

Reports

Workshops on English Language Teaching in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

July 4 - September 27, 2013

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The State Institute of Azim Premji Foundation, Bhopal conducted three English language workshops in Madhya Pradesh in the months of July and September 2013. Nivedita from Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and Pallavi, Sudhir and Bharti from the State Institute, Azim Premji Foundation, and Bhopal were facilitators at these workshops.

The first workshop held at Dewas from 4th–9th July 2013, was attended by twenty-seven secondary school teachers and two head teachers. At this workshop, all the sessions were woven around the themes of perspective and pedagogy, subject teaching versus language teaching, first and second language acquisition and the basics of reading and writing.

The second workshop, held at the Institute of Advanced Study in Education (IASE) Bhopal from 3rd–7th September 2013, was attended by 48 participants comprising three faculty members from the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) and 45 primary school teachers. The sessions at this workshop were also a blend of perspective and pedagogy and the nature of language, subject versus language teaching, first and second language acquisition, reading for meaning and communicative language teaching.

The same themes were repeated at the third workshop held at Khandwa from 24th – 27th September 2013, which was attended by 21 secondary school teachers.

All three workshops aimed at building the capacity of the participants who were expected

to be resource persons in English language teaching in the State of Madhya Pradesh in the near future.

(This report is based on inputs provided by Pallavi Chaturvedi, State Institute, APF, Bhopal.)

Workshop on Kannada Language Teaching in Yadgir, Karnataka

August 28-29, 2013

A two-day workshop meant for members of the Kannada Co-development group of Azim Premji Foundation was held at the Azim Premji District Institute, Yadgir, Karnataka on the 28th and 29th of August, 2013. It was attended by members from the Karnataka State Institute, Bangalore; District Institute, Yadgir; and the Child Friendly School Initiative, Surpur, Karnataka. The objective of the workshop was to review the progress of the members involved in studying language in general and Kannada in particular, and to share their learning experiences with reference to language and language pedagogy related to the teaching and learning of Kannada.

On the first day of the workshop, the focus of the presentations and discussions was on

1. What is language?
2. Origin of language, and
3. Nature of language

Discussions centered around ‘Bow-bow theory’, whether thought came first or language