

# TRAILBLAZERS SESSION

Traiblazers was established in 1194 as a private Ltd company making it the first privately runs enterprise doing pro-active environment education in India. It is an organization committed to increasing environmental consciousness through its various divisions. Their mission is "to provide experiences that will bring about learning for life." DOW Chemical International, India came up with the award winning annual project –Multiply the Message- Teacher Training Workshop is conceived, conceptualized and executed by Trailblazers for DOW, India.

We started our journey on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 5:30am on a Dadar bound train to meet some people of the organizers who had organized a bus for us to take us to Karnala to the woods Resort for the workshop. We were joined by student teachers from other colleges as well. It was a day programme.

We were 32 student teachers including 2 of our professors who accompanied us. The programme was based on Focus on environment climate change. On reaching the venue we were served breakfast and then were asked to assemble in the conference hall where we were given a folder with details of Trailblazers and basic stationary.

We were then given a briefing about DOW and Trailblazers. Mr Biswas introduced us to the team of Trailblazers. There was an inaugural speech addressed by Mrs Shetty, Principal of Gopi Birla School, who enlightened us about what do schools look out for in a teacher. This was followed by Mr. Sachin the Programme Coordinator who briefed us about the day's session and follow up procedures. Mr. Rajan Biswas addressed us about the workshops Trailblazers conducts.

We then had a group photo before the days activities could begin followed by a quick tea break. The whole group was divided into 3 groups and each group played different games and activities related to the ecosystem and environment. The games were Food chain and Pyramid Game, Web of Life and Carbon Game. The Food chain and Pyramid Game was fun as we were all made into different sections of the pyramid consisting of the grasshopper (insects), frogs, snakes, eagles. It is a fun way to teach students the importance of each part of the pyramid. The grasshopper being the largest relies on the grass the frog in turn runs to the grasshopper, which is their food, the snake slithers to catch the frog as its meal and the eagle eyes the snake as its meal. This is done by making the participants hop as frogs, walk in zig zag steps like a snake and fly like an eagle in order to catch their prey. In this game we learnt how the balance of the ecosystem is important.

In the Web of Life game we were mad to sit in pairs 1 behind the other and were given flash cards, which the one sitting in front had to hang around the neck. The cards were pictures of insects like ants, spiders some had earthworms, air, forest, sun, plastic, cheetah etc and each had to link their card with another by a yarn that each holds as they link giving a reason how is it linked and the link could not be repeated. Hence when each one of us was done a web was formed which kept each other connected and together and if one is lost how the web is affected.