



AŚVATTHA

The TLC Newsletter

"Nurturing Lifelong Learning"

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We are delighted to present the Seventh Edition of Aśvattha, the bi-monthly TLC Newsletter!

This edition includes reporting of the several TLC events in the last 2 months, a new series of experience sharing by the Young Faculty Recognition Awardees that will enhance the teaching and learning process, and announcements for future programs offered by TLC.

EVENTS - TLC 90-MINUTE INTERACTIVE SESSION SERIES

"Teaching Learning Experience at IITM"

Dr. R Dhamodharan
18 June 2014



Prof R. Dhamodharan presented his views about teaching learning and shared his experience in the campus as a teacher. He recommended taking feedback quite frequently, in addition to the usual Teacher Course Feedback. He also emphasized the importance of academic ambience and the role of academic leaders.

"Creating Learning Framework"

Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran
25 June 2014

All of us plan and design for conducting a classroom learning session. Many a times, we even document with great detail how the learning session needs to be organized and sequenced, including surprise elements for learners. In this session, certain generalized practices adapted in generating such a learning session and creating a class learning session using active learning strategies were discussed.

"How Teachers Learn"

Dr. Shreesh Chaudhary
02 Jul 2014



The session brought out the charm in using correct pronunciation of English words, proper use of sentences and effective communication through coining meaningful sentences Prof Chaudhary also showed how he used short videos for effective classroom teaching.

"Influence of Personality Traits in Teaching Learning"

Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran
07 July 2014

Personality, in an educational setting, can directly affect attitudes, perspectives and behaviors of both educators and students, in terms of success and effectiveness, in the classroom. Discussions on how educators have different personalities and that these differences are based on numerous variables, including the effects of the instruments used to measure personality were analyzed.

"Teaching and Learning @ IIT"

Dr. Lakshmi Bala
23 July 2014



Prof Lakshmi Bala is a passionate teacher. During the session, she shared her teaching experiences at IITM, discussing the challenges she faced, how she and effective communication overcame those challenges. Dr Lakshmi Bala emphasized the need to have an overall teaching philosophy and also shared the best teaching practices she adopted and what worked well and what went wrong in the classrooms of IITM.

"Work (Career) Interest and its Motivation Learning"

Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran
16 July 2014

Identifying students interests towards the world of work and building a career for themselves is one of the key motivators towards their learning and in general their overall attitudes. In this session, the participants identified their own career interests and its dimensions. Discussions on how such studies help teachers in focusing their efforts to help build interest and acquire talent in students was explored.

"First Day of a Course - Role of Teacher & Learners"

Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran
30 July 2014

The first day of a course may not determine how well the rest of the course works, but it goes a long way. A good start can carry the teacher through several weeks of early shakiness, and a bad one can take several weeks of damage control to overcome. This session focused on alternative approaches that can be applied on the first class / first few classes to build rapport and motivation in student learners.

EVENTS – TEACHING ASSISTANT ORIENTATION (TAO-2014)

Teaching Assistants (TAs) at IIT Madras, help faculty in conducting tutorials, conducting UG and PG laboratory sessions, departmental library supervision, laboratory equipment maintenance, and assistance to faculty in teaching and research. It is generally observed that their performance in their allotted assignments is considerably enhanced if they receive training/orientation properly at the beginning of the semester, when they are about to start their duty. Keeping this in mind, another edition of the TAO Programme had participation of about 175 students across departments of BT, Phy, Chem, EE, ED, MME, CS, CE. TLC Core Team faculty members Dr. Deepa Venkitesh, Prof.Pramod Mehta, Prof.S.Karmalkar, Dr. Edamana Prasad, Dr. Parag Ravindran, Dr. Smita Srivastava, Dr. Nandita Madhavan, Dr. V. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran have conducted the programme. This was initiated by Prof. Ajit Kumar Kolar, Chairman-CCE, inaugurated by Prof. Pramod Mehta (ME) and organized by Dr Deepa Venkitesh (EE) and Dr Rajeev Sukumaran (TLC).

EVENTS – FACILITATOR TRAINING SESSIONS FOR GN1100 LIFE SKILLS (MITR, IITM)

The facilitator training sessions for the GN1100 Life skills programme for MITR, was hosted in TLC during 7-8 and 28-29 July 2014.

EVENTS – It's the YFRAs! (Experience Sharing by Young Faculty Recognition Awardees)

The FIRST CLASS Experience

Dr. Thillai Rajan, Associate Professor, MS, IITM
Recipient of Young Faculty Recognition Award, IITM (2008)



The first signal or impression foreshadows things to come. First rains of the monsoon, first shoots of the crop, early blossoms of the spring, all of them are considered as harbingers of how the entire season is going to turn out. Thinking in the same vein, I have always felt that the first class of the course is a very important as it sets the path for the rest of the lectures. In the last eight years or so at IIT Madras, I have also realized the importance of a great first lecture. I spend more time preparing for the first class, when compared to the subsequent classes. The TLC (I mean the Teacher-Learner Contract here!), which I believe is critical for the learning process also gets established in the first lecture..... [read more](#)

UPCOMING TLC ACTIVITIES

Aug 2014 Faculty Development Programme for
FLAIR (Fostering Linkages in Academic Innovation and Research),
Department of Higher Education , Govt of Kerala

TLC Multipurpose hall is available for conducting interactive sessions. Interested faculty may contact TLC Office (tlcoffice@iitm.ac.in) for further details.

For suggestions/feedback, please mail to iitmtlc@gmail.com. We would be happy to feature your articles, suggestions, ideas related to the Teaching Learning Process. Looking forward to your support! Please visit www.tlc.iitm.ac.in for interesting reads on TLP under our Faculty Reachout Initiative.

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