

## **Report of 83<sup>rd</sup> General Orientation Course held from July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Teachers have to play an enabling role in the holistic development of a student that involves not only imparting knowledge, competencies and skills, but also counseling, developing innovative thinking, engaging them in research, consultancy and extension work, besides preparing instructional materials with the aid of educational and information technologies. An effective teacher evokes and encourages practical and analytical thinking, critical evaluation, constructive mindset and problem-solving skills that can be applied in a variety of settings. General Orientation and Refresher Courses are organized by this centre for promoting these values, commitments, creative ideals and identities.

In this very backdrop three week long General Orientation Course was organized by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Kashmir from July 9<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for newly appointed college and university teachers. A total of 42 participants from various colleges and universities of J&K state attended the course that included 37 male and 05 female participants. It was a heterogeneous group of participants belonging to diverse streams of Sciences, Social Sciences, Education, Arts and Humanities, Commerce and Management and Law. During the 83<sup>rd</sup> General Orientation Course major thrust was laid upon basic modalities of teaching and learning process and training the teachers in innovative teaching pedagogies, research methodology and academic paper and project writing.

This course was like a bouquet of flowers that had flowers of different hues, colours and fragrances. During the three-week long course several important technical sessions on diverse topics of common interests to the participants of the course like climate change, environment, economy, culture and heritage, teaching technology, legal awareness, tax management, service rules, total quality management, strategic leadership, excellence in higher education, MOOCs and open educational resources, teaching and professional ethics etc were held that were very well received and applauded by the participants.

Some of the lectures that were delivered during the course include Higher Education in India: New Paradigms, Educational Policies: Implementation & Challenges, Self Assessment, Personality Mapping, State of Economy: Current Scenario, Agrarian Economy-Sinking Economy, Is Excellence a Myth or a Reality, Managing Strategic Change in Institution of Higher Learning: A Call for Change in Leadership Orientation and Style, My Experiences in Teaching at the United States, Current Scenario of Higher Education, MOOCs, OER & Innovations in Higher Education, Tax Management, Rural Studies, Rural Entrepreneurship, Rural tourism, Need for HRD System Practices in Higher Education, Higher Education: Problems & Challenges, Scales of Measurement, Mental Health and Education Interface, Drug Addiction & Educational Institutes, Forest Resources of J&K, Science of Climate Change, Climate Change Impacts on Glaciers, Total Quality Management in Higher Education, Education and Teaching at the College/University Level, Kashmir Economy: Challenges & Prospects, Role of Teaching in Higher Education, Quality Teaching in Higher Education, Challenges & Prospects in Higher Education Sector of India with Special reference to J&K state, Academic and Professional Writing, Management: its evolution and potential in higher education, teaching ethics and good practices, service and leave rules for teachers.

A total of 26 renowned Resource Persons drawn from diverse sections of the society like academia, industry, bureaucracy, judiciary, media studies and civil society delivered lectures on varied and significant topics concerning academia during the course. Eminent resource persons who were invited for an interaction with the participants of the course include Prof. Zafar Ahmad Reshi, Dean Research, University of Kashmir, Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, Retd. Judge, J&K High Court, Prof. Puja Khatri, School of Management Studies, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, Prof. Nisar Ali, Former Dean & Head, Faculty of Social Science, University of Kashmir, Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Jammu, Prof. Musadiq Amin Sahaf, Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, Prof. Nyla Ali Khan, Adjunct Faculty, Rose State College, Oklahoma, Prof. Zahoor Ahmad Chatt, Former Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Govt. of J&K, Dr. Shahid Rasool, Director, EMMRC, University of Kashmir, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Joo, Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, Dr. Syed Zahra, Faculty Member, MGNCRE, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of India, Prof S Mufeed Ahmad, Dean, School of Business Studies, University of Kashmir, Prof. Iqbal A. Hakim, Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, Prof Arshad Hussain, Department of Psychiatry, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar, Mr Syed Farooq Ahmad Gillani, Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of J&K, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, Head, Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, Prof Mohd Amin Sofi, Emeritus Scientist, Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir, Mr. Syed Shakeel Qalander, Former President, Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), Prof. Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, Department of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir, Prof. Yaseen Ahmad Shah, Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Govt. of J&K, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Director-UGC-HRDC, University, Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef, Noted Writer and Poet, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Controller of Examinations, University of Kashmir and Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Former Joint Director, Finance, Govt. of J&K.

During this course a three-day Community Engagement Workshop which was the first of its kind was organized in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education wherein participants visited two villages adopted by the University for its Community Outreach and Extension activities, with a view to connect with the communities, identify their socio-economic problems and needs and suggest ways and means for the redressal of their grievances. Main aim of the workshop was to provide practical opportunities to teachers for participation in rural community mobilization, service engagement and empowerment activities in association with trained resident community volunteers.

Several special sessions were held during the three-week long orientation course that include a session on conservation of forests by the Chief Conservator of forests, Kashmir Division; a session on the challenges and prospects in higher education sector delivered by the Director, Colleges, Kashmir; a session on academic and professional writing by Dr. Sadaf Munshi of the University of New Texas; a session on Teaching methodology and etiquettes by Dr. Nyla Ali Khan of the University of Oklahoma, USA, a couple hands-on training sessions on self-assessment and personality mapping by Prof. Puja Khatri of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi.

A special session on “Forest Resources of J&K state” was organized on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 in which Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Mr. Syed Farooq Ahmad Gillani delivered the lecture. Main objective of the lecture was to underline the importance of conserving state's depleting forest cover by encouraging people's active participation in protecting ecology and forest wealth through afforestation drives and creating awareness about ecosystem.

In his lecture Syed Farooq Ahmad Gillani deliberated upon forest resources of J&K, contribution of forestry sector towards the economy of J&K state, intangible benefits of ecological balance and biodiversity, Forest Policy of J&K state framed in 2010 that lays emphasis upon poverty alleviation by improving productivity of existing forests, by extending forest and tree cover on non-forest lands and developing forest fringe belt into village production forests. Mr. Farooq Gillani also dwelled upon various Forest Acts and related Regulations enacted in the state of J&K from time to time. He also urged upon all the participants to actively participate in plantation drive of his department in the coming months that was reciprocated positively by the participants of the course as well as Director of the Centre.

Another special session was held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on the status of higher education in J&K in which Director Colleges, Department of Higher Education, J&K Govt., Prof. Yaseen Ahmad Shah deliberated at length upon the initiatives being taken by the govt. to ensure a vibrant academic atmosphere in all the colleges. He urged upon newly appointed college and university teachers attending 83rd General Orientation Course to lend supremacy to professional ethics in every sphere of their life and profession, to achieve excellence and contentment through high ethical standards and moral values. He dwelled upon the prevailing status and future prospects of the college sector in J&K state. Prof. Shah opined that while more and more students are gaining access to higher education, there is a need to provide them with quality education along with the skills to enable them to compete and succeed in a competitive environment. He also emphasized upon the dissemination of information regarding various schemes so that students will be benefitted by these initiatives, and said that in this entire process the role of a teacher is very crucial.

Another special session was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in which Dr. Sadaf Munshi, Chair, Dept. of Linguistics, University of North Texas, USA made a presentation on professional and academic writing. In her presentation, Dr. Sadaf talked about different types of professional writing, their related aspects and some key questions and concerns to consider in professional and academic writing which can help improve the quality of writing and its outcomes in professional and academic fields. Prof. Nyla Ali Khan, Adjunct Faculty, University of Oklahoma, USA also delivered a lecture on her innovative teaching pedagogies and her teaching experiences in USA on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In her lecture Prof. Khan discussed the importance of realizing various sensibilities of students and accommodating different shades of opinion and personality among them. She narrated her own experiences of dealing with students of different ideologies and beliefs and stressed upon teachers to be fair and impartial while dealing with varying temperaments and attitudes among their students. She threw light upon innovative teaching pedagogies, Bloom's Taxonomy and novel methods of engaging with the students.

A special session was organized July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by UGC-HRDC, University of Kashmir for the participants of ongoing 83rd General Orientation Course wherein noted writer, thinker and poet

of the valley Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef delivered a talk on the role and responsibilities of a teacher vis-a-vis fast changing times and trends. In his lecture he dwelled at length upon the rich traditions and legacies left behind by great teachers in the history of Kashmir and urged upon the participants to follow, nurture and uphold those traditions. He emphasized upon the need to preserve our rich culture and heritage and protect our mother tongue Kashmiri at all costs. Mr. Zareef called upon all teachers present to observe highest ethical and moral standards in their teaching learning practices and display decent and dignified etiquette and mannerism while dealing with students. He underlined the need to nurture our magnificent cultural ethos and value system in all spheres of our lives and propagate the same to our generation next. In his own inimitable style Mr. Zareef lamented about the degradation of moral values in our society and emergence of vices like drug addiction, corruption and intolerance. He elaborated upon the role and responsibilities of teachers in laying a strong foundation for a morally just and ethically sound society. His deliberations were well received and highly appreciated by the participants of the course. Director HRDC, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat expressed his gratitude to Mr Zareef Ahmad Zareef for visiting the Centre and interacting with the participants in spite of his pre-occupations and other engagements.

Valedictory function of the course was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at UGC-HRDC, University of Kashmir. Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiqi, Vice-Chancellor, IUST was the Guest of Honour at this occasion where Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir presided over the function. Course Coordinator and Coordinator, HRDC, Dr. Mohammad Ishaq Geer presented a detailed report on the proceedings of the th lone-week long course enlisting various Resource Persons that were invited and various topics that were covered during the course. This was followed by a welcome address by Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Director, HRDC in which he explained the aim and objectives of the course and various innovations adopted in the design and conduct of the course. In his welcome address Prof. Shabir explained that the main aim of the course was to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers and to help them change with the changing paradigms of higher education. He stated that if we don't keep pace with the changing scenarios and trends, we shall be facing with the threat of being rendered redundant.

In his presidential address, Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir emphasized that modern day teacher has to be a friend, a philosopher, a guide, a counselor, a mentor, and a caregiver too. Stressing upon the fact that good teaching is always passionate that induces an emotional response among students, Prof. Talat stated that the task of teaching and educating has become more challenging than ever given the huge amount of online information available to the students today. Prof. Talat said that in the present age of Information Technology if teachers don't keep themselves abreast with latest advances in their respective fields, they could become redundant for their students. He emphasized that the objective of such courses and workshops is to update teachers about latest developments in their respective fields for their use in the teaching-learning processes. Paradigms in the higher education sector have undergone and continue to undergo a sea change and our teachers have to be ready to face these new challenges. This is where these orientation and refresher courses assume importance.

Prof. Mushtaq A. Siddiqi, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, Awantipur in his address emphasized upon the need to change and transform teachers as well as teaching pedagogies in accordance with

changing paradigms of higher education so that they can keep pace with fast changing trends of the contemporary times.

Participants of the course submitted reports of their field visits during three-day community engagement workshop that were compiled and consolidated in the form of a single detailed 40-page report about the entire workshop. Copies of the same were sent to the Chairman, MGNCRE and Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir for their kind perusal. They also wrote book reviews, made presentations of their own works and areas of expertise, appeared in a written test at the end of the course and conducted day to day sessions in an amicable manner. Feedback about each and every resource person, feedback about the whole course as well as reports of day-to-day proceedings were obtained from the participants of the course on daily basis. Most of the course material pertaining to the course has been made available on HRDC website for the benefit of the participants. Overall it was a refreshing and enlightening experience for the participants of the course.

**Dr. Geer Mohammad Ishaq**  
**COORDINATOR**

**Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat**  
**DIRECTOR**