DEVELOPING CREATIVE CLASSROOM PRACTICES

Workshop by

Prof. Aparna Vinod

The 'Developing Creative Classroom Practices' workshop conducted by **Prof. Aparna Vinod**, Associate Professor, School of Liberal Arts and Design Studies on 26th, November 2022 presented to the faculty members collaborative and innovative learning methodologies. This workshop was the first in the series of events organised by the Centre of Learning Science and Technologies, Vidyashilp University. The Centre of Learning Science and Technologies aims to establish a culture of innovative pedagogy and learning frameworks that promote interwoven and experiential learning.
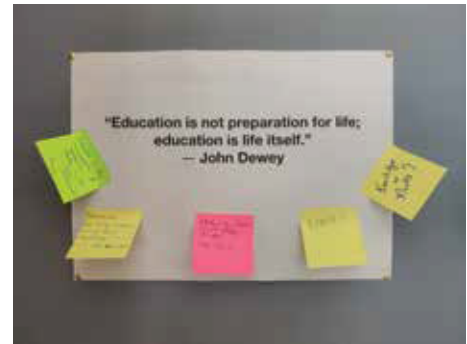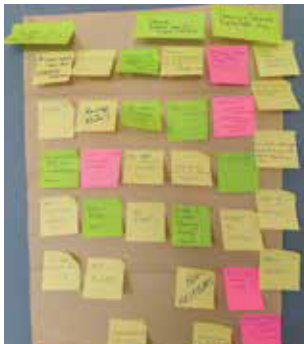
The overarching thematic guiding this workshop was to encourage faculty to reinforce the unique Learning to Learn approach being offered to all Semester II students of the University. By adopting a twofold system that engages both the learner and faculty, a university-wide ecosystem of experiential learning is envisioned. The student-facing experience aims to create self-directed and engaged learners. The faculty-facing workshop provides support with current and creative pedagogies that can be adopted across domains. The center also developed a framework of classroom practices and methodologies that caters to the unique curricular experience of the university. A toolkit comprising of worksheets tools and methodologies was shared with the participants.

THE WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

Prof. Aparna Vinod, introduced the faculty to the conceptual framework of Kolb's experiential cycle and its 4 learning quadrants. The participants were also presented with information on how the Classroom Taxonomies and Positions Framework (CTPF) was informed and developed by multiple learning theories. The CTPF toolkit which was shared with all participants proposes experiential tools and techniques that can be used in various learning environments. It was designed as a handy toolkit that can be used a ready reckoner by the faculty.

The workshop introduced participants to three lines of inquiry that are being pursued in the Learning to Learn course - Learning as Engaging, Learning as Collaborating, Learning as Organising. Each of these areas were unpacked using visual pedagogic tools such as Visual Galleries, Think Pair Share, Semantic Mapping etc.

The half-day workshop engaged participants in a series of dialogic and experiential pedagogy using conversational and action-based explorations. Faculty worked in teams outside of their domains to generate rich dialogue and experience sharing. A follow-up session on the faculty's experience of using these methods in their classrooms is being organised.

FACULTY FEEDBACK

Dr.Umesh Mahtani
Professor - School of Business Studies
The workshop was an eye-opener and provided several insights into how the process of learning takes place. The format of the sessions was very engaging and ensured the ideas on learning were highlighted through the various activities conducted. This workshop would be very useful for faculty from other educational institutes also.

Dr. Ranjana Raghunathan
Assistant Professor - School of Liberal Arts & Design Studies
I found that the workshop, the way you had designed it, gave me the space to reflect on the methods you selected, some of which I have also used in my classroom. For example, I found it useful to think about Think Pair Share, Video response and Debate, but reflecting on them within the framework of learning methodologies was particularly helpful. I also got some new ideas to use in the classroom - e.g. gallery walk, but as a reading exercise in my course next semester. Moreover, I enjoyed engaging with the activities that you had planned for us - working in pairs, generating concept maps. I found your approach to be very conversational and enjoyed engaging with the toolkit you proposed too.

Prof. Spatica Ramanujam
Assistant Professor - School of Liberal Arts & Design Studies
As an embodied learning practitioner and teacher, the workshop enabled me to specifically think about how experiential learning could be documented. The activity of working on concept maps helped me evolve a way to map this learning.

Dr. Radhika Lobo
Professor of Economics, School of Business Studies
Congratulations for such a wonderful session.The session helped me understand the theoretical background for some of the teaching -learning methods adopted worldwide, the formal nomenclature used for these as well as the context for using a specific method. The cherry on the cake was your tacit demonstration of these while conducting the session! I am definitely going to use some of these techniques in my class.

Dr. Kiran D.C
Associate Professor, School of Computational and Data Sciences
Workshop on "Learning to Learn" was an experience in itself. The learning methodologies discussed were easy & enjoyable and deeply powerful. I got an opportunity to understand how concept building techniques can stimulate active learning in learners. I felt i was gaining a technique that can be adopted to teach and learn a few case studies in Computational Thinking class.