal feedback and self-assessment by students and is mainly learner centered. It involves students and teachers together creating learning goals to encourage growth and development.
 - Some of the tools recommended by her for Assessment ‘as’ and Assessment ‘for’ are as follows:
 - (i) **Observations-**
 - **Formal** (Planned)- Listening and viewing tasks, practical demonstrations, strategic questioning, recording observations with pre-defined rubrics.
 - **Informal** (Unplanned)- Observation of students as they engage in on-line learning activities, use of language and application of skills.
 - (ii) **PBL collaborative activities-**

They lead to self- development and problem-solving approach by enabling the child to understand the nuances of each component, such as: Group discussion, Paired tasks, Group presentations, Peer feedback and Team challenges etc. Observations to be recorded with the help of clearly illustrated and well-defined rubrics.
 - (iii) **Portfolio-** It is both a process and a product. Ideally it must include information showing student’s self-reflection, student’s activities in learning and also should reflect student’s learning curve. It is an opportunity to create a reflection sheet as it helps students to get intrinsic motivation. The vision of a child’s understanding and of his learning gets reflected through his portfolio.

She summed up by quoting that, 'I made my own assessment of my life, and I began to live it'. As educators, one should provide freedom of choice to students for Assessment, in a bid to enhance their confidence and ability.

3 The next speaker of the day was Ms Arpita Acharya, who was introduced to the audience, by Chairperson Ms Aparna Erry. Ms Arpita, began her session by reminding all educators about the challenge faced by all the schools in conducting the Summative Assessment, during COVID'19 lockdown. But with the support of tools of technology and an unabated will to succeed, the GPSC schools shall cross this hurdle as well. Her presentation focused on E-Learning, focusing on Assessment "of" learning or mainly Summative Assessments, an instrument to measure student's proficiency and document the academic readiness. The main points from her presentation included the following:

- If the tests are well-planned and designed, they would prevent students from using unfair means. Some of the Assessment methods that can be used are- Multiple choice questions, True/ False, Fill in the Blanks, Quizzes, Mind maps and Case studies. These methods cover all aspects of Bloom's Taxonomy.
- Webinar laid stress on designing an online examination on MS Forms. Flexibility of writing answers, result viewing, question shuffling and monitoring through the cameras were the other points highlighted.
- Specific rules and instructions were discussed for E-assessments. Inserting images, maps, graphs and diagrams are the feasible possibilities.
- The presenter made the attendees aware of some good online assessment tools, like Google Forms, Microsoft Forms, Flipgrid Quizzes and Kahoot etc. She gave extensive examples of the step by step process of making a form and its usage.
- Ms Arpita ended her session with the instructions that needed to be taken up for safe delivery and commencement of on-line tests. The Chairperson, Ms Aparna Erry introduced the Moderator, Dr Anshu Arora, Principal, Amity International School, Sector 43, Gurugram and invited her to conduct the Q & A round.

4 Dr Anshu Arora, appreciated the speakers for their enthusiasm and proficiency in delivering the session. Taking ahead, the questions on futuristic vision of on line examinations in the post Covid'19 era, she summed up the session by concluding that to make Assessments into an engaging and powerful tool, the learner's interest and choice must be kept in mind. She also thanked all the members for joining the session and for the emerging thought process.

5 The members were quite thankful to the speakers for such an invigorating session.

Warm regards,

Arti Chopra
Secretary, GPSC