

Leading Positive Change in Teacher Education

# Early Childhood Care and Education Program

#### **Details of the program:**

It is a six month certificate course offered by the institute. The current course started from  $20^{th}$  Feb and will end on  $17^{th}$  June. The classes are conducted on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### Purpose of the program:

The purpose of this program is to help the teachers of Early Childhood schools to engage them in "Active Learning Experiences" and to apply these understandings in their classrooms.

#### **Requirement:**

Minimum qualification: Intermediate

Current status: Working at ECE level

# What will the participants learn?

The participants will...

- ➤ Demonstrate an understanding of how children learn and use this knowledge in their particular classrooms to plan student learning outcome through active learning experiences.
- > Plan and set up learning environment and routines for the classrooms.
- ➤ Use different approaches of teaching, such as play and inquiry in early childhood education.
- ➤ Use a variety of strategies and design activities to develop children's reading and writing skills
- ➤ Use a variety of strategies and design activities to develop children's numeracy skills.
- > Prepare low cost teaching material for children in their particular classrooms.
- Apply their knowledge of key learning areas (subject knowledge) in their teaching and learn new approaches/in-depth knowledge.
- Design age-appropriate creative art projects to stimulate children's creativity.
- Assess individual children's progress through a variety of strategies including observations, record keeping, collaboration with parents, and meeting individual needs.
- > Build partnerships with parents and the community to support children's learning



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#### **Course Content:**

The course is divided into five major areas:

#### 1. Understanding "Child Development" and "Learning"

A big emphasis was given on this area as it covered how children grow and develop physically, mentally, socially and emotional and its implication for learning.

## 2. Setting of "Learning Environment"

This course focused on the importance of the learning environment and the daily routines. Participants were trained how to set up the physical environment (learning corners) in the classroom followed up by development of low cost material that had to be kept in the learning corners. Designing and implementation of daily routine was also a part of this.

#### 3. Early Childhood Curriculum and Pedagogies

The participants were introduced to the National Curriculum framework of Pakistan. They were asked to work on thematic unit plans by focusing the ELOs from the national curriculum. Participants were also introduced to the different curriculum approaches followed in other parts of the world.

# 4. Assessment in the "Early Childhood Classrooms"

Different assessment strategies were introduced which included observations, record keeping and portfolio to assess individual student's progress.

#### 5. Partnership with Parents

This course also focused on building partnership with parents and the community to support children's' learning.



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#### **Facilitators:**

**Dr. Audrey D'Souza Juma** is Director at Notre Dame Institute of Education and Honorary Fellow at the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. Her doctorate is in the area of early childhood and gender. She has worked as a faculty member and coordinator of early childhood programs at the Institute for Educational Development -the Aga Khan University. She has also been a member of the advisory committee for the review of the Pakistan National Curriculum for early childhood. She has extensive teaching and teacher education experience in varied settings in Pakistan and Australia. Her research interests include gender, play, early childhood curriculum and pedagogy, ethnic diversity and identities.

Amna Hussain is working as the Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator and as a faculty at NDIE for BEd program and has a teaching experience of over 15 years in various organizations. She has worked at different levels of responsibility as class teacher, level coordinator, academic coordinator and teacher trainer for pre-primary and primary level teachers. She specializes in working with teachers of early year education along with profound interest in developing low cost no cost material for language, numeracy and arts and crafts for ECE classrooms. She has done her certificate program in ECED from the Institute for Educational Development - the Aga Khan University. Her research interests include Action Research in Early Childhood Learning Environment

She has done her B.Ed and M.Ed from NDIE and holds a gold medal for academic excellence.

**Rozina Jumani** is Executive Director Training and Development Consultant Strategic Planning & Capacity Building associated with education, training and development for past 15 years. With national and international degrees and honours, she has been serving both educational and corporate world in many aspects. She has trained more than 7000 youth, adult, practitioners and professionals from all disciplines across country and abroad



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#### **Dr Sherwin Rodrigues**

Dr. Sherwin Rodrigues is a Visiting Faculty at Notre Dame Institute of Education (NDIE), Pakistan. He earned his doctorate from the University of Oxford, Department of Education, UK. Dr. Rodrigues has been a teacher and a teacher educator for more than a decade. His area of expertise is classroom assessment with particular emphasis on the use of alternative classroom assessment techniques to promote students' learning across subjects and grade levels.

Atiya Zahra Hussain has extensive experience of teaching and teacher education both at national and international level. She has been serving the Aga Khan University, Institute for Educational Development (AKU –IED) as a Senior Instructor for thirteen years in the areas of English Language Education, Curriculum- Teaching/Learning and Assessment and in Research. She has made significant contributions in the development work of ELT and ECED at AKU -IED. Her areas of expertise are Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL), Language across the Curriculum (LAC) in multilingual context, ECED and Primary Education. She has undertaken individual and collaborative research in the areas of her specialization which includes teacher learning, officiated as the principal investigator and supervised M.Ed students 'research and dissertations.