

Appendix. Workshop Synopsis

The workshop took participants through an understanding of the relationship-rich concept and what we did as an RRLC (“relationship-rich learning community”). It also provided videos by Professors Peter Felten and Cathy Bovill that explained their books in a nutshell, and how their ideas could be applied. There was also an active learning section, where members of our LC shared their teaching interventions, and participants worked on interventions relevant to their own context. Finally, research projects based on the RRLC were introduced.

During the workshop, Dr. Naviyn Balakrishnan presented on the critical need for peer supporters as an intervention at RC4 to fill a gap in the relationship-rich environment at the College. He shared about the initial resistance he faced and how this was overcome with a College project that showed high levels of stress faced by residents—this validated the need for peer supporters. Dr. Navarun Varma spoke of his inclusion of RC4 alumni and seniors into his classroom so as to build the relationship bonds of current and past students, capitalising on the knowledge and experience of the latter. Colleagues who attended as workshop participants similarly addressed what they saw as gaps in their own contexts, such as the need for relational rather than transactional conversations with faculty, and more co-creation with students. They drew up interventions to meet these gaps, including having more fireside chats, focus group discussions, as well as going to class early in order to bond more with students.