

**Xavier University Bhubaneswar**  
**University Dialogue Series (UDS)**

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**Date:** 14 June 2016

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Venue:** Class Room 12

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**The Heart of a Teacher**

**Speaker:**

**Prof. Snigdha Pattnaik**

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We begin the new academic year in a few days and it would be useful to reflect on what it means to be a teacher and what is good teaching. The discussion in the UDS will center around what being a teacher means and the way in which the personhood of a teacher impacts teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom. We will also spend some time on the skills and techniques that are helpful in creating a community of learners.



As teachers all of us bring our entire being and personhood into the classroom and our assumptions, beliefs and attitudes impact what happens in the classroom in ways that we may not even be aware of. Thus self-awareness is the first step towards good teaching.

The second is awareness of what I want to achieve in the class. Being clear about what is my real objective in a classroom – is it to help students learn, is it to showcase my own knowledge and prove that I know more than the student, is it to stay with the slowest student or to keep pace with the brightest. It is important to be clear about all of what do I really want as I walk into a classroom.

The third part is the skill and technique of teaching. This brings up the entire domain of classroom behaviour, presence, communication, teaching and learning styles and techniques, classroom issues and one can go on and keep listing more and more.



In the UDS I would like to spend time on each of these aspects and see what learning emerges from it for all of us.

**Key Words:** Teaching Excellence, Personhood, Teaching Skills, Classroom Issues.

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