CAMPUS NEWS

NAAC Sponsored National Webinar on Digital Transformation in Higher Education

A two-day NAAC Sponsored National Webinar on 'Digital Transformation in Higher Education during COVID-19 Pandemic' was organized by the Yogoda Satsanga Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Palpara, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. Mrs Srimoyee Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of English invited the delegates, invitees and participants for their participation in the event. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mishra, Principal of the Institution extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants of the Webinar. Dr Tusharkanti Mandal, Head, Department of Economics and Member, IQAC delivered the concept note on the theme of the Webinar. Prof. Madhumangal Pal, Director, IQAC of Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal inaugurated the Webinar and released the Souvenir of the Webinar. In his inaugural address, he clarified the Digitalisation of Higher Education by focusing on the blended learning approach, development of teaching skills and competencies for the learners and teachers and promotion of independent study for every learner. Besides, he highlighted the facilities available for the use of unlimited learning resources, and multimedia access to education through the online channels introduced by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. He also emphasised the limitations of the Digitalisation of Higher Education in India such as the non-availability of internet connection, non-availability of technologies for socially and economically deprived students, the need for training and orientation for the teachers on the uses of technological aids and appliances, the cost-effectiveness of the digital devices, need of digital classrooms, e-learning as a cause of social isolation, etc. In his concluding remarks, he visualised the paradigm shift from Traditional Teaching-learning Process to Digital Teaching Learning Process. Dr Aniruddha Sinha Coordinator, IQAC and Organizing Secretary extended the vote of thanks in the Inaugural Session of the Webinar.

During Technical Session, Prof. Siba Prasad Adhikary, Former Vice Chancellor, Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, Odisha presented his deliberation on the 'Transformation in Higher Education through ICT & Skill: How to Achieve in India?' In his presentation as a Keynote Speaker, he emphasised on the forces of change in the age of knowledge with a focus on ICT. He traced the Ancient Higher Education prevailed in Takhsila and Nalanda and how India proved as Swarna Prasu Bharatbarsha through the contribution of Indian Stalwarts like- Sir C V Raman, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Prof. Satendranath Bose, etc. in the field of Literature, Science and Humanities. He focused on the role of the Universities in core and periphery perspectives by making a comparison between India and European Countries with reference to Higher Education. To him, there is a significant role of ICT in Higher Education in bringing quality to the Indian Higher Education System. For this, stress should be given to Quality Higher Education along with its quality parameters, value-added and need-based Subjects like Polytechnic, Vocational Training, Language Skill Training, Computer Training, etc. He also highlighted on work culture, research culture and quality culture to be institutionalised through action research leading to quality research.

Prof Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser (ICT), Eastern Region Coordinator, NAAC, Bengaluru delivered his talk on 'Assessment and Accreditation' as per the Revised Assessment Framework (RAF) which has been effective from July, 2017. In his presentation, he emphasised on Vision, Mission, and Value Framework of NAAC. He elaborated on the Assessment Procedure meant for the Universities, Autonomous Colleges, and Affiliated Colleges by focusing on the 7 Criteria, Key Indicators, both Quantitative and Qualitative Matrices and SSS data. In his presentation, he detailed the procedure of NAAC Assessment from the submission of AQARs, IIQA, SSR, and SSS data with indicating Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each Matrice (both qualitative and quantitative). He stressed the quality parameters like Seed Money for Teachers, Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights, number of Ph D awarded under a Teacher as the Research Supervisor, Social Responsibility Activities through Community Collaboration, MOU with Various Organisations or Agencies for doing different activities, integration of Library Management System, Alumni Engagement through the formation of a registered Alumni Association in doing different activities for the Institution, Faculty Empowerment

Strategies, Yearly Performance Appraisal Report for both the Teaching and Non-teaching Staff, Internal and External Audits, Quality Audits, Human Values and Professional Ethics, etc.

Dr. Swapan Kumar Misra, Principal, Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya, Mugberia, East Midnapore, West Bengal presented his lecture on 'Digitalisation of Higher Education in Rural Colleges: Problems and Prospects'. In his presentation, he shared his views on several problems that have been faced by the teachers and students of rural India, like poor internet connectivity, financial charges of internet connectivity that have to be borne by the poor students' families, online examination procedure, particularly malpractices done during examination process etc. He suggested some measures for the improvement of the present digital or e-learning process, especially emphasising the blended mode of the teaching-learning process.

Prof. Ashutosh Biswal, Department of Education (CASE), Faculty of Education and Psychology, The M S University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujrat presented his talk on the Challenges of Digitalisation of Higher Education in India. He highlighted the need for trained faculty to manage the digitalisation of higher education, professional collaborations, different approaches to evaluation, the cost-effectiveness of higher education, data-based system, online learning, personalised learning and changing the vision of higher education in course of his discussion. 12 papers were presented by the Faculty Members, Research Scholars, and Students from different Colleges and Universities in the Indian States. The whole session was chaired by Prof. Sudarshan Mishra, Head, Department of Education, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha and Mrs Srimoyee Roy was the Rapporteur of the session.

Prof. Gouranga Charan Nanda, Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand delivered a talk on 'Digital Initiatives in Higher Education during COVID-19'. In his presentation, he shared his experience with the online teaching-learning process. According to him, the Online Examination System has paved the way for malpractice and manipulation for which there was a demand from students for online examinations. To him, online teaching would be meaningful if there is digital infrastructure, trained teachers, the availability of technological aids for the students, and smart classrooms. The system has to shift to the online teaching model. Therefore,

we have to accept the Blended Learning Approach to tackle the situation always. He has also focused on the Holistic Education stated by the NEP-2020 for which along with the offline mode the online means like MOOCs, SWAYAM Platforms for CPD of Teachers, DIKHA Platform of NCERT need to be supplemented. For this, the teachers have to upgrade their skills and competencies in Higher Education. He also emphasised the NAAC Accreditation of the HEIs adhering to Quality Enhancement in Education. Therefore, the HEIs have to update their Official Websites with adopting the Best Practices through the mobilisation of unlimited learning resources available online. He concluded his speech by saying the very statement that teachers and ICT will have to be the two faces of the same coin for the Digitalisation of Higher Education in India. 11 papers were presented by the Faculty Members, Research Scholars, Students from different Colleges and Universities of different Indian States. The session was chaired by Prof. Anil Kumar Mahapatra, Head, Department of Political Science, F M University, Balasore, Odisha and Prof. P K Mishra, Principal, Y S Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Palpara, East Midnapore. Mr Suman Kr. Dhar, State Aided College Teacher in English was the rapporteur of the session.

Dr Rupa Dasgupta, Principal, Debra Thana Sahid Khudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Debra, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal in her talk on 'Digital Tools in Teaching-learning Process' discussed the Basic Goals of Digital Teaching-learning Process. In this connection, she has focused on four factors such as— Availability, Connectivity, Techniques and Feasibility. She has mentioned different apps and tools, such as communication part, especially social media apps. She emphasised on learning management system, and database management system and discussed how these are important in the teaching-learning process. Besides, she mentioned different teaching platforms like, google meet, zoom platform, Webex, Teachmint and also the problems related to the enrolment of a large number of students in google meet etc. According to her, the way out of this problem is the Teachmint App. Mentioned Resource sharing and Institutional Repository. Lastly, she highlighted the importance of Virtual Lab. Dr Jyoti Sankar Pradhan, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Education, Fakir Mohan University, Vyasa Vihar, Balasore, Odisha in his presentation on, 'Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in India' views that the academic atmosphere and the examination system have been severely affected during the said period. Around 32

crore students have been affected in India. However, the support services to the students for online learning like ZOOM, Google Meet Platform, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. acted as the devices for the online learning. In order to accelerate this online learning, the other means introduced by UGC and NCERT such as SWAYAM Platform, MOOCs, Swayam Prabha, DIKSHA, e-P. G. Pathasala, e-Adhyan, e-Gyankosh, e-Books, e-Contents, Shodhganga, Gyandarshan, Web radio, Vidwan, e-source Sindhu, Virtual Lab, etc. subsequently. To him, this COVID-19 Pandemic has both positive and negative sides to human learning. Thus, the time has come to focus on self-learning habits to be accelerated and enhanced through the use of the multiple online learning resources in which the organisation of Webinars or e-Conferences have been instrumental.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by the Principal of the Institution, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mishra who invited the Chief Guest to the online platform of the event. Dr Tusharkanti Mandal, Head, Department of Economics and Member, IQAC presented the Webinar Report covering all the activities done during the two days event. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mishra welcomed Prof. Aditya Prasad Padhi, Former Vice Chancellor, Berhampur University, Bhanja Vihar, Odisha and Member, Executive Committee, NAAC, Bengaluru as the Chief Guest of the session and highlighted his significant contribution to qualitative enhancement in higher education of India. In his address, he stated, "Change is the law of life". His advice was "Do not look at the past and present only rather focus on the future." With reference to the Digital Transformation of Higher Education in India, he highlighted the digital strategies for which emphasis should be given to the Vision and Mission of each Higher Education Institution (HEI) which is a long journey. For this, there is a need to change the organisational structure and organisational climate of the Institution as a continuous process for development. To him, profound changes have been evinced in the Teaching Methodologies adhering to the adoption of 60% Online and 40% offline learning approaches as per the UGC Circular. There is an urgency for a Changed Management Strategy, interaction with the stakeholders, and use of Appropriate Technology for need-based and quality higher education, he observed. To him, Human Centric Design or Strategy is essential to identify the human desires for development with a focus on Health and Education as the two fundamental sectors of Development for all times to come, he concluded.

Participants extended their valuable comments on the organisation of this Two-day National Webinar. Dr Aniruddha Sinha proposed the vote of thanks. In his speech, he extended his thankfulness to the Principal of the Institution for facilitating the IQAC and his profound gratitude to Swami Achyutananda, President and Mr Sital Chandra De, Secretary and DDO of the Governing Body along with its other Members. In addition to this, he extended his thankfulness to Dr Tusharkanti Mandal, Dr Mrinal Kanti Dey, Dr Arindam Pal, as the IQAC members, Dr Sheikh Manirul Islam, Bursar, Mr Suman Mondal, Technological Adviser of the Webinar, Miss Srimoyee Roy, Mr Sudipta Das, Mr Arindam Das and Mr Suman Kumar Dhar, the faculty of the Institution, Mr Gour Krishna Das Adhikary, Head Clerk(I/C) along with other members of the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff of the Institution for their significant contribution in completion of the Webinar. Altogether, 197 participants from the States-Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Nagaland and West Bengal participated in this online national academic event.

Academic Journey of Teaching Learning Centre of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi

The Teaching-Learning Centre (TLC) of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University (SLBSNS) (Central University), New Delhi was established under the scheme of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in the year 2017. The vision of the Centre is to develop skills and competencies of teachers and teacher educators associated with language education especially Sanskrit for designing, developing, implementing and evaluating teaching-learning systems.

The Centre completed its remarkable academic journey through well planned and a well-executed total of 13 programmes out of which 09 programmes were at the national level and the remaining 04 at the university level. All the programmes were conducted under the patronship of Vice Chancellor of SLBSNS University and convened & coordinated by the Director of the Centre. Keeping in view of the COVID-19 pandemic all the programmes were conducted online through the Google Meet platform. The broad themes covered for 2021-22 period included NEP-2020, digital tools, digital skills, professional skills and Open Educational Resources (OERs). The Centre designed, planned, implemented and executed