

Dear Principal/Teachers,

I am Rajashree Srinivasan, faculty member at the School of Education, Azim Premji University. I coordinate a Project titled TeachTE, which aims to contribute to teacher education through research, professional development programmes and development of learning materials for teacher education. As a part of this Project, we are inviting reflective articles from school teachers on the theme - '*Daily Dilemmas of Teachers*'.

It is common knowledge that teachers have to make innumerable decisions in the everyday life at schools with regard to school practices, policies, curriculum, pedagogy, assessments and physical conditions of the school. These decisions emerge in teachers' relationships with children, colleagues, principal, management, community, non-teaching staff and parents, among others. It requires teachers to engage in deliberative, purposeful responses and actions in every situation. Sometimes there is no one 'right answer' to the complex everyday situation that teachers face and they need to make difficult ethical choices. Dilemmas are thus inherent to the profession of teaching and throughout the professional lifework as a teacher, one encounters dilemmas.

Dilemma is a situation of making choices; situations in which a choice is to be made between conflicting expectations, competing values or two courses of action. For example, the classic dilemma of assessing students for performance or for efforts. Dilemma is not a difficulty or a problem that may be 'solved'. In a dilemma situation, there are alternatives created and the act of choosing one will have both advantages and disadvantages. Sometimes neither options are favourable. Some residues from making the choices may leave us with some discomfort and doubt. We may learn to live with those choices. Yet, we go about thinking, reasoning, analyzing and acting in the light of the purpose, context and consequences that our responses to the situation may have. It is these processes of deliberation during dilemmas that provide teachers with insights about their teaching and helps them develop critical perspectives about their professional practice. It offers teachers reflective teaching moments to renew and reimagine their practices.

We invite school teachers to write a short article on any one dilemma that you have faced with children, colleagues, principal, administrators, parents, state government or private bodies associated with teaching or any other relevant participant of the school system. The purpose of this call for short articles on '*Daily Dilemmas of Teachers*' is two-fold:

1. It is to provide an opportunity for your professional development, as this exercise will provide you a context to put down your beliefs, practices, reflections and experiences.
2. Your sharing of experiences as teachers reflects ground realities of classrooms and would be a rich source of learning materials for use in in-service teacher development programmes, teacher preparation programmes, M.A Education programmes and for other

educational practitioners. The Azim Premji University will publish the collation of articles as a book.

We invite you to join this reflective journey and share your learnings and experiences with us. Please refer to Annexure-1 for all details, including the format for writing the article.

For any clarification, please write to us at [teachte@apu.edu.in](mailto:teachte@apu.edu.in) OR contact Md Hasan Mondal, Research Associate, Project TeachTE, School of Education, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. Contact No. 7895091685.

Thank you!

With regards

Rajashree Srinivasan

Professor

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**Call for Articles (CfA)**

**Daily Dilemmas of Teachers**

**Details**

1. The word length of the article should be 900-1200 words.
2. The article must follow the attached format to the extent possible.
3. An article can have a maximum of three teachers as authors.
4. Teachers from government, private, government-aided and international schools, currently teaching across stages of schooling - pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary school - are eligible to write. Educators in special schools/learning centres are also encouraged to write about their dilemmas.
5. The write-ups may be in English or any Indian language.
6. The articles will go through a review process. The authors of the selected articles will be invited for a conference to the University to present the article.
7. There is no monetary remuneration for writing this article.
8. The output is a book. All authors will receive a hard copy of the book.
9. Teachers can write as individuals. The articles will carry the name(s) of the teachers(s). You may take necessary permissions from your school, if you wish to include the name of the school and sign a consent form. Teachers coming through the schools will also have to sign consent forms. Teachers who wish to share their dilemmas but do not want details of their identity revealed in the final publication are also encouraged to write.
10. This call for articles is also open to fellows of various Foundations, who have engaged in regular school teaching for at least two years continuously during the period 2017 until now. Alumni of Azim Premji University who have engaged in regular school teaching continuously for at least two years from 2017 to now can send their entries.
11. This call for articles is not open to teachers helping with home tuitions, home schooling and coaching centres.
12. The last date for receiving the article is March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Please send the completed article to the following email address: [teachte@apu.edu.in](mailto:teachte@apu.edu.in)

**Format**

Teachers in schools face various kinds of dilemmas. Some of these include: paying attention to all students or to the needy ones; giving marks for performance or efforts; decisions that administrators make that can conflict with teachers; discriminatory behaviors of teachers towards their own peers or towards children; sharing student problems with parents; following centralized curriculum or respond to students' readiness levels; compassion versus equality; discipline in classrooms; practice of religious values; flexibility versus complying with school rules; structure

and autonomy in classrooms; liberal or society's/cultural values. This is not an exhaustive list. This has been provided only to give you a sense of what dilemma situations could mean. You may pick up one specific dilemma situation you have experienced as a school teacher.

The article could have the following format:

1. Title for the Dilemma:
2. Personal details/details about the settings/context:
  - i. Name:
  - ii. Gender:
  - iii. Type of School: Private/Government/Aided.
  - iv. Place: Give the name of the state, district, taluk/village
  - v. Classes that you teach:
  - vi. Subjects you teach:
  - vii. Number of children in the class(es) you teach:
  - viii. Years of teaching experience: Please specify the period
  - ix. Qualifications:
3. Identify one dilemma and describe the situation that caused the dilemma and specify the dilemma.
4. What were your competing/conflicting thoughts/values/expectations?
5. What action did you take?
6. What guided you to decide on the present action?
7. What were the other action(s) you considered to take at the time of the dilemma?
8. What were the reactions of others to your response/action(s)?