KVS ZONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MUMBAI
CONCEPT NOTE
PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

Duration: 3 Days
Mode: Online
Target Group: Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT) – Social Science

Background

In the 21st century, the ability to think critically and analyse information has become a cornerstone of effective learning. Social Science, by its very nature, offers students' opportunities to question, interpret, and evaluate social, political, economic, and environmental issues. However, classroom practices often focus more on factual recall than on developing analytical and reflective skills.
As per National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and NCERT recommendations, fostering critical thinking is essential to prepare students for active citizenship, informed decision-making, and lifelong learning. Teachers, therefore, need structured training to integrate critical thinking strategies into their pedagogical approach.

Rationale

Critical thinking in Social Science is not just about answering higher-order questions; it is about cultivating habits of mind — curiosity, open-mindedness, and evidence-based reasoning. This workshop will equip teachers with tools to:

- Encourage inquiry and discussion in the classroom.
- Help students analyse diverse sources of information.
- Guide learners in drawing logical conclusions and challenging assumptions.
- Assess critical thinking skills effectively.
- By empowering teachers with these skills, we enable them to move beyond textbook teaching and create classrooms that mirror the complexities of the real world.

Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- Enhance teachers' understanding of critical thinking and its relevance in Social Science.
- Provide strategies and activities to promote inquiry, analysis, and evaluation.
- Enable teachers to design lesson plans that embed critical thinking outcomes.
- Equip teachers with assessment tools to measure students' analytical skills.
- Foster a reflective teaching practice aligned with NEP 2020's pedagogical vision.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Apply questioning frameworks such as Bloom's Taxonomy and Socratic questioning.
- Integrate case studies, debates, role plays, and problem-based learning into lessons.
- Facilitate evidence-based discussions using primary and secondary sources.
- Develop rubrics and other assessment tools for critical thinking skills.
- Create a personal action plan to incorporate analytical thinking in teaching.

Methodology

The workshop will be interactive and hands-on, using:

- Live demonstrations and micro-teaching sessions.
- Group discussions and breakout room activities.
- Collaborative lesson planning.
- Case study analysis and role play.
- Use of digital tools such as Padlet, Mentimeter, and Jamboard.

Day-wise Themes

Day 1: Foundations of Critical Thinking in Social Science

Day 2: Pedagogical Strategies and Tools for Critical Thinking

Day 3: Integrating and Assessing Critical Thinking in Classroom Practice

Resource Persons

Experts in pedagogy, curriculum design, and Social Science education with practical classroom experience.

Expected Impact

- Teachers will shift from content-delivery models to inquiry-driven teaching.
- Students will become active participants in their own learning, demonstrating better analytical and reasoning skills.
- Classrooms will become spaces for constructive dialogue, critical questioning, and reflective thinking.