Adobe Youth Voices (AVV) Training for teachers

The Adobe Youth Voices (AVV) training for teachers was arranged by Society for International Education on 9–10 October. The objective of this 2-day training was to facilitate teachers to understand the basic philosophy of the AVV program. This training enabled teachers to be part of AVV and taught them the same to engage their students to create media with a purpose.

The workshop focused on the need to change in teaching practice and adopt more student-centered approaches to teach new skills they need to learn for the 21st century. Through different sessions, the participants learned strategies to engage students in activities that develop skills like critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration. They were engaged in various hands-on sessions to learn new software to edit videos, audio, and still images.

This training also focused on the impotence of media literacy and the need to produce media literate youth who are not only passive receivers of media but also the creators of media with skills to interpret and analyze messages behind. Other sessions included poster making, media mash-up and creation of PAs.

This 2-day training will be followed by media editing and training support sessions, follow-up meetings and reporting. The participants are expected to complete two major projects with their groups of students. There will be a media screening for final media products once the projects are done.

Adobe Youth Voices (AVV) Program is a media-making program that teaches new perspective to teaching practice and elevates students' creative talent by the use of advanced digital media tools and the power of storytelling techniques.

Workshop on Enhance your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop

SIE organized another exciting training for educators titled “Enhance your Creativity with Adobe Photoshop” on 19 September. 10 teachers registered for this training. This day long workshop focused on teaching Photoshop skills that can help educators and students in their classroom environment as well as in their daily lives if they want to utilize these skills at a professional level.

The participants got time to explore the software and learn its educational uses to promote an integrated learning environment. The workshop activities were designed to help them learn different tools that promote students’ creative talent as well as provide them with new ideas of learning.

They also got a chance to learn usage of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom software to efficiently manage their school libraries and easy sharing.

The participants can utilize these skills while designing school print and promotional materials, like newspapers, school magazines, event flyers, brochures, reports, portfolios etc. with more creativity and professional touch.

iEARN Clubs Meeting

40 teachers from iEARN partner schools attended the iEARN Clubs meeting at iEARN centre on September 16. Some of these are already running iEARN Clubs in their schools and doing various activities related to online collaborative projects in iEARN. Some other participants who are new to iEARN also joined and showed their interest to be part of iEARN and initiate iEARN club in their schools. Agenda of the meeting was to discuss the project planning and steps to move further. Some upcoming events and participation opportunities for students were also shared with the teachers included art exhibition, essay writing and media making. Students who take part in these online project activities will be given certificate of participation.

Message from Mr. Jameel Yusuf

Al Murthaq School (AMS) takes great pride in facilitating and participating in iEARN’s programs since its inception in 2004. Our journey with iEARN started more than a decade ago. We shared the same goal of preparing students for tomorrow’s world, to develop these young learners as enlightened human beings, who are critical thinkers and are prepared to bring a positive difference in the world they live in.

The visionary team of iEARN has designed and executed various professional development programs for the school teachers and teachers too - including programs such as, Training of the Master Trainers, Subject based Certificate Courses, Creating quality videos with Adobe Premier, ICT integration and various online courses. Our students have participated in iEARN’s YES Program which is indeed a unique learning opportunity. In addition our students participated in various projects under the umbrella of YouthAction focusing on community service and environment. This was another exposure towards contextual learning. Participation in programs offered by SIE enhanced students’ confidence, IT skills, presentation skills, also skills to identify and resolve issues around them. These projects helped students perform exceptionally well in various competitions.

The secret behind the outstanding work of iEARN’s team is (a) their strong commitment and belief in e-learning and staying updated on latest developments in education today’s youth and (b) the commendable support provided to each participating school and individual. On behalf of the students and teachers from across the country, I extend our utmost gratitude to the SIE team for their dedicated role over the past decade in personally guiding, improving the skills and grooming the students across the board, irrespective of their caste, creed or status and especially our AMS students (girls & boys) to successfully face the challenges of tomorrow in this ever increasing competitive world.

Jameel Yusuf S. ST.
Head, Senior, Board of Governors
AMS Network

Society for International Education

Together for a better world

iEARN Centre
Pakistan

U.S. Summer Sisters Re-entry Seminar

Guests from the US Embassy, Staff at Society for International Education, and Alumni of the U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program 2015 celebrated another successful batch of the Summer Sisters Program 2015, in Islamabad at the Re-entry Seminar on Monday, September 14th, 2015. The 10 participants of the program attended American University, Babson College, Boston College, Elizabethtown College, George Washington University and Smith College in 2015. Christina Tomlinson, Counselor for Public Affairs, Daniel Mattacchia, Country Cultural Attaché, Bettina Ganzianzi, Assistant Cultural Attaché, David Brack from Pakistan US Women’s Council and Shafqat Saleem, Cultural Affairs Specialist head presentations from girls who attended various programs in the prestigious US universities. “You all proved why this program is so important, and all your stories showed the reason we did this program,” said Christina.

The girls talked about their experience, academic and personal achievements, and differences between the two countries, their future goals and learning through the program. Their narrative about their program was recorded in the form of a booklet distributed at the event. American University in partnership with iEARN, has been running the Summer Sisters Exchange Program successfully for the past two years in Pakistan. The U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange program aims at empowering women for Pakistan.

U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange Program Re-entry Workshops

U.S. Summer Sisters Re-entry workshops were conducted on September 13th and 14th which focused on community service projects and opportunities alumnae can benefit from by being part of the SIE alumni network in Pakistan. They also discussed the importance of owning their communities and designing projects to attend to social issues in their surroundings. The alumnae worked on developing a project proposal through asset need analysis of their communities; the ideas include women empowerment, awareness regarding community service, child labor and making the environment healthy.

The aim of the U.S. Summer Sisters Exchange program 2015 among other things also discussed ways they can become mentors for the upcoming batch of the program and ideas they will become ambassador of the program in their schools encouraging other girls in the application of the program. Another notable session was TED talks focusing pressing issues of Pakistan society and working on them.
Access Students trained to Use Digital Tools and Resources

On the final day, Access students were also trained how to record interviews and use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) which enabled them to become young journalists as well. Access students were also given the opportunity to showcase their short videos and stories and opened the floor for feedback. On the final day the officials from the US Consulate General, Karachi included Griffin T. Rozell, Cultural Attaché, and Asha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator participated in the event. Over all the training helped the Access students to improve in their capacities and make the best use of digital gadgets pertaining to videos and photography.

TechCamp for Access Students

TechCamp was arranged for Access students to make them ‘Tech Savvy’. A computer lab was set up for the Access students, where each laptop/tablet/Android PC was shared by two students. Access students shared their expectations of what they would learn. Few videos related to how important technology is were shared with them, also helped them to polish their language skills. The TechCamp began by introducing the students what an email is, and then all of them created their email addresses on Gmail and Hotmail. They signed up on Facebook page. They were shown English Access Headquarters and US Consulate page which they all liked. Furthermore, students browsed through americangulf.state.gov website and learned about ways through which they can improve their English. They were also introduced to the Trace Effects gene. Guests from the US Consulate General, Karachi also greeted the occasion with their presence. Mr. Griffin Rozell, Cultural Attaché and Ms. Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator attended the session. They talked about how important it is to keep oneself updated so technology also plays a vital role in it. They also distributed a book which was about US. The students felt excited and happy after receiving a useful resource for improving English.

In the end students who earlier participated in a training of “My City, My Story app”, shared their experience and briefed students regarding the purpose of this App.

Access Students Celebrate Pakistan Independence Day

100 IARIN Access students celebrated a group of 100 English Language proficiency program of Pakistan American Cultural Center (PACC) PACC hosted the event and the celebration took place at their multipurpose auditorium. Access and PACC students prepared their speeches, songs and tableaux with the help of their teachers. Every performance turned out to be quite productive in terms of students’ confidence building by performing in front of the audience. Use of English language in performing and drawing a relation between America and Pakistan culture and tradition. The officials from the US Consulate General, Karachi added value by participating in the event. The officials included Mr. Griffin Rozell, Cultural Attaché and Mr. Aisha Amanullah, English Programs Coordinator. They interacted with the students after their performances and motivated them by appreciating on their active participation.

The highlight of the day was the cake-cutting ceremony and Access students performance on a tableaux in which similarities between America and Pakistan Independence Movement were brought forward. An Access student attiring President Lincoln and another students attiring Founder of Pakistan Mr. Jinnah discussed how both nations can help each other and together we can grow and reach the sky. Performance also included ”DH Qil Pakistan by Vital Sign”, and “Land of Dreams by Roxanne Cash”.

Girls Rising Project

Access students and Access alumni attended The IARIN “Girls Rising Project” workshop by Ms. Alena. On August 25-26, 2015 Ms. Alena oriented the participants about the project as to what is the project all about, and how to get it ahead by participants’ postings on IARIN forum. Girls Rising session was conducted with the collaboration of IARIN. In the “Girls Rising Project” participants worked with a lot of enthusiasm. The girls of the project were made to become aware of the duties and responsibilities of women in a society were shared. Issues that women are facing in Pakistan and across the world were discussed as well as shared some of the women’s stories too.

YES alumni Spreading Smiles

YES alumni Pakistani collected donations from their community members to celebrate the festivities of Eid of Fit with the orphans in need. They went out to the slums, hospitals and orphanages where they gave away gifts and spent time with the residents there. Alumni played various games with the children and sung songs. It is one of the gestures of love and care that alumni give out to the community members each year during this festive occasion.

Education Opens Doors

YES Alumni Islamabad completed a project called “Education Opens Doors” in an open-air school situated in a slum area where more than a hundred kids from underprivileged areas of Islamabad are getting educated. This project consisted of three different part:

In the first part, the alumni and volunteers gave a session to the students about importance of education and encouraged the students to keep studying even under such hard circumstances.

Alumni asked the students about their dream professions, and one of the student said “I want to make a school for the kids exactly the way our principal made this school for us”. The passion and eagerness of the students towards their education was very impressive and inspiring.

In the second part, the alumni and volunteers organized some fun activities for the students like face painting, and singing. Each student wanted to get his or her face painted and butterflies and banners were decorated. Many of these activities were a great chance for volunteers and students to have some fun time.

In the third part, the alumni and volunteers distributed school supplies among the students. In this part each student blurted out their wish and “thank you”. After the distribution of School supplies Alumni and volunteers said goodbye to the students.

Principal and administration of the school was very pleased by the effort of YES Alumni Islamabad and they said that projects like “Education Opens Doors” are a great way to encourage the students to keep working hard and to never give up.

YES Exchange Moments

Momina Javid Ayaz, a YES student from Pakistan who is placed in Virginia, USA, shares her exchange year experience of first few months. Momina shares that “Back in Pakistan, I was a Pakistani! Now we call them Pakistanis”. Done with her first presentation in U.S. It was so nice introducing my country to the students. “Pakistan is such a beautiful country”, “I am surely gonna try Pakistani food!” said. “I would love to visit your country”, “Meena is so awesome!”. These were their remarks after my first presentation in school. I am truly proud that I am able to represent my country. P.S Americans love henna!

Society for International Education

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