

Report on Panel Discussion on the Preparedness of the Teacher Education in respect of Inclusive Education

on 28th August 2023

The Department of Education, Tezpur University conducted a one day panel discussion on “**Preparedness of the Teacher Education in respect of Inclusive Education**” on 28th August 2023 in Seminar Hall. The program started at about 3:45 pm and the welcome address was given by **Dr. Yeasmin Sultana**, the co-ordinator of the event. She welcomed all the dignitaries and the students and spoke a few lines about the theme of the discussion which was about Inclusive Education/Inclusive development. Further she talked about the objectives of the event which laid emphasis upon understanding diversity in the present situation; strategies to make classroom more inclusive and mentioned about diversity in classroom in terms of access, fairness, ethnicity, sexual orientation etc.



Mohammad Asif, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, was the moderator of the event. He welcomed the four panelists on the panel namely **Dr. Pratima Pallai**, **Dr. Shradhanjali Pradhan**, **Dr. Yeasmin Sultana** and **Dr. Sanghamitra Das**. They were felicitated by the students of the department from various UG, PG and PhD programs.



The first panelist, **Dr. Pratima Pallai**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, highlighted about some of the characteristics of a teacher, demands from a teacher according to NCF 2005. The main idea was to prepare the teacher along with the curriculum. According to NCFTE 2009, in order to improve the Teacher Education, we have to focus on the issues of Inclusive Education and e-learning. She highlighted that Inclusive Education was a practice where all children are provided equal chance to go to school. She further talked about the SEDGs (Socio-Economic Disadvantage Groups) and the need to include all children and identify barriers to inclusive

education. She concluded her speech with the idea that the teacher should be culturally aware, collaboratively involved, empathetic, address biases and technologically equipped to address Inclusion in classroom.



Dr. Shradhanjali Pradhan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, was the next on the dais to deliver her talk. Her speech revolved around the topics Teacher Education, Inclusive Education and Science Education. She talked about NCF 2005 and its guidelines and ideologies to shape the Indian Education system. She further put forward some of the recommendations about science education and inclusiveness in science education. She further highlighted about NEP 1968, POA 1992 which encourages science education .Further she talked about NEP 2020 which says that there is no distinction between Arts and Science subjects, which would result in holistic multidisciplinary approach. Further she mentioned about some of the points which were overlooked by NEP 2020 such as rural technology, yoga, medicine, indigenous science knowledge etc. She concluded her speech by highlighting the need for gender responsive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses.



Dr. Yeasmin Sultana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, focused on the means to cater to the needs of inclusive education in the practical field. She highlighted the importance of identification, proper labeling, curriculum adaptation, etc. Dr. Sultana further stated the importance of collaboration, teamwork & active engagement as the fuel for inclusive education for the empowerment of the knowledge, abilities & skills of the much needed individuals making them independent to the best possible extent.



The last panelist for the day **Dr. Sanghamitra Das**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, addressed the topic, through exclusion on the basis of gender, highlighting the interconnectedness of inclusion & exclusion. She emphasized on the 'who, why & how' dimensions of exclusion in detail. She highly stressed on the need to mitigate structural inequalities in institutions, gender digital divide, school related gender-based violence, social taboos & so on. Dr. Das stated the high importance of the role of teachers, an integrated curriculum, gender-responsive education, etc. to promote gender equality in education through education.



The program came to an end with the concluding remarks of the co-ordinator of the event **Dr. Yeasmin Sultana** and the vote of thanks was given by the moderator of the event **Mohammad Asif**. The program ended successfully at about 5:30 pm.



