



## January – July 2025

The first half of 2025 has been a period of reflection, collaboration, and growth. From academic milestones and professional development initiatives to community engagement and creative expression, our institute continued to strengthen its commitment to quality education and responsible leadership. This newsletter highlights key moments, achievements, and initiatives from January to July 2025.

## Director's Message

The months from January to July 2025 have been marked by purposeful learning, collaboration, and steady growth at the institute. During this period, we successfully concluded key academic programmes, strengthened institutional partnerships, and remained actively engaged in professional development, research, and community outreach. Our faculty and students demonstrated commitment, creativity, and reflective practice across a range of academic and co-curricular initiatives. I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed to these achievements. As we move forward, we remain committed to learning, leading, and making a meaningful impact.



**Dr. Sherwin Rodrigues**

## Inside, we explore...

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Notre Dame Institute of Education (NDIE), C/o St. Patrick's High School Campus, Saddar, Karachi, Pakistan.



## ECCE 2024 Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the ECCE course was held on Saturday, January 11, 2024, at the Notre Dame Institute of Education. The event marked the successful completion of the programme by 26 participants, each of whom was awarded a certificate in recognition of their commitment and professional growth.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Executive Secretary of CBE, Karachi, along with representatives from school management, including principals and section heads from various institutions. Their participation highlighted the importance of collaboration between teacher education institutes and schools in strengthening early childhood education and improving classroom practices.

The event served as a celebration of learning, reflective practice, and professional engagement. Speakers emphasised the vital role of Early Childhood Care and Education in fostering inclusive, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate learning environments for young children. The ECCE programme was acknowledged for equipping participants with practical strategies, theoretical understanding, and a deeper awareness of child development.

Participants shared reflections on their learning journeys, noting the relevance of the course content to their professional contexts and the positive impact on their classroom practices. The ceremony also provided an opportunity for networking and professional dialogue among educators and school leaders. The event concluded with inspiring words of encouragement and appreciation, reaffirming a shared commitment to continuous professional development and lifelong learning.







## Collaborating for Professional Development

### MoU between KGS & NDIE

Karachi Grammar School (KGS) and the Notre Dame Institute of Education (NDIE) have formally entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen teacher development and enhance the overall learning experiences of students at KGS. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to educational excellence and the belief that high-quality teaching is central to meaningful student learning.

The partnership aligns with KGS's vision of ensuring that every child achieves academically, socially, and emotionally, while also supporting NDIE's mission of leading positive and sustainable change in teacher education. By combining their strengths, both institutions aim to create a structured and purposeful approach to professional learning for educators.

Under this MoU, NDIE will provide its expertise in teacher education through the design and delivery of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes for KGS teachers. These CPD initiatives will focus on reflective practice, contemporary pedagogical approaches, classroom leadership, and learner-centred teaching strategies. The collaboration is intended to support teachers in responding effectively to the evolving needs of students and the changing demands of education.

The partnership also opens avenues for ongoing dialogue, academic exchange, and collaborative initiatives that promote professional growth and innovation in teaching and learning. Through this sustained engagement, both institutions seek to nurture a culture of continuous learning, professional excellence, and shared responsibility for educational improvement.

This MoU marks an important step toward strengthening institutional ties and contributing meaningfully to the development of skilled, reflective, and empowered educators who positively impact student learning outcomes.





## Alumni Achievement

Our alumni continue to make meaningful contributions across diverse educational and professional settings. Their achievements reflect the strong foundation, values, and professional skills developed during their time at the institute. Through leadership roles, innovative practices, and continued engagement in learning, our alumni uphold the institute's commitment to excellence and positive impact. We take pride in celebrating their accomplishments and look forward to their ongoing contributions to the field of education and beyond.

### Noman Nadir Ali

Congratulations to our alumnus Noman Nadir Ali (BEd (Hons.) Cohort 2017) on successfully completing his MPhil in Education with distinction from the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development. NDIE takes great pride in this outstanding achievement and wishes him continued success in his academic and professional journey.



### Sr. Mary Rose

Our alumni continue to excel in diverse professional roles, demonstrating leadership, commitment, and reflective practice. Their achievements highlight the strong academic and ethical foundation gained at the institute. We take pride in celebrating their successes and value their ongoing contributions to education and the wider community.



## Faculty Matters

Our faculty showcased their academic contributions through diverse platforms. One of our faculty members successfully published a research paper in a reputable journal, highlighting their rigorous investigation and contribution to the field. The study reflects a strong commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing pertinent issues within their area of expertise. Simultaneously, another faculty member engaged in a poster presentation, effectively communicating research findings in a visual and interactive format. Both endeavors demonstrate the faculty's dedication to scholarly excellence, knowledge dissemination, and active participation in the broader academic community, reinforcing the institute's culture of research and innovation.

### Gillian Ann Rodrigues

Congratulations to our faculty, Ms. Gillian Rodrigues, on her recently published article titled "Exploring factors contributing to the performance of prospective teachers of pre-service teacher education programmes in the external examination: A case study" in Hamdard Educus, 3(2), 30-50. Her research provides valuable insights into the challenges and factors affecting pre-service teachers' performance, reflecting her commitment to advancing the field of teacher education and contributing meaningfully to academic scholarship and professional practice.



### Munir Lalani

Congratulations to Munir Lalani for his recent poster presentation, "Maximizing Learning and Responsive Caregiving with Affordable Resources," at the NBRC Foundation for Health and Empowerment (F4HE) ECD Research Advocacy Conference. The event was held at the Rufaida Auditorium, AKU-SONAM, on Saturday, February 15, 2025. His presentation highlighted practical strategies to enhance early childhood learning and caregiving, reflecting his commitment to promoting evidence-based practices and contributing meaningfully to the field of early childhood development.





## NDIE EVENTS

### State Bank Museum



As part of the Art, Crafts, and Calligraphy course, the prospective teachers of the B.Ed. (Hons) Elementary 2024 cohort had the opportunity to visit the State Bank Museum Art Gallery. This visit helped them to explore and appreciate the artistic masterpieces housed in the Sadequain Art Gallery. This also helped the prospective teachers to draw inspiration from Sadequain's art work, observe his artistic techniques, and deepen their understanding of the interplay between different art forms.

### Sustainable Farming Practices

The Environmental Society at NDIE visited a local farm in Malir, which was an invaluable learning experience for both our students and faculty. As we observed the cultivation of various crops and explored sustainable farming practices, we connected these real-world activities to the broader theme of environmental sustainability. By engaging directly with nature and understanding the impact of farming on our ecosystem, we not only gained insights into responsible land use but also emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship.







### Aspiring Researchers



Kudos to our B.Ed 2.5 – Cohort 2023 students for confidently presenting their action research over the past two days. Their presentations showcased thoughtful inquiry, dedication, and a deep understanding of classroom realities. The audience comprised a panel of faculty members as well as students. Critical in-depth feedback was provided by the faculty and the panel of assessors to support students' continued growth as reflective educators.

### Earth Day Pledges

As part of Earth Day celebrations, students actively participated in making environmental pledges that reflected their commitment to sustainability and responsible living. Through short video messages and creative expressions, they highlighted simple yet impactful actions to protect the planet, reinforcing the importance of environmental awareness and collective responsibility.



### Artwork Display



The B.Ed. Elementary 2024 cohort proudly showcased their creativity in a vibrant end-of-semester artwork display! The exhibition reflected the diverse skills and techniques they explored in their Art, Crafts, and Calligraphy course. A celebration of talent, learning, and imagination!



## Continuous Professional Development

### Karachi Grammar School



Faculty members from NDIE conducted CPD sessions with O and A Level teachers at Karachi Grammar School. The sessions focused on enhancing student engagement, integrating blended learning and AI, practicing differentiation, and fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These interactive sessions provided a valuable opportunity for educators to reflect, collaborate, and adopt innovative practices that support meaningful and future-ready learning.

### PBL 3-Day Workshop

Noman Nadir and Munir Lalani – faculty members of Notre Dame Institute of Education – conducted a comprehensive three-day workshop for the teacher educators at the Renewal Centre in Lahore. This session saw active participation from teacher educators across all seven Catholic dioceses, organized by the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) in collaboration with NDIE. The workshop centred on Project-Based Learning (PBL), offering an in-depth exploration from its foundational concepts to practical strategies. Key areas included addressing challenges, planning, coaching techniques, effective implementation, and ongoing oversight. Additionally, the workshop incorporated components on integrating technology, promoting environmental stewardship, and fostering service learning.



## The School Coordinators Certificate Course

The School Coordinators Certificate Course (SCCC) was a recent collaborative initiative between the Catholic Board of Education (CBE) and the Notre Dame Institute of Education (NDIE), designed to strengthen the professional capacity of school coordinators, aspiring coordinators, and teachers from CBE schools. This short course aimed to enhance leadership, instructional oversight, and collaborative practices essential for effective school coordination in contemporary educational contexts.

Designed and facilitated by NDIE, the 20-hour course provided participants with opportunities to engage in reflective learning, practical application, and professional dialogue. Sessions focused on key areas such as leadership and management practices, curriculum implementation, assessment, school culture and climate, inclusion and diversity, and professional development. The course content was grounded in the realities of school settings and encouraged participants to link theory with practice.

A key highlight of the programme was the Capstone Project, through which participants designed and implemented action plans tailored to the specific needs of their respective schools. These projects enabled participants to apply their learning meaningfully, address contextual challenges, and contribute to school improvement initiatives. The capstone presentations reflected thoughtful planning, collaboration, and a strong commitment to enhancing teaching and learning practices.

The successful completion of the course by all 26 participants is a testament to their dedication, engagement, and professional commitment. NDIE and CBE congratulate the participants on this achievement and look forward to the positive impact of their learning on school leadership, teacher development, and student outcomes across CBE schools.









## FREE CPD WORKSHOP COMMUNITY SERVICE



### Lead Lightly, Manage Wisely

Our B.Ed 4-year – Cohort 2024 prospective teachers hosted the Future Learning Exhibition – Discover the Future of Technology as part of their coursework on integrating technology into education. The event featured four interactive stations, each showcasing a unique way to enhance teaching through digital tools. Watch the video to see how our future educators are shaping the classroom of tomorrow!

### Future Learning Classroom

Our B.Ed 2.5 – 2023 prospective teachers led a workshop for stakeholders from the Catholic Board of Education (CBE) school system. A range of topics were covered during the 3-hour interactive session. These included 'Collaboration and Effective Communication', 'Building Relationships with Students', 'Addressing Discipline Issues in Schools', 'Promoting Well-being Choices' and, 'Practical Strategies for Classroom Management'. The participants enjoyed the workshop and found it a great learning experience.





## CPD Workshop for CBE-K Teachers



### Digital Tools and Skills

Our faculty member, Noman Budhani, led an engaging session for CBE-K teachers on Digital Tools and Skills for Teaching and Learning. He emphasised the growing importance of AI in today's classrooms and shared practical, ethical ways teachers can use it to enhance student engagement and ease their own workload. A timely and much-needed conversation on the future of education!

### Professional Ethics and Integrity

Our Director, Dr. Sherwin Rodrigues, conducted an insightful session on Professional Ethics, Integrity, and Self-Development for CBE-K teachers. Merging key competencies, he emphasized fostering ethical conduct in professional settings and shared strategies for self-growth in areas like time management, resilience, initiative, and relationship building –empowering educators to lead with integrity and effectiveness.



### Teaching Diverse Learners

Our faculty member, Ali Shah Hadi Bawani, conducted an engaging session on Teaching Diverse Learners. The session focused on promoting inclusive practices, understanding diverse learning needs, and customizing instruction, all without needing extra resources. Empowering teachers to make every learner feel seen and supported.



## CPD Workshop for CBE-K Teachers

### English Language Enhancement

Our faculty member, James Simmons, facilitated a dynamic session on English Language Enhancement: Pronunciation and Vocabulary for CBE-K teachers. The session focused on practical strategies to strengthen language skills, helping educators build clearer communication and enrich classroom interactions through improved pronunciation and vocabulary.



### Tailoring Teaching Strategies

Our faculty, Bartholomew David led an engaging session on Tailoring Teaching Strategies to Specific Grades and Students for CBE-K educators. He shared practical approaches to differentiate instruction based on learners' age, needs, and context – enabling teachers to create more responsive and effective classroom experiences.

### Fostering Religious Harmony

Our faculty member, Munir Lalani, delivered a thoughtful session on Fostering Religious Harmony and Values in a Diverse World for CBE-K teachers. He emphasized the role of educators in promoting mutual respect, understanding, and shared values to build inclusive classrooms that honor diversity and encourage peaceful coexistence.





## CPD Workshop for CBE-K Teachers



### Leadership in Schools

Dr. Sherwin Rodrigues led a focused session for principals and school leaders on Leadership in Schools: Developing Whole-School Development Plans. He guided participants through strategic planning processes to drive school-wide improvement, highlighting the importance of visionary leadership, collaboration, and data-informed decision-making.



### Teaching through Toys and Stories

Munir Lalani facilitated a lively and hands-on session on Creative Pedagogies: Teaching through Toys and Stories for early years teachers. He showcased how play-based learning and storytelling can spark curiosity, support holistic development, and make early education more joyful and meaningful for young learners.



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