Workshop on "The Application of Technology for Teaching and Learning of English language Skills"

It is beyond doubt that technology has become ubiquitous and it is impacting teaching and education in a big way.

A two-day workshop on "The Application of Technology for Teaching and Learning of English language Skills" organised by the Humanities division of S & H department in collaboration with the English Language Teachers Association of India,(ELTAI) Guntur Chapter successfully completed which was held from 22nd to 23rd December.

Online learning platforms and advanced software are beginning to replace traditional practices of teaching, more particularly in the way English is being taught in the modern classroom. Hence, it becomes imperative for English teachers to keep abreast of the times and update themselves constantly on the technology front, if they are to be relevant and to be able to engage their students in the classroom. Language classrooms can be become more lively and interactive if teachers are able to deploy the latest technical tools for setting up learning tasks to the millennial learners.

The total number of participants was 60, of which 40 were male faculty and 20 were female faculty. Among them were ten school teachers and the remaining 50 participants were from various engineering colleges of Andhra Pradesh.

The Resource Person for the first day was Dr. Santhosh Mahapatra from Birla Institute of Technology & Science, (BITS), Hyderabad enlightened on the application of google drive for generating collaborative tasks for students. Teachers were provided hands on experience on taking screenshots of texts, images and trained on how to use the Micro Soft features like Paint to edit, highlight, crop pictures and texts for designing classroom activities. Dr. Santhosh demonstrated how google docs can be used for setting up collaborative tasks. Teachers were also trained on how to use record, crop and edit a video for setting up short listening tasks in English classroom. A hands on experience on generating suitable rubrics of evaluation was also imparted to the participants. He wrapped up his session by showing the teachers how they can use technology for improving the

communication skills i.e. like use of mobile phones and voice thread.com for recording, evaluating and offering feed-back on student presentations.

The second day started with a brainstorming session coordinated by the Convenor, Prof. A. Sharada organised group discussions among the participants to deliberate on the actual dynamics of teaching English in the Indian classrooms. The participants were divided into four groups who discussed animatedly and brought to table several constructive suggestions for deriving better learning outcomes from language classrooms. It was followed by Dr.Ramani's session who demonstrated how to use technology for improving reading skills of students. He dwelled on the aspects of classification of reading modules suited to student's levels and appropriate remedies for improving reading difficulties at various levels. Dr. Ramani showed several free websites that could be readily accessed by teachers to procure reading exercises and test hand-outs for students. The day two post-lunch session began at 1400 hrs and it was dedicated to the problems of listening. He explained the various internet tools to practice listening in the classroom.

The valedictory session closed with reflections from Dr.Shabren Sukthana Shaik, Convener & Secretary of ELTAI, Guntur Chapter and Dr. A. Sharada, President ELTAI Guntur Chapter as well as that of the participants shared their experience on the workshop. This was followed by issue of participant certificates a group photo session.