

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REFRESHER COURSE FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS
ORGANIZED BY THE UGC-HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE,
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Kashmir has over the past thirty years of its existence conducted 265 faculty development programmes wherein more than 7500 faculty members of various colleges and universities hailing from all across the country have been imparted training in teaching and research. These programmes are primarily aimed at promoting professional, personality and career development of teachers through the process of continuing education. Eminent, acclaimed and accomplished expert resource persons deliver lectures on diverse topics during these programmes that are aimed at updating the knowledge, skills, competencies, efficiency and motivation of teachers working in higher education sector.

Continuing with its capacity building programmes for teachers, a Refresher Course in Science was organized by the UGC-Human Resource Centre, University of Kashmir for a total of 40 Assistant Professors of various colleges and universities of Jammu and Kashmir from December 16 to 30, 2019. Main objective of the course was to update science teachers about latest developments in their respective fields for their use in the teaching-learning process. Paradigms in the higher education sector have undergone and continue to undergo a sea change and our science teachers have to be ready to face these new challenges and this is where these refresher courses assume importance. Valedictory function of the course was held at Gandhi Bhawan of the University on December 30, 2019. At this occasion Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir was the Chief Guest whereas Prof. A.G. Ahangar, Director and Ex-officio Secretary to Government, SKIMS, Srinagar was the Guest of Honour.

Speaking at this occasion, Prof. Talat Ahmad emphasized upon the need for conducting more such courses for upgrading and enhancing the knowledge, skills and competencies of teachers working at various colleges and universities. 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 be rendered redundant for their students.

Guest of honour, Prof. A.G. Ahangar, an internationally acclaimed cardiovascular thoracic surgeon in his speech deliberated upon role of teachers in shaping up the society and future directions of the world. He urged upon teachers to continue to evolve and shape up the destiny of their nation by dint of their dedication and hardwork. Prof. Ahangar called upon the faculty members to assess the educational needs and requirements of the society for another century and start working in that direction right away.

Welcoming the guests as well as participants of the course, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Director, UGC-HRDC, University of Kashmir underscored the importance and need for such courses and urged upon the faculty members to keep pace with globally changing times and trends and update their teaching pedagogies, research methodologies and extension activities in tune with

changing trends. He stated that if we don't keep pace with the fast-changing global scenarios and trends, we shall be failing in our duties to live up to the expectations of our society and students.

Course Coordinator and Coordinator, HRDC, Dr. Mohammad Ishaq Geer enumerated the objectives of the course and elaborated upon the innovations adopted in its design and conduct. He expressed gratitude to the participants of the course as well as eminent resource persons who delivered lectures and interacted with the participants. He proposed the vote of thanks to the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour for accepting the invitation and making it to the valedictory function in spite of their hectic schedule.

Some of the expert resource persons who delivered lectures during the course included Prof. M.S. Khuroo, Former Director and Dean, SKIMS, Prof. M.A. Siddiqui, Vice-Chancellor, IUST, Dr. Parvaiz A. Koul, Dept. of Internal Medicine, SKIMS, Dr. Shariq R. Masoodi and Dr. M. Ashraf Ganai, Dept. of Endocrinology, SKIMS, Prof. Fozia Qazi, Dept. of Mathematics, IUST, Dr. M. A. Shah, NIT, Srinagar, Prof. A. R. Yousuf, Former Director, CORD, UoK, Prof. Z.A. Reshi, Dean, Research, University of Kashmir, Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Head, Dept. of Geo-informatics, UoK, Prof. Gh. Mohi-ud-din Bhat, Director, IoT, UoK, Prof. Farooq A. Masoodi, Dean, School of Applied Sciences and Technology, UoK, Prof. B. A. Ganai, Director CORD, UoK, Dr. Arshad Hussain, Dept. of Psychiatry and Dr. S.M. Salim Khan, Dept. of SPM, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar, Prof. Manzoor A Malik, UoK, Dr. Manzoor A. Shah, Dr. Muheet Ahmed Butt and Dr. Altaf Ahmad Bhat, University of Kashmir.

Some of the topics that were covered during the two-week long course included Research Methodology, Research Ethics, Funding opportunities in research, Nanotechnology, Internet of Things, Limnology, Non-communicable diseases and lifestyle disorders, Importance of mental health, Drug abuse scenario in Kashmir, Climate change and its impact on the environment, Significance of patents and innovations in research, role of disruptive technologies in teaching learning process, Status of Influenza A virus in Jammu and Kashmir, Journal impact metrics and scientific publishing, Communication in plants, New facts and findings about universe, Structural elucidation and characterization of DNA, Quality and safety of food products.

At the end of the course participants were evaluated using evaluation parameters devised by the University Grants Commission including participant presentations, book reviews and written test. Participant presentations were evaluated by external experts for their content, presentation, relevance and micro-teaching. Detailed feedback on UGC-prescribed format was collected from the participants about each and every resource person as well as about the whole course. Impact assessment of the course will also be undertaken by collecting feedback from the students and principals of respective colleges of the participants in due course of time in accordance with UGC guidelines. Aim of the impact assessment is to assess the improvements in teaching skills, use of innovative and creative pedagogies by the participants after successful completion of the course.

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