



Critical Thinking

Educationists in the new generation have introduced several new concepts and learning methodologies. One of the important approaches is critical thinking.

Critical thinking means making reasoned judgments that are logical and well-thought out. Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or what to believe. It includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking.

What does it mean for a young learner? Why is this term important?

As we progress in the knowledge era, newer ideas and products based on advances in science and technology are taking centre stage. Going forward, we need people with deeper understanding and sharper analytical methods. This is because we come across several complex situations that demand solutions through critical thinking.



Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking can be nurtured in young learners. The following form the core of critical thinking skills:

Concept oriented: When learning is more well-rounded rather than mere understanding of definitions. Learners understand the problem background and also how the solution can be developed.

Analytical: The most important question in learning is “Why”. True learning is fearless questioning of things. Why should one follow the rules? Why is value of g taken as 9.8 m/s^2 . Why does the hour have 60 minutes? Children should be encouraged to seek answers and not take things in passive submission.

Creative: Critical thinking involves taking practical learning into out-of-the-box limits. It could be insane. Creativity involves putting familiar concepts in unthinkable situations. It has happened in the past. Man sent an animal into outer space first.

Open minded: Critical thinking is scientific temper at its best. Never hold any kind of bias or follow something or someone blindly.

Application oriented: The real

benefit of critical thinking can be seen if a child is applying what he learnt in a practical situation. Problem solving should be a way of life.

Critical thinking involves hard work and a mindset that knowledge is useless unless it is applied. Tomorrow's achievers will be critical thinkers first.

Become more curious about what you learn. That is the first step to improve your critical thinking skills.

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Principal's Message

मातृपितृकृताभ्यासो गुणितामेति बालकः।
न गर्भच्युतिमात्रेण पुत्रो भवति पण्डितः।

The child taught by mother and father becomes qualified. The child doesn't become learned just by being born.

The shloka defines the phenomenon of survival. A human child is born much before it is ready to survive on its own. Most other animals come out in life ready to fight and survive. Oviparous (those that do not undergo any embryonic development inside the mother's womb, i.e., lay eggs) and Viviparous (develop into young animals inside the mother's womb).

Example: A baby giraffe stands in minutes and trots in a few more. A chick cracks from the egg and manages to move immediately where as a human baby needs almost a year to stand. The parental support required is very little in most of the animals. But a human baby needs support, guidance, help almost on every aspect of life for considerable duration, be it eating, walking, talking, learning, etc. Thus the development of a child from an embryo to a grownup depends on its parents.

Mother tells who the 'Father' is. Father shows the 'Guru'. The guru shows the 'Divine'. Hence this is the sequence in which they are held in reverence. Also, this is the sequence in which they are important in a person's life. A baby only cares for its mother, a growing up child starts to look up to the father. Kids at school think parents know nothing compared to the teachers and once beyond the guidance of the teacher, realize the importance of divine. [Hitopadesha].

'Children are like arrows shot from the bow and we cannot control them.' - Khalil Gibran

Though the above statement is completely acceptable, it is the paramount duty of parents to make all efforts to give the child the skills to survive, warmth to be strong within and education to succeed.

What's the best way to raise a child? A million dollar question, which unfortunately has no right answer. Each child is unique, thus no set of rules can apply to all. However, some of the descriptions of parenting styles below can help you on your way to becoming a better parent.

In 1960's psychologist Diana Baumrind presented a paper about 4 styles of parenting. She observed and narrated in detail about the impact of parenting style on the emotional, physical and intellectual development of the child.

1. Authoritarian Parenting: The Authoritarian approach represents the most controlling style.

A style of parenting where:

- Parental involvement is less and more responsibility is given to the caretaker, the other way teacher.
- Demand absolute obedience from children.
- Parents do not believe that they need to explain any of the rules they set.
- They exert their will over children with little love.
- Low in nurturance and communication but high in control and maturity demands.
- Set very high standards
- No explanations and reasoning. The why, what and how of the child is never encouraged.

Children of authoritarian parents often exhibit low self esteem, depression and fear of new situations.

2. Permissive Parenting: Permissive Parenting approach is high in nurturance and low in maturity demands.

A style of parenting that is:

- Giving full freedom to children.
- Don't discipline or impose rules.
- They believe kids should regulate themselves and so avoid conflicts with children.
- Warm and emotionally responsible to children but are reluctant to set boundaries.
- They give in to demands of kids and ignore their misbehavior.

Children of permissive parents are impulsive, disregard rules and limits and tend to have escalating levels of aggression.

3. Authoritative Parenting: Authoritative parenting is not too hot nor too cold porridge of parenting style.

They usually:

- Administer fair and consistent discipline when rules are broken.
- They respect kids and listen to them.
- They guide and teach kids when a mistake is committed.
- They modify the expectations based on the situation and a child's individual needs.
- They never compare the performance of their child with others.
- They respect the differences... And the list goes on.

Children of authoritative parents are more responsible, respect everyone, social, popular and more resistant to peer pressure.

4. Uninvolved Parenting: This style of parenting is recognized by Elenoor Mccoby and Jhon marten. It is a method of parenting in which there is:

- Little communication, lack of involvement.
- Little warmth and responsiveness to kids' emotional needs.
- Inadequate attention towards discipline.
- No much effort from parent to understand the needs of children.
- No guidance and interaction about the do's and don'ts.

Kids who are raised in this style tend to be anxious and have dangerously aggressive behavior.

Though psychologists have been researching over the best practices of parenting, it is the natural instinct, empathy and unconditional love that help in raising emotionally strong children. Let us introspect by being unbiased and rectify the mistakes we have been committing as parents. It is time to build stronger kids and thereby a stronger society and country.

One should play with children until the age of seven, teach manners for the next seven years and be a friend from thereon.

When parents do this as their duty, children see that and reciprocate with respect and care. Children do not listen to you. They learn by looking at you. How you live and behave is more important than what you say.

The role of a parent is critical in the development of a child - at physical, emotional and intellectual levels.

I would like to conclude with my favourite parenting quote, 'Parenting is like growing up all over again'. Care the most for your child's welfare.

Thank you.

- Mrs. Deepa M S, Principal

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Experiential Learning



“The task of leadership is not to put greatness into team but to elicit it for the greatness which is there already” - John Buchan.

Mrs. Deepa Acharya, team leader of MEC Public School enlightened us with her extensive knowledge on the topic “Experiential Learning” on 13th May 2019. The workshop

focused on learners’ understanding and application of experiential learning and the learning cycle. It provided participants with an opportunity to experience and reflect on learners outcomes through engaging in an experiential learning activity.

The workshop engaged and assisted the participants in improving their skills and confidence in utilizing the experiential learning cycle in their teaching. It created an opportunity to understand the KOLB'S experiential learning theory - a 4-stage cycle of learning and 4 separate learning styles.

Through fun and interactive, exploration through hands-on activities and structured opportunities for reflection, the participants gained knowledge and skill on the differences and importance of experiential learning.

Effective Teaching Strategies

With an aim to provide intense training on effective teaching techniques for teaching faculty, a one day workshop on Effective Teaching Strategies was held on May 10, 2019 at our campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Ganesh Bhatta, Director of Academics said “Learning is a complex process, which depends on several factors”. He gave few examples to help understand what works for better learning. Usage of image and visual learning, developing a structural hierarchy of content and developing one's own style of teaching will definitely improve learning. He also taught the nature and dimension of learning through contagious method, role of a teacher in improving listening ability, cursory glance, commitment towards work, setting goals for kids.



The session ended with an innovative lesson plan which contained teaching tools, expected learning outcomes and framing questions.

English Enrichment Workshop



A workshop on teaching English was conducted by Maryann Vaisoha, a renowned educationist, counsellor and writer, on 15th May 2019 in our school campus.

The primary purpose of this training was to explore the importance of teaching English and to find solutions to the

problems that teachers face in the classroom. The workshop began with the expert providing the teachers an overview of the importance of teaching English.

Elaborating on the very important theme of language acquisition, Maryann Vaisoha explained how language is acquired and how it can flourish in the classroom if the teachers aim at developing their students’ speaking, listening, reading and writing skills along with enhancing their use of vocabulary and grammar.

She summed up the workshop by giving important suggestions to the teachers such as using new techniques to build students self confidence, ample opportunity to engage with the language, including peer group work simple conversation, discussion and class room interactions.

Reopening Day of Kindergarten Children

Anxiety, excitement, joy and curiosity filled the KG building as the kindergarteners walked into the gate on their first day of formal schooling. It was wonderful to hear the children start their day with a school prayer and few shlokas. Later they enjoyed by playing with the toys spread all over the class. The

fun continued with the children singing rhymes with action followed by a deserved break. After a short outdoor play time, the little ones were gifted with smileys and ended their first day of school with a prayer.



Talent Hunt

To give wings to the children to pursue their dreams and to bring out the hidden talents, we organised 'Prathibha Anveshana' competition at our campus for a week from 27th May to 1st June 2019. The competition was open to children of Grades 1 to 10 in which over 75% of the students participated. They participated enthusiastically in the event. Talent Hunt activities included singing, dancing, lipsyncing, playing an instrument, art, craft etc.

The young talents with their creative minds and innate calibre were at their best. They put up a



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scintillating display of their talents. All the events kept the audience spellbound and entertained throughout.

The children were congratulated and encouraged to hone their skills as these are essential for the development of overall personality of students.



World Environment Day

World Environment Day is observed on 5th June each year in more than 100 countries. Environment is everything that determines the life of us, the human being on this earth. A clean environment is very necessary to live a peaceful and the healthy life. On Environment Day, to create awareness among people, students of MEC Public School (CBSE), through the songs, skits and effective speeches were able to spread the message to many.

A seed ball activity was also planned in the school, where Principal, Mrs. Deepa Acharya encouraged the children to spread the green and save the environment. Students of PP1, PP2, and Grades 1 to 10 participated in the activity with full enthusiasm. The children sowed variety of seeds brought by them with the assistance of their teachers in the campus.



The event was a success as each student contributed profoundly for this day.

Orientation Programme for New Parents

“A parent is a teacher at home and a teacher is a parent in school and the child is the centre of our universe.”

We organised an orientation programme for the parents of Grades 1 to 10 on 22nd June 2019. The aim was to familiarize the parents as 'partners in progress' with the curriculum, rules and regulations of the school, teaching methodologies and the co-scholastic activities. The session started with a welcome note by one of our staff members. Our honourable secretary, Dr. Vidya C briefed about the Chrysalis curriculum,

CCE pattern of examination, and formative and summative techniques of evaluation. Dr. H Ganesh Bhatta, Director Academics of MEC Institutions addressed the gathering and spoke about parenting and suggested few measures regarding overall development of a child. Next, our principal Mrs. Deepa Acharya explained about the parent handbook, school diary and important rules and regulations to be followed by students in the school. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks and National Anthem.



Club Activities

The objective of club activities is to boost self-confidence of the students and to make them face various challenges in life.

With a colourful display by the students, the various clubs were set in motion on 12th June 2019 by our honourable secretary Dr. Vidya C and Principal Mrs. Deepa Acharya. Each member of the club spoke about the importance of their club

and pledged to do everything to the best of their ability and thereby contribute to the growth of the school and of every pupil. Students learn to work as a team in developing, learning, creating and sharing.

Inauguration of the various clubs marked the beginning of all the activities for the academic year 2019-20.



International Yoga Day Celebration

International Yoga Day was celebrated by students and teachers of MEC Public School on 21st June 2019 with great enthusiasm. The programme began with the institutional prayer sung by the school choir. The chief guest of the day was Dr. Vimala Gopal, founder of "Antar Mana". With expertise and divine blessings, she has achieved her own Sadhana for more than 15 years in the field of Yogasana, Pranayama, Meditation, Acupuncture, Personal Counselling, Spiritual Healing, Mudra Therapy and Soft skills. She is also a life skills mentor, motivational speaker and a Shloka teacher.

Yoga Day was inaugurated symbolically by lighting the lamp by our dignitaries. After the introduction of the chief guest, under the guidance of yoga teacher Mr. Vinay, the students performed various asanas and breathing exercises. It was followed by a motivational speech by Dr. Vimala Gopal. She explained how yoga helps to improve memory, focus and concentration and also have a fit and healthy body.



An activity that was conducted from Classes IV to X, has indeed been a successful effort with the importance of yoga being experienced by the students and staff equally.

School Election

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. A good leader has futuristic vision and knows how to turn his ideas into real world success stories.

Elections were conducted in our school premises to choose the male and female captains for the academic year 2019-20. Students from Grade IX and X nominated themselves for the school leader elections, where they had to go through various tests. After qualifying in the written and oral tests, they were eligible for contesting elections. On 22nd June 2019, students from Grade VI to X cast their votes. Teachers were also a part of elections, where they got opportunity to cast vote to choose the leader for the academic year. Finally results were declared. Anish Adamane of Grade IX was elected as Male Captain of Students Council and Haripriya A of Grade IX as Female

Captain of Students Council. The Vice Captains were Ankith of Grade X and Bhoomika of Grade IX. The Principal, Mrs. M. S. Deepa congratulated the winners and wished them luck for the upcoming challenges.



Famous Personalities

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (15 October 1931 – 27 July 2015) was an aerospace scientist who served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied Physics and Aerospace Engineering. He spent the next four decades as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and was intimately involved in India's civilian space programme and military missile development efforts. He thus came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal organizational, technical, and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974.

Math Competition

On 28th and 29th June 2019, our school hosted Mathematics competition with the purpose of evoking interest and enthusiasm in the field of mathematics amongst students from Grades 1 to 10.

- Math puzzle competition for Grades 1 and 2
- Jig-saw puzzle competition for Grades 3 and 4
- Tangram competition from Grades 5 to 7

- Model-making competition from Grades 8 to 10

The criteria followed by the judges were:

- time, presentation, skill for Grades 5 to 7 and
- model, topic, presentation for Grades 8 to 10.

All the students actively participated in different maths activities designed to challenge their thinking and develop their math problem solving skills.



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MECians in Action



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