

## TRULY EDUCATORS WITHOUT BORDERS

*Here are some responses to the interaction with the American teachers who visited our college on 21 July, 2016. They visited our college under the Teachers for Global Classrooms initiative. They came, they spoke and they left a mark! Students were free to put forward their point of view in any way they liked.*

### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE NEEDED

Indians are excelling all over the world. The world which we live in has advanced to a great extent and so has the pace of everything. The level of education has changed. So there is a need to change the way it is tested. Having an interaction with the three teachers from the 'Teachers Of Global Classroom' (TGC), I realized that the education system in the United States is very open to how the students learn and understand. There is a lot of flexibility in the examination system unlike here in India. Let us talk about Goa itself, here all the schools and colleges have to follow the traditional form of education which does not let all the students as well as teachers open up, learn and understand better. Therefore I would appreciate flexibility in terms of examination and assessment, so that the teachers provide skill based education rather than theoretical. I am also not saying that theoretical information does not allow the students to grow, but it draws a line where the students actually would want to start.

- Simran Prabhu Malkarnekar

Based on an interview conducted by the 'writing for the media' students with the representatives of the 'Teachers Of Global Classroom', who are :

1. Ana Siqueira, Foreign Language  
St. Paul's School, Clear Water,  
Florida
2. Deborah McCrea  
Spanish and English Language  
Development, Redwood High  
School  
Larkspur, California
3. Francis Anthony  
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya  
- Goa

**Margao, 21 July:** The faculty of Parvathibai Chowgule College was honored to host the members of the Teachers of Global Classrooms Program, Mrs. Deborah McCrea from California who teaches English Language Development and Spanish at Redwood High School Larkspur, Mrs. Ana Siqueira from Florida who teaches foreign languages especially Spanish at St. Paul's School Clearwater and Mr. Francis Anthony from Goa who teaches English at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. The main aim of these TGCP members was to learn and enrich themselves on the different cultures and values and teaching systems around the world and how they can implement it on their students. In the very interesting interview with all of them, I found the topic of Peer Mentoring mentioned by Mrs. McCrea very interesting and inspiring. It is a learning process where a student with better knowledge of the particular subject mentors his peer via helping him understand the subject and teaching him how to improve his study methods. I personally feel every college should inculcate this notion as teaching and understanding becomes easier and simple and your communicative skills improve while your fear of not asking questions diminishes.

- Priyanka Afonso

As a part of the TGC programme, we got a chance to have an hour-long interaction with two American language teachers, who were here to get an understanding of our educational system and to give and take ideas for a better teaching learning environment, and a better world. Most of what they spoke reflected a drive to use their skill to help make the world a better place - using education to develop knowledge, tolerance and respect between communities and cultures. Considering the current state we are in, one of fear and violence, of religious fanaticism, of intolerance and discrimination, of misdirected hatred and stereotyping - the work they are doing and the vision they have is extremely relevant. They are of a view that language, being the most generally pervasive of things that can be learnt and acquired, has the power to change minds - for it can broaden perspectives and open young hearts up to a whole different way of life. A new language brings with it the soul of its people, and teaches the learners of ideologies entirely different from their own, making them more open to accepting the validity of differing opinions and beliefs. Earlier this morning, I asked the programme coordinator what the most important thing she had learnt from all the places she had been visiting

was - and I loved her response - she told me, "I think the most important thing is that people, everywhere, are more similar than they are different. Everyone visits a new place and talks about how many things they do differently, but there are always so many things that they will connect over - humans are humans."

- Aarati Joshi



Hi Ana,

It was a really great interacting with you and Debbie. I found it very interesting to know how the education system differs in the US as compared to the Indian education system where the focus is more on simply studying and nothing really skilled based. Here in India, students are taught skill based activities only when they reach college, unlike there where they learn to interact and learn at a very young age.

I believe it is very important that a child is taught to explore their creativity and learn about different cultures by interacting with people around them at a young age rather than just studying from books. It is usually those skill based activities that help a child grow and adapt to various surroundings, build their confidence and overcome their fears. It help them be a little more mature and independent.

I do hope that the education system in our country also adopts this idea.

Thanks a lot for sharing with us your experience.

- Loretta

In the interaction with the two teachers, Ana Siqueira and Deborah McCrea from America we got information about Teacher's for the Global classroom (TGC), which helps train teachers with 21st century skills of teaching students, making study topics and teaching interesting and globally relevant.

The most interesting thing which I liked was the difference in the way of educating students in America and India. They shared their teaching experience which was very inspiring to me. From our childhood, our teachers always teach us by just giving us lectures on the concerned topic and we use to memorise the information. But they give them more practical work than theoretical. They make the study topics interesting to the students by interacting with them, by organising debates in the classrooms related to that topic, by making students write summary about the debate, by taking them to the study tours and picnics. This improves the knowledge and interest of the students in the concerned topics.

I believe that this is the best way of educating students and it should be globalized. -Vruksha Karmali