

Meeting summary for World Teachers parliament (04/29/2024)

Quick recap

The World Teachers' Parliament, held in New Delhi in conjunction with the International Conference on Quality Education 2024, focused on the theme of child rights, particularly survival, development, protection, and participation. A range of speakers from various countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the UK, shared their insights on the importance of educating and safeguarding children, with a focus on collective responsibility and holistic approaches. The event was organized in collaboration with the Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka and aimed to promote child rights and well-being through international conversations and actionable steps.

Next steps

Next steps were not generated due to insufficient transcript.

Summary

Technical Issues and Sri Lanka Association Welcome

There were some technical difficulties with the video conferencing setup, with participants experiencing issues with camera visibility and connection drops. Janaka and shehwar took the lead in troubleshooting, asking participants to switch cameras and adjust angles. They also confirmed that all speakers had working cameras. The meeting continued with a welcome to the Sri Lanka Association and a message from shehwar confirming that all cameras were in order.

Inaugural Session With International Speakers

Janaka, shehwar, Miriam, and others gathered for an inaugural session. They were joined by various speakers including Dr. Dr Dheeraj from India, Miss Miriam, Mr. Sujani, Miss Pramoda, Farzana from Pakistan, and Hassan from Bangladesh. There were some technical difficulties with the virtual background and camera setup for some participants, but these were resolved. The team was ready to start with introductions after welcoming all attendees.

World Teachers' Parliament on Child Rights

shehwar, Janaka, and Kumara convened the opening session of the World Teachers' Parliament, held in New Delhi and parallel to the International Conference on Quality Education 2024. The main theme of the parliament was child rights, with a focus on four interconnected themes: the right to survival, right to development, right to protection, and right to participation. The event was organized in collaboration with the Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka, with guidance and consultancy from Dr. Kullam International Foundation and other foreign delegates. Miriam Afonso, a project manager from the UK, was invited to speak and inaugurate the session.

Protecting Children: Awareness, Education, and Intervention

Miriam emphasized the importance of keeping children safe and highlighted three key areas for achieving this: awareness, education, and intervention. She underscored the need for educators and guardians to be aware of signs of distress, to act proactively in providing support when needed, and to empower children by providing them with resources to identify danger and seek help. She stressed that ensuring child protection is a collective responsibility requiring a holistic approach involving schools, libraries, hospitals, and the wider community. She encouraged everyone to share what they learned and pledge to take actionable steps to improve the educational environment and safeguard every child.

Child Protection and Prevention of Atrocities in India

shehwar introduced Dr. Dr Rashmi from the Dr. Kalam International Foundation in India, who highlighted the prevalent issue of child safety in India. Dr. Dr Rashmi shared that her organization conducts extensive training for teachers, students, police personnel, and parents to prevent atrocities and abuse, and also emphasized the use of cameras in classrooms, bathrooms, and libraries to monitor any incidents involving children. shehwar, the project manager, introduced the event's theme of child protection, and invited the deputy principal of Pastiberian College, Mr. Kumara, and the chairman of the National Child Protection Authority, Mr. Arp Janaka Udayakumar, to speak on the topic, with Dr. Dr Dheeraj, principal of Ah Kaar, Global School, Lucknow, India, also expected to share his thoughts.

Child Rights and Education in India

Dr Dr Dheeraj highlighted the importance of child rights in India, focusing on their safety, education, health, identity, and equality. He emphasized the responsibility of schools to ensure these rights are upheld, including providing free admissions to children from low-income backgrounds and fostering creativity. shehwar then introduced Sujani as the first speaker for the World Teachers Parliament, with her topic being child participation.

Children's Rights and Participation in Society

Sujani discussed the importance of children's rights to participate in society and decision-making processes. She emphasized that children's voices and opinions matter and should be taken into account, as ignoring them could lead to negative consequences for children's holistic development. Sujani noted a significant gap between generations due to the digitalized world and diverse society, which affects children's beliefs and values. She urged educators and parents to encourage children's participation in family and community matters, as well as to respect their opinions and ideas. The discussion ended with Sujani's plea to amplify children's voices globally for a better future. shehwar appreciated Sujani's insights and highlighted that child participation is a crucial aspect of children's rights.

Farzana's Speech on Children's Rights and Development

Farzana, the principal of Greenview International School from Pakistan, was invited by the World Teachers Parliament to speak about children's rights and development. She emphasized the importance of nurturing children's rights as promises for fairness and equal opportunities. Farzana defined child development as the journey from childhood to adulthood, where children need love, care, and chances to reach their full potential. She highlighted the role of playtime, healthcare, education, and community gardens in promoting child development. She urged everyone to become superheroes for children's rights by promoting these aspects and build a brighter future for everyone.

Education and Child Development Discussion

Farzana shared insights about their work in Pakistan, followed by the introduction of MD Hnay, the founder of Epic Public School and country manager of South Asian International Association. Redmi, an educator from Bangladesh, spoke about the need for educational systems to adapt to new generation activities and the importance of learning. Finally, Pramoda Shiromi Lianage, a nursery teacher from Sri Lanka, was introduced as the next speaker to discuss child development rights.

Child Development and Prosperity: A Holistic Approach

Pramoda emphasized the importance of child development as a key driver of future prosperity. She argued that child development is not just about physical growth, but also includes emotional, experiential, and cognitive aspects. She suggested that parents and primary teachers have a crucial role to play in promoting child development, and that governments should address issues related to poverty. shehwar affirmed the importance of child rights and the need for participation in this context. The next speaker was then introduced.

Child Protection and Survival Discussion

Janaka Prasad, an advocate for child protection, spoke about the importance of keeping children safe from abuse, neglect, and other dangers. She emphasized that teachers play a crucial role in identifying and reporting any concerns to the appropriate authorities. shanika then discussed the rights of children, including protection from discrimination and abuse. She called on everyone to prioritize the well-being of children and work together to ensure they feel safe and valued. Finally, shehwar introduced Vanessa Friskin, who would discuss the topic of child survival.

Protecting Children's Rights to Survival

Vanessa emphasized the critical importance of protecting the rights of children to survival, a fundamental aspect that she defined as a journey. She highlighted the challenges faced by children globally and in Sri Lanka, including access to healthcare and nutrition, quality education, child protection, and disaster preparedness. Vanessa proposed solutions to address these issues comprehensively and systematically, stressing the need for well-trained teachers, sufficient learning materials, safe learning environments, and measures to protect children from abuse and exploitation. She concluded by calling for collective effort and guided by Nelson Mandela's belief that children are the greatest treasure, and every child deserves the right to survival.

Child Rights Discussion and Conference

Vanessa started the discussion by stating that child rights are a reality, not just a concept. shehwar led the discussion, organized by the International Association, which focused on four aspects of child rights: participation, development, protection, and survival. Miriam emphasized the need for international conversations to share knowledge and actionable steps beyond discussions. Pramoda gained insights into children's legal rights and pledged to apply this understanding as a teacher and mother. Farzana highlighted the importance of education in nurturing talents, especially for underprivileged children. Sujani urged educators to view all children as their own and protect their rights. Vanessa expressed gratitude for the valuable knowledge gained and looked forward to future sessions. shehwar concluded by inviting teachers worldwide to the upcoming international conference in New Delhi, India.

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