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TESOL CONNECTS

Newsletter of TESOL Society of Bangladesh



TESOL SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH
AN ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TESOL Society of BANGLADESH is an equal opportunity platform for the practitioners of English as a Second Language in Bangladesh. We are a community of English language teachers from all levels of education who are trying to bring the Bangladeshi ELT professionals and the prospective practitioners of ELT under one roof by establishing a network that encourages diversity and respectful professional discussions among educators. This TESOL community was first conceived on 18 December 2014. Since then, the Society has been working to build a community of English language teachers in order to establish a sustainable professional network across the country.

The community is continuously growing and at present has about 2500 members on its electronic platforms. You can connect with us through our website, YouTube channel, Facebook page/group; the society is very active on all its social media platforms to ensure the highest engagement and interaction among both its local and global members and its audience. The vision of TESOL Society of Bangladesh is to nurture ELT practitioners; to build a community of TESOL teachers, educators and policy makers from all levels (primary to tertiary) whilst also remaining up-to-date by collaborating with other renowned international practitioners and organisations.

TESOL SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH

Inaugural Webinar by

Dr. Ahmar Mahboob

Teaching with Purpose: CREDIBLE Approach in the Classrooms



WEBINAR SERIES 2020 BEGINS WITH DR. AHMAR MAHBOOB

TESOL Society Bangladesh launched its Webinar Series 2020 with Dr. Ahmar Mahboob's talk on "Teaching with Purpose: CREDIBLE Approach in the Classroom." Prof. Dr. Sayeedur Rahman, IML, DU & Co-founder of the association inaugurated the session by welcoming Dr. Mahboob and 167 participants from both home and abroad. The prime focus of the session was to familiarize the concept of using socio-semiotic resources as a tool of educating the hearts and minds of people to bring positive and sustainable changes in the society. Dr. Mahboob pointed out how the traditional education system fails to invoke true knowledge, and focuses on literacy. With purposeful teaching, the shift towards knowledge from literacy can be achieved. The modern world demands a more credible culture of education that would evoke the minds to bring realistic and effective constructive changes to the society.

a mass producer of job seekers; and that is the reason why the rate of unemployment is so high. With the proposed CREDIBLE approach, teachers can inspire the learners to focus on locally and contextually relevant issues while learning the target language. The model suggests assigning learners with activities in the classroom that would enhance their linguistic skill set as well as help them make sustainable changes to people's lifestyle and the surroundings. This makes the learners more linguistically empowered and helps them become an asset to the society who are able to identify, analyze, and deal with issues that are more crucial for the (co)existence of human beings with nature in harmony and peace. Thus, language teaching can be used in constructing a community who would be engaged in ethically transforming the environment and society for benefitting their communities.

C

Contextually relevant

R

Responds to practical needs

E

Engages stakeholders

D

Draws on understanding of local knowledge/practices

I

Informed by diverse approaches and experiences

B

Benefits local communities

L

Leads the fields/discipline and contributes to the larger (global) theories

E

Ethical

Ahmar Mahboob is currently working as an Associate Professor at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sydney. He earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2003. Dr. Ahmar is keenly interested in the application of language sciences to developmental issues. His primary research interests are on an examination of policies, practices, and implications of language variation in local and global contexts.



Dr. Farah Deeba
Clinical Psychologist &
Associate Professor
Department of Clinical Psychology
University of Dhaka
Honorary Post-doctoral Fellow at
Macquarie University
Australia (2019-2022)

MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT FOR TEACHERS DURING THE UNPRECEDENTED COVID-19 SITUATION

HOST

Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
Professor of English
Language
IML
University of Dhaka

CO-HOSTS

Afroja Sultana
Lecturer
BGMEA University of
Fashion and Technology

Dipty Rahman
Lecturer
Daffodil International
University

TESOL Society of Bangladesh arranged its second webinar as part of Webinar Series 2020. Dr. Farah Deeba, Clinical Psychologist & Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Dhaka was the speaker of the session. Dr. Farah Deeba in her speech mentions that a good, healthy life is a balanced life. In this unprecedented situation of COVID-19, in many ways the balance is disrupted. Especially for teachers, this present situation is very challenging as apart from disbelief, rejection, losses and other common issues that are affecting our mental health, 'working online' is a terra incognita in their professional life and it needs some adjustments to assimilate it. And in order to do so, teachers are using their personal time and resources to cope up with the work pressure. Additionally, teachers are also expected to play the role of counselors. Outside the family, teachers are expected to mentor the students unconditionally. So, teachers are not only responsible for their own mental health but also for that of the students. This makes the situation a lot more difficult for teachers. Apart from that, female teachers are facing further pressure as they have different social and cultural roles to play within the society. All these issues, according to Dr. Farah Deeba, have put the teachers under tremendous pressure and it is

disrupting the equilibrium that ensures the quality of mental health.

Dr. Deeba talked about two kinds of anxiety in her speech. She described unrealistic anxiety as something which is not based on any kind of fact or real issue and categorized this kind of anxiety to be harmful for a person. On the other hand, she described realistic or pragmatic anxiety which drives a person towards better performance and helps a person to be mentally healthy. She stated that having positive emotions, feeling energetic and enthusiastic are the signs of good mental health.

Dr. Deeba also mentioned a balance should be maintained among entertainment, relationship and success in work in our daily life in order to be mentally healthy. Entertainment can be of a different nature. Doing something special for the family members can also be entertainment. Relationship with family and friends is also an important factor for good mental health. Everyday some amount of time should be allocated for the people in our life. And finally, we should celebrate success in our work. For teachers, completing different tasks such as checking scripts, taking classes, or making lesson plans should be treated as success. Maintaining a balance among these three is the key to be mentally healthy in this situation.



Speaker

Dr. Md Faruk Hossain



Speaker

Dr. Hasan Shahriar
Md Nuruzzaman (Kallol)

HOST

Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
Professor of English
Language
IML
University of Dhaka

CO-HOST

Saima Akter
Lecturer
United International
University

POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING IN FIGHTING COVID-19

TESOL Society Bangladesh has organized its 3rd webinar with Dr. Md. Faruk Hossain and Dr. Hasan Shahriar Md. Nuruzzaman Kallol focusing on the idea of positive thinking from the COVID-19 experiences of health experts. Dr. Hasan Shahriar has covered why positive thinking is significant in fighting COVID-19 and what people can do to get rid of panic. One of the most significant aspects of the session was knowing about Dr. Kallol's experience of fighting against COVID-19. He requested people to take every symptom of COVID-19 seriously to avoid community transmission. He also suggested keeping the necessary materials with the potential patient during the 14-day-isolation to prevent boredom and depression. Panicking should be avoided as the rate of recovery is much higher than mortality in COVID-19. He identified how some people are misinterpreting the treatment of COVID-19 and are promoting cultural remedies (as in Thankuni treatment). He defined positive thinking as a set of activities that has positive outcomes. Again, Dr. Faruk has recommended what roles teachers can play to relieve the anxiety of the students and what the students can do to reduce stress. He has focused on spreading proper information, distinguishing between COVID-19 related facts and rumors, maintaining routine work, avoiding all sorts of addiction, and maintaining productivity.

He shared his observation that people involved in outdoor activities have stronger immunity than people working indoors. Many people, especially from the lower social class who are roaming around carelessly, have grown a false sense of assurance that COVID-19 will not affect them. He has then suggested three things for students who are working outside in order to reduce financial crisis: self-caring (fact-checking, being productive online, helping in household chores, proper resting), supporting others (providing adequate information, communicating and taking care if others need anything, encouraging them and suggesting the right thing to do instead of panicking) and strengthening the support network (building up a system with teachers, classmates, relatives who can help them in distress). The discussion has also shed light on the fact that the misinformation and lack of authentic information on COVID-19 lead the daily wage earners to their carefree behavior. Moreover, it included the limitations of our reach to the carefree population through the online platform because of 'affordance' and 'will power' issues. It has also provided an insight into another proposed positive change in reforming the health delivery system and encouraged the accomplishment of the first phase trial of vaccination as a breakthrough for Bangladesh.



HOST

Md. Shams-Ud-Duha
Ph.D Fellow
Purdue University

TESOL SOCIETY BANGLADESH ORGANIZES ITS FIRST EVER MUSICAL BONANZA

The role of teachers has long been looked only through the professional lens, limiting it to teaching classes, mentoring, and researching. What about their contribution in inspiring younger generations though the other talents that they may possess? Keeping teachers' diverse roles in mind, TESOL Bangladesh organized its first ever musical event (online) titled "Golpo-Gaaner Ashor" during this pandemic situation to entertain the teacher-community and others alike.

The specialty of the event was that all the participants who rendered songs were university teachers by profession, but they also possess great reciting, singing and writing abilities that they are willing to share with others to keep the community in a happy and apposite spirit which is important at this time of global crises.

The event started with a brief introduction about TESOL Bangladesh's aim and objective, and the event itself. Professor Dr. Sayeedur Rahman in his speech mentioned about the diverse roles teachers have to play in and outside their classes and emphasized on why teachers should engage themselves in cultural activities. He mentioned about positive impact that singing, writing, recitation and other creative expressions have on teachers' own and also their students' lives if applied thoughtfully.

Md. Shams-Ud-Duha, a Ph.D Fellow, Purdue University and a playwright himself, recited "TuiKi Amar Dukkho Hobi", a poem written by Jibonanondo Das. Md. Ali Rezwana Talukder, Associate Professor, Comilla University and a singer, rendered some popular songs like "Country Road", "Nazar Ki Samne" etc. Ms. Afroza Akhter Tina, poet and a Senior Lecturer of Daffodils Int'l University recited some of her own written poems "The Bird in a Cage" and "Rain" that beautifully portrayed different aspects of human emotion. Md. Imam Zafar Numanee, Lecturer, BIL, BRAC University, and a television artist himself, rendered a wonderful Hindi gazal "Aaj Jane Ki Zid Na Karo", popular Bangla Nazrul songs like "Alga Koro Go Khopar Badhon" and "Amar Kon Kul E Aaj Virlo Tori", etc. that kept audiences mesmerised. Ms. Afroja Sultana, Lecturer, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT) rendered some Bangla modern songs like "Moyur konthi Raater Neel E", "Ei Mon Tomake Dilam", which brought back the nostalgia of Bengali songs of 80s and 90s among audiences. She also performed one of her own written songs "Dekhona Dur E Akashe", written on the theme of "universal love". The viewers seemed to highly applaud this initiative of bringing teachers together on one platform to present their talents and engaged in placing song requests for the performers and encouraged and appreciated them throughout the program.

EDITORS

**DR. SAYEEDUR RAHMAN
HAMIDUL HAQUE
FARZANA KHAN
AFROZA AKTER TINA
EVITA AMIN**

CONTRIBUTORS

**SAIMA AKTER
MD MAMUNUR RASHID
S M ATIQR RAHMAN
NUSHRAT ARA OISHE**

DESIGN

**AKIBUR RAHMAN
OISHEE SHIRIN HAQ
NUSHRAT ARA OISHE
ANINDITA ERINA
DIDARUL ISLAM
GAZI FAHAD**



TESOL SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The vision of the Society is to establish an engaging platform for professionals working in the field of TESOL/Applied Linguistics and other allied disciplines to participate in constructive dialogue with one another and with recent developments to strengthen the impact of the field in the community. The Society can help you to remain connected to fellow applied linguists through regular interaction and collaboration with the members.

BECOME A MEMBER

- **Student membership: BDT 200/- (BDT 200/- yearly renewal fee)**
- **Life Membership: BDT 3000/- (One time) (BDT 2000/- if registered in a group of 5 members)**
- **General membership: Fees 1000 (BDT 500/- yearly renewal fee)**
- **Associate Membership: 5000 BDT (500 BDT discount if registered in a group of 10) (BDT 500/- yearly renewal fee for regional membership or collective members of a regional EL association)**
- **Institutional Membership: Departments of English of any school, college, etc.**
- **Fill out Registration Form**
- **Submit a Copy of PP Photograph & NID**

ENGAGE WITH THE SOCIETY!



<https://www.tesolbangladesh.org>



tesolbangladesh.org@gmail.com



<https://twitter.com/BangladeshTesol>



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