

Report on National Seminar on Issues and Challenges in Higher Education

21st – 23rd November, 2016

A three-day National Seminar on “Issues and Challenges in Higher Education” was organized by Teaching Learning Centre (TLC), Tezpur University, Tezpur. Higher education is extremely diverse and the challenges and issues faced by higher education institutions are found to be very crucial and multifaceted in the present scenario. Issues such as access, equity, inclusion, quality of research, privatization and financing etc. are integrally related with higher education. On the other hand, basic problems such as inadequate infrastructural facilities, less number of faculty, low enrolment rate, outdated teaching methods, declining research standards, low level of motivation among students, ethnic imbalances, gender bias, students drop out etc. persist in higher education. Besides, some other leading challenges such as continuous upgrading of curriculum, globalization, mushroom growth of private institutions, scarcity of fund to meet the demand of various novel programmes etc. has large impact on our higher education. Therefore, an attempt was made in this Seminar to arrive at a reasonable solution of the issues and challenges in higher education in India in general and



Assam in particular. The seminar started with the inaugural programme graced by honourable Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Manabendra Bhuyan along with keynote speaker Prof. Krishna Kumar, Central Institute of Education, Delhi University.



The session start with welcome address by Prof. Prasanta K. Das, Director, TLC. Prof. Das welcomed all the dignitaries, presenters and all present in the programme with a brief introduction of the Centre, different activities of the Centre and about the keynote speaker Prof. Krishna Kumar.



Followed that felicitation of the guests by Dr. Anjali Sharma, Convener of the Seminar and lightening of the lamp by the distinguished guests.

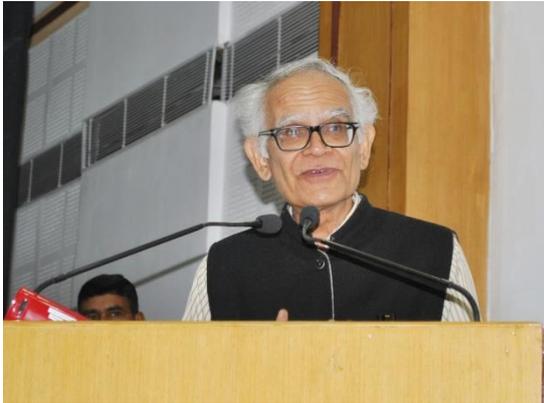


The inaugural speech was delivered by honorable Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri. He mentioned that the present education scenario is quite disturbing. He appreciated the seminar theme on challenges of higher education. He also mentioned about scenario of government



educational institutions in present days and some of important figures related to implementation of various government schemes and policy in the field of education. He stressed the quantity and quality of entire education system. Following this, the concept note of the national seminar was presented by Dr.

Anjali Sharma, Head, Department of Education, convener of the Seminar. Prof. Krishna Kumar delivered the keynote



speech pointing out the earlier generation of planners and educators, different functions of universities, assessment of the university system and finally how this assessment is justified. The inaugural programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Swapnarani Bora, Assistant Professor, TLC.

Following the inaugural session there was a plenary session chaired by Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. In the session speakers were Dr. Latika Gupta, Assistant Professor, Central Institute of Education, Delhi University and Prof. Amitava Mitra, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.



Dr. Latika Gupta delivered her talk on “Teacher Education: Marginalized field of Higher Education”. The speaker focused on delinking of higher education from grassroots level. Prof. Mitra delivered his talk on “Promotion of Higher Education: A Catalyst for growth of an Economy”.





These speeches were followed by question, discussion and view points of the participants and speakers.



In the post lunch sessions participants presented their paper in two academic sessions. In academic session one chaired by Dr. Latika Gupta presenters are Anupama Neog, Dr. R.D. Padmavathy, Ishmirekha Handique Konwar, Dr. Reshma K. Tiwari and Dr. Jasojit Debnath. In



academic session two chaired by Prof. Madan M. Sarma, Dept of English and Foreign Languages, presenters were Sujata Borthakur, Ratna Das, Ankur Kumar, Saket Bharadwaj, Dr. Yeasmin Sultana and Dr. Arup Roy.

Second day of the seminar started with an invited talk by Dr. Barbara Snook, Professional Teaching Fellow, University of Auckland, New Zealand on “An Examination of the Future of Arts Education in Schools and Higher Education Institutes”. The session was chaired by Prof.



Pradip Jyoti Mahanta. The speaker delivered the lecture with some activities of art education. She mentioned the importance of Art Education and how it started in Australia and New Zealand.



Following that 3rd academic session was chaired by Dr. Nil Ratan Roy, Associate Professor, Department of education, and the presenters are Shyamali Baruah, Nilima Tirkey, Jyoti Rupa Deka, Mubeen Khan, Nitin Dwivedi and Kaveri Bhattacharya.

Academic session four was chaired by Prof. Prasanta K. Das, Director, TLC, and presenters are Neema Chaurasiya, Cherla Raja Mouli, Moon Moon Das, Rajit Changmai, Dimpee Sharma and Bhanu Poudel and Mohammad Asif.



Last academic session (session five) of 2nd day was chaired by Prof. C. R. Mouli, Dr. B. R.

Ambedkar Open University, Telangana and presenters are Sradhanjali Pradhan, Rajinder Singh, Tarangini Das, Santosh Subba and Nabin Manger.

Last day of the seminar started with an invited talk by Rita Banerji, Project Director, Green Hub (NEN-DFP), Tezpur, on “Conservation Stories and Video as a Tool In Environment



Education” and the session was chaired by Dr. Anjali Sharma. The speaker mentioned the importance of environmental education in higher education and its impact on our society. She also highlighted the initiatives taken by her project with the help the team members.

In the 6th academic session chaired by Dr. Nil Ratan Roy, presenters are Bhaswati Bora, Dibyangona Bora and Masum Hazarika.



The post lunch session started with an invited talk by Prof. Santosh K. Panda, former Chairman of the National Council for Teacher Education, currently Professor at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, on “Indian Higher Education and Continuing Professional Development”. This was followed by valedictory function.





Certificates were distributed by the guests. The programme was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Yeasmin Sultana, Co-convener of the Seminar.