



**Mahatma Education Society's
Pillai College of Education and Research
Sector 8, New Panvel 410206**

National Level Seminar

Environmental Re-Engineering: Series 8-The Year of Sustainable Tourism

National Seminar on “Environmental Re-engineering: Series 8-The Year of Sustainable Tourism” on 9th Dec. 2017. The two days National Level Seminar on 'Environmental Re-engineering Series 8, Year of Sustainable Tourism', organized by MES' Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel, on 9th December 2017, began its registration at 9:00 a.m.

The seminar began with the inaugural session coordinated by our Organizing Secretary Mrs. Bindu Tambe. The session also had the august presence of Mr. A. L. Tripathi, Deputy CEO, MES- Khanda colony campus, a very learned person who is always there to guide us and Principal, Vidyadhiraja College of Physical Education, Dr Nuzrat Shaikh, and other eminent academicians.

The Organizing Secretary Mrs Bindu Tambe's words of welcome added a fresh lease of life to the program. The Seminar had a solemn beginning as it was opened with the lamp lighting by the chief guest and other dignitaries with a prayer song.



The session then saw a glimpse of the Mahatma Education Society through a short presentation which showcased the CEO & Secretary Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai, and Joint Secretary Dr. Daphne Pillai, who have transformed the Pillai group of institutions to provide holistic education based on new generation academics which empowers them to become key contributors to the community. The presentation introduced the participants to the different state of the art campuses. It also highlighted the curricular and co-curricular activities in addition to the ethos and values of the MES.

In her Welcome address Mrs. Bindu Tambe elaborated the concept and rationale behind the topic of the seminar. She emphasized that the major goal of the International Year of

Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 was to recall the potential of tourism to advance the Universal 2030 Agenda for the 17 Sustainable development goals. The International Year of tourism will promote tourism's role in the following five key areas-

- 1st Inclusive and Sustainable Economic growth,
- 2nd Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction,
- 3rd Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change
- 4th Cultural values, diversity and heritage
- 5th mutual understanding, peace and security

For the 1st session on “Environment Sustainability and Tourism”, Faculty member, Dr. Geeta R. Thakur coordinated the Skype session, and connected the audience to the Expert Dr. Anjuna Dhir, Director of the Ecotourism Society of India, New Delhi. Dr. Anjuna Dhir, a versatile, & creative professional was introduced by Mrs. Bindu Tambe.



Dr. Dhir's talk left the audience asking for more with her interesting and eye opening talk on the theme. She began with references to the Vedas, quotes by the Swanish tribe of American Indians and the eye-opener that said “Our House is burning and we are blind to it.” She threw light on the facts put forth to the global world by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Despite the



disturbances with the internet in between, she brilliantly put across the Social, Cultural and Economic impact of tourism on Environmental Sustainability. Dr. Anjuna Dhir patiently answered the questions posed by the audience. Her talk set the right note for further sessions. The first session ended with a vote of thanks from faculty Dr. Geeta Thakur.

The next session was comprised of paper presentations in which the presenters spoke beautifully on varied topics related to sustainable tourism. Principal Dr Sally Enos chaired the presentations effectively as she provided them with apt feedback and emphasizing the take-

away tips given by the participants. The informative and enriching session was then followed by a lunch break.

After lunch, Session two on Ecotourism & Personal Growth was coordinated by Mrs. Namrata Saxena. After a brief talk on the 2nd theme of the day, she introduced the expert Dr. Leon Periera, a multifaceted personality & a trainer at IMS Learning Resources, Mumbai to the audience. Dr. Sally presented him with a potted plant as a token of our appreciation.

Dr. Periera, with his excellent presentation comprising of thought-provoking visuals, shared his ideas of how we can manage ecotourism intelligently and ensure personal growth. He also introduced the audience to a very informative and interesting process of reducing the Footprint and trained the thinking faculties of one and all.

The audience positively participated in his interactive session and benefitted from his expert knowledge. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by faculty Mrs. Namrata Saxena.



The session was followed by excellent presentations made by the participants which were relevant to the sub-themes as they shared best practices to conserve the environment and promote tourism. Thus, the seminar concluded with food for thought for all the participants.



In the valedictory session the participants expressed their joy at being a part of this interesting and informative seminar. Certificates were awarded to the paper presenters & participants followed by the vote of thanks by the organizing secretary Mrs. Bindu Tambe.