NEWSLETTER

MODERN INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION

FIRST EDITION

At Modern Institute for Education (MIE), we are very happy to bring you our first newsletter sharing glimpses of research undertaken, upskilling programs implemented, and collaborative work done with Government school teachers in the past 6 months.

You may already know that the Modern Institute for Education (MIE) is an institute established by The Modern School Society with the vision to be a premier institute committed to advancing school education through research, providing comprehensive training and upskilling programs, and fostering a dynamic network that connects and empowers educators worldwide. Its mission is to empower educators to meet the highest standards of quality education so that they can become catalysts of change.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Note from the Leadership
- How to collaborate with us?
- Updates on all steps taken for the capacity development of teachers
- Research and collaboration highlights: Immerse yourself in the world of research and collaboration
- Steering and initiating innovative projects
- Creating modules for skill enhancement programs
- A brief of all articles and blogs: Insight into the perspectives shared by the team

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Ms. Abha Sadana

Dear Friends,

As we move into 2024, I am pleased to share a succinct snapshot of MIE's journey in pursuit of excellence. We are carving a path to excellence guided by 100 years of legacy and experience of Modern School.

During the past few months, apart from **building networks with professionals, policymakers, and teachers,** the team has been diligently **crafting modules and programs tailored** to benefit educators, researchers, administrators, and policymakers alike. We have endeavored to **upskill teachers through workshops and pursue research.** We have also rolled out some very exciting projects in collaboration with Delhi Government Schools for which we are immensely grateful to the Department of Education, Delhi.

In the coming months, we aim to introduce specialized modules for teacher upskilling and enhance our research initiatives. Collaborative partnerships and outreach programs are also in the pipeline to make an impact on the school education front.

Let us pursue our educational endeavors together and introduce new dimensions in the journey of continued growth, learning, and excellence in school education.

Best Wishes for 2024!

Yours sincerely
Abha Sadana

COLLABORATE WITH US

We welcome collaboration in multiple forms, whether it's guest writing, collaborative research, partnership in capacity-building programs, or any other ideas you'd like to share. Your insights and contributions are invaluable to us. If you are interested in becoming one, please feel free to mail us at **info@mieglobal.in**. We look forward to building meaningful relationships, encouraging creativity, and working together to achieve excellence in school education. Let's embark on a journey of collaboration and shared success.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MIE strives to provide **cutting-edge training and upskilling programs** to teachers to meet the **changing needs of pedagogy** and to provide a **collaborative learning platform** for teachers to share and exchange ideas. We conducted 6 workshops in collaboration with leading educators and ed-tech trainers.

1. UNFOLDING NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK: FOUNDATIONAL STAGE

The workshop took place on Jul 1, 2023, and was conducted by **Dr. Romila Soni Bhatnagar,** Associate Professor at the **Department of Elementary Education**, National Council of Educational Research and Training. The workshop was attended by **155** preschool and early-grade teachers from five elite schools of Delhi NCR.

During the workshop, Dr. Bhatnagar delivered a **comprehensive orientation** on the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN), and the national curriculum framework (NCF) for the foundational stage.

The key elements discussed during the workshop were:
- the **significance of reading** with understanding as a fundamental building block for learning across all subjects,
- the crucial **role of language** in cutting across various subjects, and,
- understanding the **functioning of the brain** to become more effective educators.

3. WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS ON DIGITAL DETOXIFICATION

Renowned TEDx speaker and Digital Wellness Coach, Mr. Rijul Arora, led the impactful 'Digital Detox' workshops. Attended by 216 teachers across Modern School (Vasant Vihar & Barakhamba Road) in Nov and Dec 2023. The sessions aimed to equip educators to navigate the digital landscape mindfully.

Mr. Arora **shared practical strategies to reduce digital device usage,** advocating for a 'Digital Diet' and discussing cultural influences on digital habits. Emphasizing individual choices, he offered tips like disabling notifications, expectation setting, using features like a focus email inbox, and highlighted apps for tracking screen time.

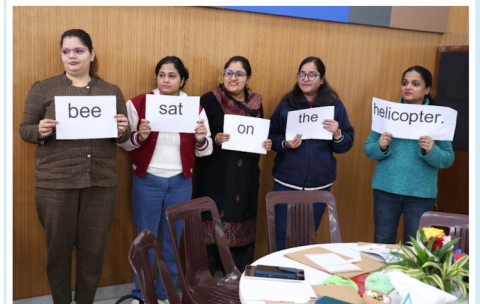## 2. WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS LIKE CHATGPT

In collaboration with the Meritus AI team, we organized an online workshop on "Education in the era of AI tools like ChatGPT". Held on November 17, 2023, it was attended by **58 teachers** of classes XI-XII from Modern School, Barakhambha Road.

Across three engaging hours, the workshop dissected a myriad of 'AI in Education' topics, **covering fundamentals, interactive educational strategies** & and **profound insights into the Five Big Ideas of AI.** Notably, practical applications, including the integration of ChatGPT, were explored through real-world examples and case studies. Further, a specialized session focused on leveraging ChatGPT for lesson planning, offering invaluable tips on prompt creation, plagiarism avoidance, and understanding limitations.

4. WORKSHOP: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS

We held a workshop on 'Effective Communication Skills' for teachers at Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School in Jun 2023. It focused on **oral communication, including voice modulation, active listening, and vocabulary use**. The workshop also **explored nonverbal aspects**, such as body language and facial expressions, which help convey messages and build rapport. Participants expressed high satisfaction with the workshop.

5. PHONEME & PHONICS AWARENESS AND READING WITH COMPREHENSION

We conducted an impactful **3-day workshop** on "Phoneme & Phonics Awareness and Reading with Comprehension" for **primary school teachers from 35 government schools** in mid-December at Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, New Delhi. Led by Ms. Rimpy Verma, Headmistress of Modern Early Years, Ms. Megha, and Ms. Pooja, the workshop incorporated **insights on integrating rhymes, songs, puzzles, stories, and games for effective classroom teaching.**

Tailored to teachers' needs identified through a pre-survey, the hands-on sessions fostered a joyful learning environment. The initial two days focused on **phoneme and phonics awareness, introducing decoding techniques** and the significance of expressions. The concluding day emphasized reading comprehension through activities like musical chairs, **role-playing, and vocabulary building**. Teachers' active participation and positive feedback underscored the program's success, with gratitude expressed to Mrs. Nalini Singh Rajput, headmistress of RSJMS and Dr. Rita Sharma, Director SCERT for their support and insights.

RESEARCH & COLLABORATIONS

Since MIE's inception, we have conducted several survey research and action research. Glimpses of some of the research are being shared here.

1. UPSKILLING TEACHERS: IDENTIFYING TEACHERS NEED

MIE conducted its **inaugural survey** to **discern teachers' needs.** A comprehensive questionnaire was distributed to all Modern School teachers, and the responses were analyzed **to identify key themes for upskilling**. Prioritizing top themes, MIE crafted workshops, including the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage, Effective Communication Skills, and Digital Wellness.

OUR MISSION

As a research institute, our mission is to undertake **individual & collaborative research** on local and global education practices. We strive to **develop and validate innovative content & practices** for enhanced learning outcomes. We publish white papers & articles on trending topics of teaching, pedagogies & innovative learning practices.

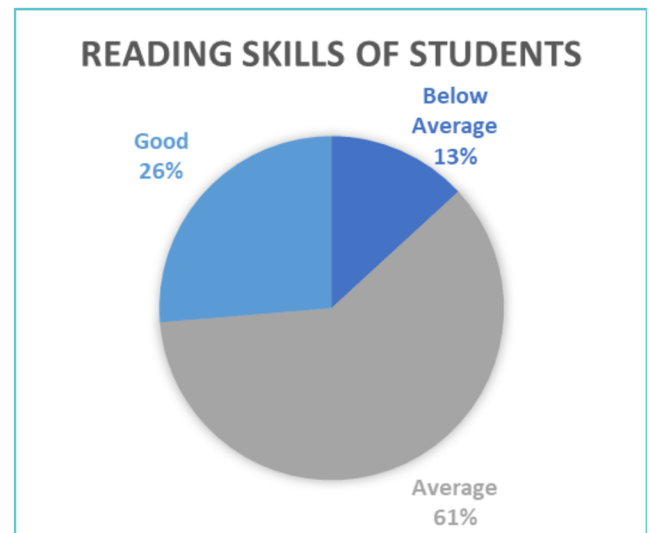## 2. NEED ANALYSIS SURVEY ON DIGITAL WELLNESS OF TEACHERS

Following the initial survey of teachers, we identified a crucial need for capacity building in digital wellness. To delve deeper, a specialized survey was crafted to gauge **teachers' awareness of Digital Wellness.** The findings highlighted a prevalent need for maintaining a stress-free work-life balance, addressing concerns about privacy in the digital space, and managing diminishing time for personal relationships. Most notably, **teachers expressed a profound concern about the impact of digital technology on mental well-being** and relationships, emphasizing a strong desire to learn coping strategies.

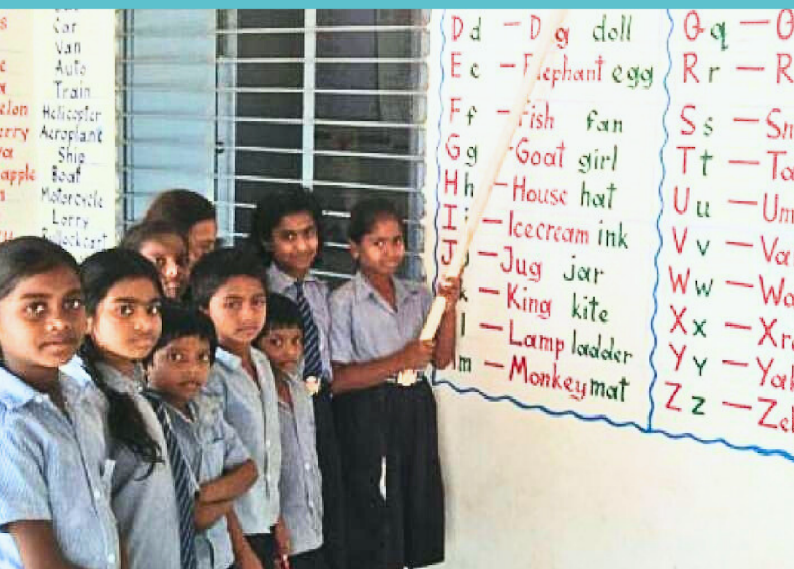## 3. GAUGING AWARENESS OF AI TOOLS AMONGST TEACHERS & STUDENTS

The rapid integration of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) chatbots like ChatGPT is reshaping diverse sectors, including education. A recent MIE study revealed that over **58% of grade XI students' creative writing submissions** in 5 Delhi-NCR private schools **were AI-generated to varying extents**. While 85% recognized AI as a supplementary tool, 18% speculated about potential human teacher replacements. The study **highlights the urgent need for timely interventions**, emphasizing teacher capacity building and ethical considerations. These insights underpin a forthcoming teacher capacity-building initiative, ensuring the adept use of AI tools in the dynamic educational environment.

4. NEED ANALYSIS FOR WORKSHOP ON PHONEMES & PHONICS FOR GOVT SCHOOL TEACHERS

In a survey of primary teachers of 38 govt schools, the **reading skills of grades 3-5 students** were assessed. Common challenges included **difficulties in vocabulary acquisition, understanding meaning**, finding key ideas, making inferences, and introducing letter-sound correspondence. Additional hurdles involved **limited parental involvement, inadequate home revision,** and **time constraints** for reading activities. Alarmingly, only five teachers had received formal training in teaching reading skills. The teachers expressed their desire to improve their understanding of phonics and learning strategies for using them in the classroom.

READING SKILLS OF STUDENTS

Good 26%
Below Average 13%
Average 61%

COLLABORATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) FOR SCHOOL VISITS

We collaborated with the **Department of Education** to visit five government schools to **observe teaching methods, classroom management, and usage of learning material.** The aim was to allow us to tailor workshops, pedagogical practices, and teaching resources for an improved educational experience in these schools.

Noteworthy initiatives included **Kant Labs' interactive modules**, a student-friendly classroom library, the **Deshbhakti curriculum**, and **daily Happiness Classes**. The infrastructure and ambiance varied among schools, with some facing challenges like shortage of teachers and overcrowded classrooms. However, schools like Vikas Puri demonstrated state-of-the-art facilities. Among all the positive aspects, **challenges** were also identified, particularly in **balancing innovative practices with basic literacy and numeracy education.**

GOVT SCHOOL TEACHERS' VISIT TO VASANT VIHAR

35 Department of Education (DoE) **government school teachers** visited Modern School Vasant Vihar, touring the school and observing primary classroom practices. The **aim** was to provide **firsthand experience** with **pedagogical practices** and the overall school environment. Teachers found the visit fruitful, gaining insights into facilitation, appreciating the school's system of group work, flexibility, and efficient organization of extracurricular activities.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

We organized a collaborative learning session for the **science faculty** of Modern School ECNCR, Faridabad, and Barakhamba Road in Dec 2023. Tailored for **classes VI-XII,** the session facilitated the exchange of **innovative teaching methods**, activities & resources. Key takeaways included **targeted remedial sessions, hands-on experiential learning**, new activities related to diverse topics, & the introduction of teaching aids like , reflection sheets and flipped learning.

ORIENTATION SESSION FOR THE 'TIME TRAVEL' PROJECT

We organized an orientation session for the **"Time Travel" project** at Lodhi Garden, Delhi, guided by **Ms. Beeba Sobti,** a seasoned historian from Modern School, Barakhamba Road. Ms. Abha Sadana shared the project proposal, guidelines and tips for smooth execution of the project. The session immersed teachers in **historical narratives**, offering diverse perspectives. It concluded with a productive brainstorming session, empowering teachers for project implementation.

COMPENDIUM OF VOCATIONAL OPTIONS AFTER CLASS X

MIE introduced the first version of the 'Compendium of Vocational Options after Class X,' focusing on **government-certified diploma** and **certificate courses** in Delhi. This comprehensive guide offers **insights into diverse vocational programs** and **potential career paths.** While not exhaustive, it provides a valuable overview of opportunities in Delhi. Version 2, aligning with the proposed plans of the Central and Delhi Governments will be released soon.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SPORTABILITY ACADEMY

MIE comprehensively **assessed Sportablity** Academy's **impact** on children and parents, aiming to document experiences through interviews. Students found the academy **inspiring**, **helping them explore capabilities** and gain confidence. In addition to the infrastructure, 'greenery' of the complex was much appreciated as it is crucial for all children and especially vital for those with disabilities. **Parents** appreciated the **expansive space for play and connection** with nature. Coaches valued the academy's flexibility in program design based on children's needs. Overall, Sportablity Academy stands as a vital and adaptive hub for holistic child development.

ARTICLES & BLOGS

Our team tirelessly searches the internet for information from a vast array of sources to enrich our knowledge base. Our days are dedicated to **curating**, **synthesizing**, and **mapping data, shaping workshops tailored to the needs of teachers**, students, and parents. Delving into books, research papers, theses, and websites, we continually share insights and findings through blogs and articles. We aim to **stimulate debate among education stakeholders** and foster a collective journey toward a brighter future. Here are the blogs and articles published in 2023. You can read detailed articles using the QR code on the next page.

IN PRAISE OF A GURU

The article explores the **transformative influence of teachers on students**, drawing inspiration from the ancient Gurukul system and its legendary gurus. Emphasizing the sacred bond between guru and shishya, it **links historical traditions to the 2020 National Education Policy** and the Finnish Education System. The piece advocates for personalized attention, effective education, and practical solutions like multiple shifts and hybrid learning, echoing Sidney Hook's belief that teachers are the heart of the educational system.

STORIES: THE WAY CHILDREN THINK

"Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today" (Robert Mckee). The article **explores the significance of storytelling** in human civilization and its **impact on the cognitive development** of children. The authors emphasize storytelling as a cultural heritage embedded in various art forms, reflecting societal experiences and wisdom. They argue that stories fuel imagination, critical thinking, and linguistic abilities, providing a natural avenue for children to express themselves. Therefore, it must become a part of everyday classroom practices.

EDUCATION 2.0 IN THE ERA OF AI TOOLS LIKE CHATGPT

The article "Education 2.0 in the era of AI Tools like ChatGPT" explores **how ChatGPT and other AI tools are transforming education.** The article highlights ChatGPT's ability to offer personalized and adaptive learning, instant feedback, and language support. The article stresses the **need for policymakers and educators to adapt assessment strategies**, incorporating open-ended questions and real-world projects to discourage overreliance on AI. It also **advocates for policy initiatives**, including the **development of plagiarism detection tools** and educational programs addressing ethical AI use.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF READING

The article "What is the Science of Reading?" **explores five decades of research on reading's cognitive, psychological,** and **neurological aspects**. It underscores that reading is learned, not innate, and cultural exposure influences skills like phonemic awareness and word recognition. A troubling trend of reading difficulties in children is linked to insufficient teacher training, the focus on mechanical drills rather than context-based activities that foster meaning-making. This makes learning quite monotonous. The plea is for a **shift in teaching methods,** advocating for a **balanced approach** that **integrates oral language, reading, and writing activities.** The ultimate goal is to cultivate a love for reading through a well-rounded and enjoyable learning experience.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: A REMINDER TO RESPECT THE POWER OF LITERACY

The article explores the **historical roots and contemporary significance** of literacy in the modern world. It traces the origins of print material to the Gutenberg revolution, highlighting its role in human progress. Beyond reading and writing, literacy involves critical thinking and analytical skills. The article **highlights the economic, social, and cultural benefits of literacy** for inclusive societies and economic progress, advocating for renewed efforts to provide fundamental literacy skills for personal and societal development.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND THEIR RIGHTS

The article delves into the **evolution of the disability rights movement** in India, tracing its origins to 1970 and highlighting its culmination in the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, 1995. It emphasizes the Act's provisions related to education, ensuring free education for children with benchmark disabilities and reservation of seats in higher education institutions. Despite the positive impact of the PWD Act, the article focuses on the **need for rigorous implementation** and concerted **efforts to dismantle societal barriers,** providing equal opportunities for PWDs.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ACT, 2016

In this article, we explored the **transformative impact of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act,** 2016, on inclusive education. It emphasizes the Act's provisions for accessible education, addressing diverse needs & fostering inclusivity in mainstream institutions. Beyond physical accessibility, the Act tackles **attitudinal barriers, offering a legal framework** against discrimination. The article analyzes the legislation's implications on educational policy & practices, highlighting its role in reshaping societal attitudes towards inclusivity in the intersection of education and disability rights.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: THE SCHOOL, THE COURSE, AND THE CAREER? DILEMMA, CHALLENGE, AND OPPORTUNITIES

The article "After High School: The School, The Course, and The Career – Dilemma, Challenge, and Opportunities" (Dec 2023) explores the evolving scenario of education and employment in India. It delves into the **mismatch between traditional education and the changing job market**, emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift. The piece discusses the transformative National Education Policy of 2020, **focusing on vocational education** to enhance employability. Government initiatives like the National Skill Qualification Framework and Skill India Mission are highlighted, addressing the skills gap. Despite these efforts, the article emphasizes challenges faced by students and advocates for a robust career counseling system within schools to guide informed decisions and foster innovation.

DECODING 12TH FAIL: THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

The article "Decoding 12th Fail: The Role of Teachers" delves into the film "12th Fail," showcasing a young man's journey to becoming an IPS officer despite societal and educational obstacles. It **criticizes the indifference of teachers and the education system towards marginalized students**, emphasizing systemic barriers. The movie exposes the bias of English-dominated question papers, disadvantaging Hindi medium students. Stressing teachers' impact on student success, the **article advocates for self-reflection to foster a positive learning environment**, highlighting the pivotal role of human resources in education.

Scan to read the complete articles