

REPORT ON ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON THE PROPOSED SYLLABUS REVISION OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (FYBA)

The paper on Communication Skills in English is one that is fundamental to the FYBA curriculum. The Department of English organized a one day workshop on the proposed syllabus revision of Communication Skills in association with the Board of Studies on 2nd January 2010.

The Chief Guest for this workshop was Dr. Vibhakar Mirajkar, Principal of Dayanand College of Arts, Latur .He is also the external expert of the Syllabus Revision Committee. Other guests who graced this occasion were Princ. Dr. Harsha Mehta, Dr. Arvind Mardikar, Chairperson, Board of Studies, and Dr. Rambhau Badode, Head, Department of English, University of Mumbai. Dr. Mirajkar set the trend for the workshop with his insightful thoughts on how to make the subject of Communication Skills relevant and interesting to students. Dr. Mardikar informed the participants that the University of Mumbai has brought out its own publication of a textbook for Business Communication (FYBCom), reducing thereby the need to hunt for other publishers and hoped that there will be such a textbook soon for Communication Skills.

The speakers for the day were Dr. Marie Fernandes(Convener, Syllabus Committee), Ms. Susan Lobo(Member of the Syllabus Committee), Dr. Mamta Muthal (Member, Board of Studies)and Dr. Anjali Bhelande(Head, Department of English, Ruia College). Dr. Marie Fernandes, presented the revised syllabus. The participants were agog with questions regarding the syllabus and improvisations that could be made to the syllabus. This session was followed by the presentation of question paper pattern for the First and Second Term, ATKT Examination Paper Pattern as well as the Tutorials by Ms. Susan Lobo. In the feedback session, chaired by Dr. Mamta Muthal, the participants asked further questions on teaching methodologies for the Communication Skills paper. Dr. Anjali Bhelande made her concluding remarks on the revised syllabus by discussing innovative, interactive and creative methods of teaching the subject. She stated that there must be shift made from the current stress on grammar to a more functional use of the language.

To conclude the proceedings of the workshop Dr. Mirajkar made his remarks on the revised syllabus. There were 61 participants from different colleges. Ms. Lakshmi Muthukumar, Head, Department of English gave the vote of thanks.

The workshop had lived up to the expectations of both the organizers as well as participants.