

## **Moving from a Teacher-Centered to a Student-Centered Classroom by Madhumita Subramanian and Sanaya Bharucha, Teach for India.**

'Our children will grow up and will be asked questions.' How does one encourage children to take ownership of their own learning and progress? This was the key question that was being tackled in Madhumita and Sanaya's session. They began with a chant that worked as an energizer. I was told that energizers work like a charm in their classroom. The children feel integrated and invested in the culture of the class. Moving on, the participants were given an example of a sapling. It needs fundamental things like sun, water, air and light to grow. But we should, after all that, leave it alone to grow. Similarly, a child needs to be guided and provided with fundamentals and then provide him with space to grow and develop on its own.

There are 2 branches of a student centric class.

- 1) Student focus
  - a) Differentiation - The word itself means that we divide the class into varied homogenous groups.
  - b) Learning centers - To have various stations across the classroom
  - c) Parallel teaching - Both the teachers teaching the same topic in the class but at different levels.
  
- 2) Student led
  - a) Co-ownership - In this process, the teacher is a co-learner with the children. She guides them and at the same let them take some ownership.
  - b) Complete ownership - This develops a sense of urgency in the classroom and works a reformatory measure.

The speakers modeled these processes and the participants gained experience by using one of the systems to teach in a mock classroom situation. In all, we came out knowing a little more about how we can reach out to every kid so that they learn and grow with a sense of ownership.