

## Study circle- Building learning Communities

### Study circle: What is it?

The study circle at our college began as an intellectual and professional development activity under the Shodh Sadhana research cell. The basic aim of the study circle is to bring together professionals and practitioners to read and reflect as a team. The study circles have been designed to bring practitioners together to:



1. Share their understanding of the selected pre reading materials with the help of facilitators.
2. Read research articles/or Chapters from books that are related to learning, teaching and pedagogy.
3. Discuss the relevance of the learnings/findings for the students with whom they work .
4. Debate on certain fundamental implications of that learning and our personal connect to the idea.

### Who is it for?

For teacher educators, teachers, practitioners in non-formal setting, student teachers, alumni or any other professionals.

### What happens in a study circle?

1. A reading is chosen in advance and sent to the study circle group. They are expected to read and come to the study meeting.
2. An experienced facilitator leads the discussion. He/she poses deep thinking questions, encourages reflections, pushes thinking towards connecting the theory to practice. i.e. relating to professional life both from the pedagogical perspective and life as a whole.
3. Small group discussions are held so everyone gets a chance to share their views.

Some of the interesting articles that have been read are as follows:

- ◀ Research article titled, 'Classroom, goals, structures and student motivation' by Carole Ames.
- ◀ Article by Dewey titled, 'Interest and effort in education'.
- ◀ Gijubhai's Novel 'Diwaswapna'.
- ◀ 'A Shift of mind' a chapter from Peter Senge's book, 'Fifth Discipline'
- ◀ 'Deewar ka Istemal' by Krishna Kumar
- ◀ Chapter titled 'Industrial age system of Education' from Peter Senge's Book '5th Discipline'

### Benefits of the Practice:

The practice helps practitioners such as teacher educators, teachers, counselors, principals and alumni to meet understand, share, reflect on, research based readings or other classic work in Education.

# BEST PRACTICES

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There have been several benefits:

1. A synergistic and collaborative environment for learning.
2. Promoting reading relevant and significant articles in education
3. Learning to listen to the facilitator as well each other.
4. Reflecting on practice vis a vis the reading.
5. Feeling of respect for fellow members and their experiences

*When it started I was not sure how many people would participate. But the response was good and the experience overwhelming. I facilitated one such session on Krishna Kumar's article in Hindi titled 'Deewar ka Istemal' and the experience was fantastic both to facilitate as well as be a co-participant.*

*Dr. Jayashree Inbaraj, Faculty at KKCE*

*I attended the session on Gijubhai's Novel 'Diwaswapna'. The exchange of thoughts and opinions on the novel way of teaching and experimenting was a very enriching experience. Different contexts, possibilities and limitations of novel teaching methods emerged.*

*Radha Kolhatkar, Participant*



*Most great learning happens in groups. Collaboration is the stuff of growth.*

*-Sir ken Robinson*