

## **8<sup>th</sup> National Conference at ELTIS-SIFIL, Pune**

The English Language Teaching Institute of Symbiosis (ELTIS) and Symbiosis Institute of Foreign and Indian Languages (SIFIL) held their eighth National Conference on February 9 & 10, 2018.

The theme of the conference was "Empowering Students of *Bharat* with English for Career Development". This was a two day programme consisting of plenary sessions, a symposium, workshops, paper presentations and a panel discussion.

The event brought together 109 participants from 28 cities and 11 states.

The sessions mainly focused on the creative use of limited resources, and how to effectively adapt to the evolving needs of the rural area. The significance of changing text books, evaluation systems was also highlighted.

The symposium titled "*Desi Tadka to the Native Speaker's Sandwich: The Role of L-1 in Teaching English in Bharat*" was a lively session. It agreed upon cautious usage of 'Mother Tongue' to support students' understanding of the target language. Expert speakers opined about scaffolding as an essential element of effective teaching. They explained that such scaffolding is often necessary to bridge the learning gaps.

Plenary sessions threw light on the facets of global English and the need for alignment of pedagogical activities and instructional materials with learner's immediate local environment. English language teaching must be viewed from a larger frame of socio-cultural, politico-economic perspective so that the teaching learning process crosses the threshold of the classroom into the world of reality.

The interactive parallel workshops helped the teacher fraternity to practise real-life teaching skills.

The paper presentations were based on many areas of concern, and offered a variety of solutions to enable teachers to empower and prepare the students of rural India for their career development. The presentations touched upon the assessment patterns, technology and the dire need of training for teachers of English.

The panel discussion summed up the vital outcomes of these two days. The Panelists focused on how teachers should equip themselves to upgrade students for career development.

The Director of ELTIS-SIFIL concluded the conference stating that students could be nurtured to respect their mother tongues, their state language around them, their official link language and also English. The vital question is how we as teachers would equip them with English language skills and soft skills despite some adverse factors.

The Director thanked the Conceptual Co-sponsors, Advisory Board members, and Jury members, and also all presenters, delegates and colleagues.