

A Report on a Weekly Writing Workshop – “FLAIR- 2016” at V.V.P. Engineering College,
Rajkot.

V.V.P Engineering College, Rajkot has always been a step ahead in the welfare of the students and the staff members. It does not limit itself to material returns like scholarships of various kinds and remuneration only, but it is also worried for the overall development of its stakeholders like students and faculties. This unique approach of V.V.P Engineering College, makes it one of the best colleges of Gujarat, India.

The faculties of any college are its identity and its asset. VVP, being fully aware of it, is concerned about the filling the lacunae if any, in the skills of the faculties. Keeping this in view, the department of Humanities has started a weekly writing workshop – “FLAIR 2016” to strengthen the written and communicative skills of the faculties. As we all know, the art of English speaking is little different from writing skills in English and we all require correct written communication in various fields, be it paper publication, commercial or technical communication, correspondence within and outside campus, we need to be very exact in our written expressions.

To overcome the barriers of written communication in English, under the guidance of the management of the college and the Principal Dr. Sachin Parikh, two faculties of English, Dr. Urja Mankad (Assistant Professor) and Dr. D. B. Rathod (Ad-hoc lecturer) have taken initiative and started conducting weekly writing workshop wherein exceptional rules of grammar, technicalities of writing, letters, applications of various types, forwarding letters and research articles are to be discussed. The workshop will run throughout the semester, with a fixed schedule on every Monday from 2 pm to 3 pm. The first session, on 29th August, 2016, was conducted by Dr.Urja Mankad and some basics of grammar were discussed with their functions. In later sessions, some practical writing like application for leave, application for loan, submitting various reports and proposals will also be discussed and practiced during this workshop. This approach was much appreciated by all the faculties, as the workshop does not aim at teaching the faculties but to rectify the common errors and make them independent and confident users of English. The college firmly believes that such formal discussion and writing practice will certainly add edge and flair to the writing skills of the faculties which will eventually help the students to get their placements as they have learnt from the faculties who are not only technically expert but also exact in their writing skills.

We have also started peer group English learning programme for the students under which the group of 5-7 students, irrespective of department and semester is prepared, which is led by an English medium students. The students have been given the topics of grammar and spoken practices which the leader will take care that they perform during their labs and lectures whenever time permits even if for 15-20 minutes a week. Every 15 days, their follow-up is taken by the faculties and they observe how much work is done by the

students. This helps students to be confident users as they don't feel conscious with their peer group, as compared to their teachers or elders.

Thus, two parallel drives have been started by VVP Engineering College, one for students and another for faculties, which will obviously bear its fruits making the students more employable and faculties more skillful and irreplaceable.