

Teaching team spirit

A workshop for teachers to bring out the latent leadership qualities in them.

THAT EMPHASIS is laid on outdoor activities for students to benefit both healthwise and characterwise is well known. This kind of activity for teachers, in an effort to integrate them into the teaching environment and to keep them abreast of contemporary activities, is something that is now catching up.

Recently, the Indus International School organised a workshop for teachers to bring out the latent leadership qualities in them. It was organised at the scenic Cauvery Fishing Camp. Conducted by Ramesh Jasial, Director, Pastoral Care of the school, it was unique in many ways.

The workshop was conducted by an in-house resource person as it was felt that an outsider will not be able to achieve the desired bonding among the staff. Secondly, the challenge was to establish a rapport between the experienced staff and the freshers. Finally, through this adventure excursion, it hoped to build a trust in the freshers that they are accepted as they are.

States Selina Krishnan: "I am overwhelmed by the workshop. I feel absolutely integrated with the other staffers." For Anne Wilkin-



ALL SMILES: Teachers learning to unwind

son, it was a transforming experience.

The programme was structured to be informal to get the maximum bonding between staffers, while at the same time egging them to be uninhibited about their talent. For instance, to imbibe in them the idea of trust, a game called "trust fall" came in handy and then the teachers were to go through "bamboo tunnels" and the "rope challenge." While they were physically chal-

lenging to the teachers, the idea was to make them mentally stronger, take decisions to win and have fun at the same time. Water rafting and trekking added to teamwork.

The important points driven home at the workshop were: breaking inhibitions and barriers among team members; building trust through adventure activities; and effective communication amongst members.

"The challenge was to assimilate

the new teachers in the group and bring about homogeneity in their working. The newcomers came from varied backgrounds and it was natural for them to have a few apprehensions and a fear of being rejected by an already established group. But a carefully crafted approach by the older group members helped in removing such fears," added Col. Jasial.

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