

REPORT

Day and Date: Thursday 5 Jan 2023

Time: 1 pm to 2 pm

Mode: Online

Topic: School Class as a social system

Speaker: Ms. Simran Kalra (PRT, Mount Abu Public School, Rohini)

Convener: Dr. Shweta Tanwar

Teacher In-charge: Dr. Aarti Mathur

An online session on the topic "***School class as a social system***" was organised by Dr Shweta Tanwar, Assistant Professor at the Department of Elementary Education, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, via Google Meet on January 5, 2023, from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm. Ms Simran Kalra, alumni of Mata Sundri College and currently working as a primary teacher at Mount Abu Public School, was the guest speaker for this session. She has been the topper of the university and was a gold medalist for completing the B.El.Ed. course with distinction.

The talk intended to make the B.el.ed third-year students understand 'school' as a social system. She discussed the reading- '***School Class as a Social System: Some of its Functions in American Society***' by ***Talcott Parsons***. Initially, she talked about the American school structure, which applies to Indian school class structure as well. She discussed the reading in two parts: elementary school class and secondary school class, and how this school class system serves the function of supporting society. It fulfils two important functions: acting as an agency of socialisation and allocating human resources. Then she emphasised the school class system, as class is considered both the background the children are coming from and the school, as the most basic part of school is class, where most of the socialisation and interaction takes place. Later, she discussed school as a selecting agency, in which she talked about differentiation among students as college goers and non-college goers. She also emphasised the nature of achievement, which is of two types: the cognitive component and the moral component. Then she spoke about the process of identification, in which she discussed whether the children identify with the teacher, considering her as their role model, or may identify with the pupils of their peer groups. Based on this criterion, they labelled them as college goers and non-college goers. Alienation and isolation, which happen in the classroom, were also discussed by the speaker.

In the secondary school class system, she emphasised the lower- and higher-status pupils and their selection as it determines the types of jobs they are likely to take up in the future. Then she reviewed the differences in secondary school class structure in comparison to elementary school class structure. She also focused on why primary grades have only female teachers and higher grades have teachers of both sexes. She explained all of this in a very elaborate manner. With all this, she concluded the session by giving space for the learners to think about it more comprehensively and critically. The talk was very enriching and fruitful for all the learners, as it also covered the major part of our B.El.Ed. course.

submitted by –

Amol and kriti