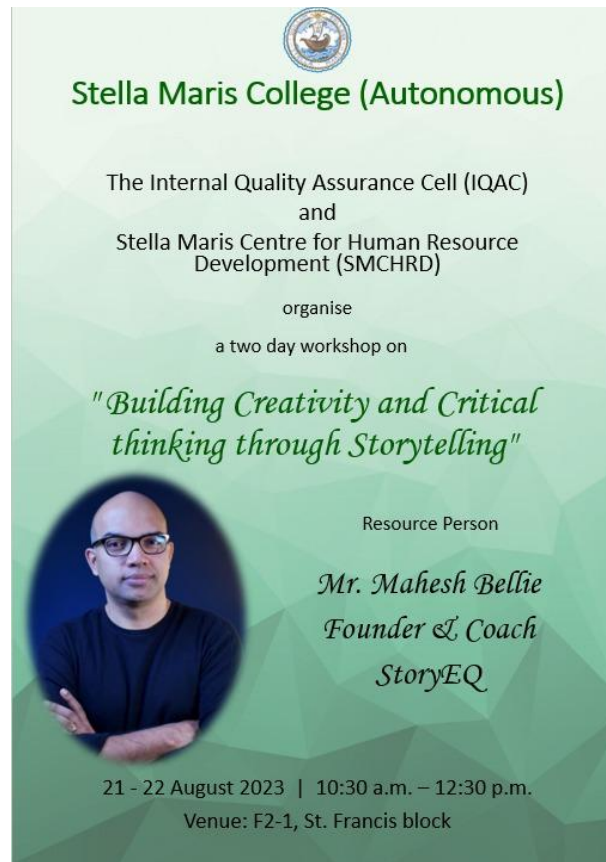**Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai**
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Stella Maris College Human Resource Development (SMCHRD)

A Two-Day Workshop on Building Creativity and Critical Thinking through Storytelling
21 & 22 August 2023
Report

A workshop on "Building Creativity and Critical Thinking Through Business Storytelling" was organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Stella Maris College Human Resource Development (SMCHRD), Stella Maris College. (Autonomous), Chennai on 21st and 22nd August 2023 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. The event took place in Room F 2-1, St. Francis Block for 38 faculty members of Shift I and 74 faculty members of Shift II across departments.

Workshop Invite

The event began with a prayer by Dr. Renuka Devi S V, IQAC Core Member, Asst. Professor, Department of BBA, Stella Maris College. Dr. Rebecca Devaprasad, IQAC Coordinator gave a prelude to the workshop and introduced the resource person, Mr. Mahesh Bellie, Founder & Coach, StoryEQ.

On Dias L to R: Dr. Rebecca Devaprasad, IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Hima Bindu, Director, SMCHRD and the resource person, Mr. Mahesh Bellie. Dr. Renuka Devi S V, IQAC Core Member leading the prayer.

Day 1

Mr. Mahesh began the session by sharing his experience of how he came up with the idea of storytelling and started Storytelling EQ. He focussed on the idea that storytelling has made a great impact to the students in learning and remembering in the form of stories since ancient times and how it could be adopted in the present times by using presentation in story formats.

Storytelling can happen in various ways by using different types of stories namely, personal, fiction, scientific, business and others. Mr. Mahesh emphasised the concept of Business Storytelling by how a fundamental aspect in business can be converted into a story and how it can move people depicting emotion, empathy etc. through stories.

He engaged the faculty through video based activities to help discover the structure of a story. He asked the faculty to write a story in 3 lines about the video clipping presented to them. It was challenging and interesting and also triggered their creativity to present ideas in a short and crisp manner through stories.

Participants During Day 1

The activity taught how people's attention can be captured through storytelling in the quickest way, keeping it simple, tight and with emotions. To discover the structure of the story he suggested that every story is '**nested**' in a **Situation**, an inherent **Resistance** '**hinders**' the further development and a '**conscious effort**' is made to **Resolve** it which means every structure must have a S-C-R (Situation-Complication -Resolution).

Day 2

The session was continued on how important Resolution is to a problem and individuals need to put tremendous effort to derive at the resolutions especially when teaching the students.

Mr. Mahesh suggested the various methods of practicing storytelling in the classrooms to make the lectures interesting and interactive. He quoted a case study example which he experienced as a student, the idea of identifying multiple problems for the same case as well as multiple solutions.

He summed up the session sharing the structure of storytelling using the bloom's taxonomy which could be implemented by the professors while preparing lectures/presentations.

Participants During Day 2

Finally a few teachers shared their views and ideas as to how challenging it would be to put storytelling in everyday presentations. Some faculty from the social sciences felt that storytelling could be implemented in their classrooms.

Group Picture of all participants with the resource person, Mr. Mahesh Bellie

A group photograph was taken and the session was concluded after feedback was received from all participants. Click this link to watch a short video on the session by StoryEQ.