

A Report on Refresher Course in Cultural Studies (interdisciplinary)

2-22 January, 2017

Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) jointly with Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University organized a 21 day Refresher Course (RC) in Cultural Studies (interdisciplinary) from 2-22 January, 2017. On 2nd January, a short but meaningful inaugural ceremony was organized where Prof. Amarjyoti Chaudhury, former PVC of Tezpur University, an educationist as well an accomplished litterateur and cultural activist attended as Chief Guest. He delivered an inspiring thought provoking address delineating the purpose of such refresher course and the duties of a teacher. The Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University Prof. M. K. Chaudhuri inaugurated the programme delivering a short but inspiring speech. Prof. D. P. Nath, Head, Department of Cultural Studies gave the welcome address and Prof. P. K. Das, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Science and Director, TLC spoke a few words on the occasion. Prof. S. K. Dutta, Coordinator, offered the customary vote-of thanks.

The regular classes were started immediately after the inaugural session. Every day two classes were held before lunch and two classes held after lunch including library work and presentation from the participants. The detail of the session of the programme has given in each day.

Day 1 (02/01/2017): Prof. Amarjyoti Chaudhury, Former VC, GU & Former PVC, TU delivered his speech on “Intersection of Science and humanities: Towards a new paradigm of knowledge”. In the next session Prof. P. K. Das, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, TU gave his speech on “History of Print Media in Assam”. In the last session, Prof. D. P. Nath, Department of Cultural Studies, TU delivered on “Cultural Studies in India”.

Day 2 (03/01/2017): Dr. Bhuban Baruah, Principal, Tezpur Law College spoke on Human Rights. Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University gave his valuable speech on “Ethnic Politics” and “Autonomy and Conflict and Peace Resolution”. In another session Prof. Abani Bhagabati, Department of Geography, Tezpur University talked on “Human Geography”.

Day 3 (4/1/2017): Prof. Akhil Ranjan Dutta, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University delivered his talk on “Society at globalization” and “Human Security in North East India”. Dr.

Apurba Das, Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur University discussed on “Socio environmental issues”.

Day 4 (5/1/2017): Prof. Apurba Baruah, Retd. Professor, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong delivered his speech on “Middle Class Hegemony”. Prof. Archana Sarma, Department of Economics, Gauhati University discussed on “Feminism”.

Day 5 (6/1/2017): Prof. Mrinmoy Sarma, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University delivered on “Research Methodology”.

Day 6 (7/1/2017): Prof. Mrinmoy Sarma, Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur University has taken a session on SPSS, how to use SPSS in different areas of social sciences. In the next session of the day Prof. Bolin Kr Konwar, Department of MBBT, Tezpur University discussed on “Higher education and North East India” and various aspects of “Research Ethics” was discussed by Prof. Ramesh Deka, Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University.

Day 8 (9/1/2017): First session has taken by Prof. Ramesh Deka, Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University on “Scientific Temper”. Prof. Shyamanta Moni Hazarika, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Tezpur University delivered his speech on “Grading System”. In another session Prof. Prasenjit Biswas, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong discussed on “Philosophy and Culture and Ethnic World view”.

Day 9 (10/1/2017): Prof. Ramesh Borpatra Gohaim, Dean, School of Law, Gauhati University delivered his speech on “Indian Constitution and Legal, Awareness” and “Human Rights” in two different sessions.

Day 10 (11/1/2017): Prof. Robin Dutta, Department of Chemical science, Tezpur University share his opinion on “Preparation of manuscript and its conservation”. In the last two sessions of the day Dr. Nani Bath, Rajib Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh shared his views on “North East Politics” and “Refugee issue in Arunachal Pradesh”.

Day 11 (12/1/2017): Dr. Rajib Handique, Department of History, Gauhati University delivered his talk on “Environmental History”. In an another session Prof. K. C. Boral, Pro-VC, EFLU, Hyderabad delivered his speech on “Ethnic/ Tribal Literature”.

Day 12 (13/1/2017): On day twelve Prof. K. C. Boral share his views on “Cultural memory”.

Day 13 (14/1/2017): Arupjyoti Saikia, Department of Humanities and Social sciences, from Indian Institute Technology, Guwahati delivered a talk on “Environment and Culture”. In an another session Prof. Utpal Sarma, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Tezpur University discussed on “UNICODE”. Last session of the day has given as Library work for the participants.

Day 15 (16/1/2017): Prof. S. S. Sarkar, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University delivered his speech in two sessions, one session on “GST” and another one on “Demonetization”. In the last session of the day Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University shared his ideas and opinion on “Interdisciplinarity in Sankara Dev Studies”.

Day 16 (17/1/2017): Prof. K. P. Sarma, Department of Environmental Science, Tezpur University delivered a speech on “Environment and Pollution”.

Day 17 (18/1/2017): In the first two sessions Prof. Sucheta Chaudhury, Dean, School of Cultural Studies, Jharkhand University discussed on “Feminist Methodology” and “Indigenous Cultural Studies”. In the last two sessions if the day participants presented their group presentation.

Day 18 (19/1/2017): Prof. Mihir Bhattacharjee, Retired Professor of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata delivered his speech on “Cultural Studies -An Introduction”. Post-lunch sessions have given for participant’s presentation.

Day 19 (20/1/2017): In the first session Prof. Mihir Bhattacharjee discussed on “Caste, Class, Nation” and in another session he shared his opinion and experiences on “Politics of censorship”. Dr. Anjali Doimary, Department of English, Gauhati University delivered her speech on “Cultural Theory” in two sessions.

Day 20 (21/1/2017): In the first two sessions Prof. Asha Kothari, Department of English, Gauhati University shared and discussed her experience on “Gender Studies”. In an another session Prof. P. Ganguli, IPR Chair Professor, Tezpur University delivered his speech on “IPR”.

Day 21: On the last day, i.e. 22nd January, a short valedictory function was. arranged where the certificates were distributed.

It is to be mentioned here that experts were drawn from disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering, Law, Psychology and even from Army so that the participants

were exposed to a varied type disciplines as the theme of the refresher course was interdisciplinary in nature.

Towards the end of the course, a few periods were dedicated for presentation by the participants on a topic chosen by themselves. The presentations were group presentation consisting of three participants and as such there were six groups. A Professor was there to oversee the presentations and he evaluated their presentation. Depending on his evaluation and the participants' overall performance during the entire course, grades were awarded to the participants according to the UGC norms. A short field trip was arranged in and around Tezpur under the guidance of the Assistant Coordinator to give the participants hands-on experience on matters related to social sciences. During the course, such topics for the lectures were selected so that the mandatory topics designed by the UGC for such RC were covered.

There was provision for taking feedback on the performance of the resource persons and the feedbacks were quite encouraging from which it was understood the participants enjoyed the classes. All the resource persons made their classes interactive; the participants not only put questions but involved in placing their own thoughts and analysis on the topic discussed. A total of 18 (Eighteen) participants from various disciplines namely Sociology, English, History, Education, Cultural Studies, Political Science and Commerce attended the RC. Among them, five were from Tezpur University, four from Dibrugarh University, six from Arunachal University, one each from Assam Women University, Jorhat and KBVS & AS University, Nalbari, and one from Gauhati University.