Workshop on Embracing Learning Differences in the Classroom Resource Person – Ms. Hargun Gujral Mode of event – Google Meet (online) Date- 21<sup>st</sup> October,2021 No. of participants- 54 (3<sup>rd</sup> year students of B.El.Ed)

On 21<sup>st</sup> October ,2021 an insightful and self-reflective workshop session on "Embracing Learning Differences in the Classroom" was successfully organized by The Department of Elementary Education of Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi.

The Speaker of the session was **Ms. Hargun Gujral**, who is an accomplished Behavioral Counsellor and a CID-UNESCO certified Expressive Arts Therapist. She enlightened the audience with a wide range of perspectives on what challenges and experiences a teacher might face in the coming years within a diverse classroom. The workshop was organized under the guidance and supervision of **Prof. Harpreet Kaur** (Principal**)**, **Dr. Radhika Menon & Dr. Ravneet Kaur** (Convenors), **Ms. Neha Sharma & Dr. Richa Sharma** (Co-Convenors).

## **SUMMARY**

Dr. Richa Sharma, the Co-Convenor began the webinar with a word of appreciation and information about the speaker followed by Dr. Ravneet Kaur (Convenor) who welcomed the speaker, the students and all the faculty members present in the meeting.

The speaker started the session with the aspects of reality we are going to face in the actual classroom and how delighted she feel being a part of this system of education. She presented few pictures and asked the participants to choose pictures which they are inclined to while forming emotional associations with them as a student and as a facilitator followed by few tasks where the participants actively volunteered for. After the responses and observations from each task, she emphasized the importance of connection with the students followed by a thoughtful question – If we are failing to figure out what our class is really interested in? She also mentioned that "Accessibility is being able to get in the building, being a part of the building activities is inclusion"

## "We cannot redeem pain with something else. We are humans and we are meant to feel it." -Ms. Hargun Gujral

while deconstructing the aspects of inclusion. Furthermore, she discussed about the functional and parallel curriculums. The practical implications of these curriculum were discussed along with our understanding of the teacher being a facilitator and counsellor. The sensitive topics as adult abuse, children dropping out of schools due to several reasons were also taken into being and discussed. There were several instances in the talk where the relationship between the children as a medium of classroom relationship the (teacher) between manager and the stakeholders/environment were reviewed. She also mentioned that the presence of the child should be felt in such a way that the child thinks himself/herself being a part of 'we' as a family.

The last half an hour was open for queries and discussion with the speaker where the participants as well as the faculty took part and topics like emotions, self-love, healing and support were highly discussed and beautifully answered by Ms. Hargun Gujral. The overall session saw an overwhelming response from the III-year students and even the faculty members of the department.

Hence, at last, the session was concluded with a vote of thanks by to the speaker as well as the participants while promising more such engaging sessions in the future followed by the feedback form from the participants.

## **REPORT BY – ANKITA AND EASHANA ARORA (IIIRD**

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