

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Experiential Learning, 2017 (Education Track)**

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> ICEL was held at the Institute of Business Management, on October 21 and 22, 2017. The objective of the conference was to exhibit how teaching patterns have evolved in the last several years, from conventional to experiential, that is learning by doing. Although the basics of learning continue to be conceptual, rigor in learning is reflected through innovational and real time experiences.

The conference included problems and solutions for Experiential Learning (EL) and cases of successful teaching and learning through EL, covering both school and higher education were presented. These were reflected in the plenary sessions, paper presentations and panel discussions in which eminent speakers from home and abroad participated.

This report will reflect on the education track wherein on Day 1, an inaugural session kick started the conference with a welcome address by the Chairperson, Dr. Irfan Hyder, Dean CBM & CES and Mr. Talib Syed Karim, President IoBM. Other speakers included, Mr. Javed Memom, Director HEC, Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, CEO Indus Hospital and Mr. Bashir Jan Muhammad, Chancellor IoBM. All the speakers expressed their views in regards to learning through their own experiences.

The inaugural was followed by interactive sessions on experiential learning in school education, which featured Mr. Javed Jabbar, Dr. Qurat ul, Ain Bhaktiari and Mrs. Sarah Hyder. Mr. Javed Jabbar's message laid stress on the impact of teachers on the learning of children, which was both formidable and important. He also stressed the three dimensions of experiential learning namely the physical dimension, the motivational dimension and the intellectual dimension, which were critical to learning. Thus, experiential learning needed passion, risk taking and preference along with a love of reading to be truly successful. Dr. Quratul Ain Baktiari talked about a programmed process she had followed in the quest for learning. Mrs. Sarah Hyder shared her experiences on how she operated her school and the methods she used for learning to take place.

A second important session on the same day was on the topic of 'Losing Creativity in the Love of Contemporary Schooling', which was moderated by Dr. Irfan Hyder. The panel comprised Dr. Quratul Ain Baktiari, Mr. Salman Asif Siddiqui, Mr. Abbas Hussain, Mr. Tahir Javed, Dr Babur and Mr. Azeem Pirani. A meaningful discussion ensued during the session.

In addition to these major sessions, nine tracks of parallel sessions were held through out the day. Each session included four to five paper presentations. The sheer diversity of topics and the adroit handling of the subjects were exceptionally meaningful for the attendees to think about.

Day 2, commenced with a plenary on the topic 'Experiential Learning Based Curriculum Design: Choices and Constraints', presented by Dr. Muhammad Memon, Chairman Board of

Intermediate and Secondary Education, Hyderabad who elucidated the need for a relevant and meaningful curriculum. This was followed by Dr. Bayani Almacen from Royal Institution, Singapore, who spoke on the topic of ‘ Incorporating Experiences by Building a Strong Based Teacher Training Program’ . In his speech he provided useful tips for effective teaching, which were appreciated by teachers with less teaching experience. The final speaker of the session was Dr. Karamat Ali, Director ORIC, NUML University, Islamabad, who talked about the functions of ORIC.

The plenary session was followed by a panel discussion on the topic ‘Managing the Big Love Between Supervisors and Supervisees’. Participants included Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Dean AIOU, Dr. Irshad Farukh, Secretary NACTE, Prof. N.B. Jumani, Directorate of Distance Education, Dr. Bayani Almacen, Royal Institution, Singapore and Dr. Munira Amirali, IED-AKU. Dr. Nasreen Hussain and Dr Izhar-ul-Haq Siddiqui served as the moderators of the discussion. The discussion outcomes clarified the role of NACTE, HEC guidelines for supervisors and supervisees and general thoughts on the topic. The session was of particular interest to MPhil and PhD scholars and much appreciated.

To sum-up, ICEL Education Track provided relevant insides into issues of interest and importance to teachers and educators both in school and higher education. It is expected that such well planned and executed events will continue at IoBM in the years to come.