

## **Setting a Vision and Big Goal for Your Classroom by Eric Scroggins, President of Growth Strategy and Development, Teach for America**

"Having a big goal and vision for your classroom and evaluating them periodically helps motivate your children and also keeps you motivated," said Eric Scroggins, Executive Vice President of Growth Strategy and Development of Teach for America as he addressed an audience of 30 in the session on setting big goals and vision for your classroom.

The participants listened in rapt attention as he spoke about making academic goals meaningful to students in the real life context as it helps them understand why they learn what they learn and how much higher they can go if they just put in the required amount of hard work "It is important to connect the goal and vision to what is meaningful to the students," he said. With the help of videos of Teach for America fellows who had revolutionised their classrooms with their big goals and vision for their children Eric held the audience's attention as he told them how having a big goal which is both bold and measurable is the key to transformation in class rooms.

"Transformational teachers are those that have a strong vision and a bold goal and push their children to achieve their potential," he said. He also added that it was important to make connections between what is happening inside and outside of classrooms. He also used the *think-pair-share* strategy with the participants asking them to reflect on their years of teaching, pair with another teacher and share their ideas about how they thought having a clear vision for your students and a big goal would have a long lasting positive impact on the students.

"It is also important for you as a teacher to understand why you are doing what you are doing because if you don't have that clarity it's difficult for your students to understand the same," he said. Showing videos of Justin Meli, a teach for America corps member and using his example Eric said that it was important to create excitement around the big goal and vision, get the children interested and have a sense of collective responsibility in the class with regards to the vision and big goal. "You need to have belief in yourself. And it is possible for teachers with completely varying personalities to motivate their students if they themselves have the belief and motivation," he said.

The participants felt that they now had more clarity about the goals and visions they wanted to set for their children and felt inspired to try new things in their class after his talk. "I am inspired and I can't wait to go to class and inspire my students," said a participant.

-Revathi Ramanan

-Sindhu Ankisettipalle