

Report on National Conference

WHOLISTIC TEACHER EDUCATION

12th April' 2019

Educators and policy makers have begun to realize that the current educational system doesn't necessarily guarantee a well-balanced and healthy adult, even if grades show that a student has learned the concepts. Psychologists especially, insist that education models take into account the whole person. Teachers are the greatest asset to any educational system. They stand at the interface of the transmission of knowledge, skills and values. In the words of Dr. Radhakrishnan, "No nation can rise above the level of its teachers". Therefore, they are accepted as the backbone of any educational system. In a transitory phase, youngsters need to discover themselves wholistically before stepping into the competitive world. They need to be prepared enough to face challenges of life. Wholistic education views all aspects of life as interconnected, interrelated & interdependent. It encourages an understanding and appreciation of multiple contexts and connections. When we disconnect or dissociate with reality, especially parts of ourselves, we are de-limiting development.

Education should consider the whole person- physically, mentally & spiritually. wholistic educators are especially concerned with failure of modern education to consider the emotional, social and spiritual natures of students. It seeks to develop the full potential of the person in a humanistic fashion that recognizes and honors each individual's unique talent and capacities. Wholistic education sees active positive engagement in relationships with the world and others as one of the most powerful means of authentic education. It believes in the innate goodness of people and that they will develop into happy, healthy and well balanced individual given the right conditions. Education is primarily a drawing out of unfolding of the individuals potentialities not a dispensing of information or instilling of learning. To do this requires the educators to be well developed themselves and to be sensitive, knowledgeable and creative in helping their students realize true natures. It encourages individuals and collective responsibility in and on-going quest for greater realization, fulfillment, meaning, understanding and connections.

In this regard GIAST has taken a sincere initiative to conduct a conference in order to make Teacher Educators aware about the concept of Wholistic Teacher Education. The topic of this conference has been emerged due to the deep thoughts of the experts, teacher educators, academicians, eminent educationist from the field of education after a rigorous session of brainstorming. They shared opinions & expressed their concerns about the issues and challenges on the subject circulated to them. They presented their views on the probable topics suggested by the faculty members.

A National Conference on Wholistic Teacher Education was held at Gitarattan Institute of Advanced Studies & Training, Rohini on 12th of April' 2019. The conference was well attended by eminent academicians, faculty members and students from reputed educational institutions. This conference was organized in two technical sessions under different sub themes titled as-

- Integration Of Various Components Of Teacher Education
- Scope of research for 21st century Teacher Education
- Innovative Pedagogies
- Ideal perspectives of gaining school experiences
- Scope of Digitalization in Teacher Education

The conference was inaugurated by the Dr. S.K. Bhatia, Former Associate Professor, C.I.E., (D.O.E), University of Delhi. In his inaugural address Dr. S.K. Bhatia urged to create awareness about wholistic teacher education & its components among the teacher educators and researchers. The inauguration was followed by the key note address by Prof. Harjeet Kaur Bhatia, Professor, Department of Educational Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. Then she shared her views about the importance of wholistic teacher education.

Thereafter, the first Technical session titled scope of digitalization in teacher education, innovative pedagogies & integration of various components of teacher education chaired by Prof. Harjeet Kaur Bhatia, Professor, Department Of Educational Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi started and during this session, three papers were presented.

The first speaker of this session was Ms Namita Chaudhary, from Bhavan's Leelavati Munshi College of Education on "Integration of various components of Teacher Education" focused on concept of teacher education & importance of integration of its various components for qualitative education of teachers at any level. The second paper was presented by Ms. Priyanka Chopra & Ms. Aanchal Bhardwaj, from Delhi teachers' training college on _____

The third paper was presented by Dr. Uma Sinha, from Varun Dhaka Institute of Technology on "Digitalization in Teacher Education". The paper pointed out that Digital education is emerging as one of the solutions to the challenges faced by education. It was also pointed out that environment made up of collaboration, choice, & an array of technological resources that supports a successful online learning experience.

Prof. Harjeet Kaur Bhatia concluded the session by giving an overall view about the research conducted/presented by the researchers and then Dr. Aanchal Rana, Assistant Professor, GIAST, Rohini presented the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to one and all for gracing the occasion. After the session, high tea was served to the participants.

In the afternoon, the second & last technical session titled Scope of Research for 21st century Teacher Education & Ideal perspective of gaining school experiences. The session was chaired by Dr. Vandana Saxena, Associate professor, C.I.E, (D.O.E), University of Delhi. Four presentations were made during that session.

The first paper of the session was presented by Ms. Priyanka Kadyan, Ms. Pooja Bansal & Ms. Parul Kapoor, from Delhi Institute of Rural Development on “Digital India- scope, challenges & suggestions”. The paper suggested that the development of educational infrastructure required for development of digital education. The second paper was presented by Ms. Seema, the research scholar, from Amity University on “Innovative pedagogies for 21st century leaders”. The author addressed the issue of need & demand of innovative pedagogies that suit the learners of 21st century and meet the educational needs of the present era. The central theme of the paper was to understand the innovative pedagogies based on the basic principles of education that can be employed for effective teaching & learning process that can lead to academic achievement, social and emotional development, skill development and ability contribute to society.

The third paper was presented by Ms. Ishu Ranghi and Ms. Gauri Girdhar, from GIAST on “innovations in pedagogies”. The fourth paper was presented by Dr. Suman Lata and Mr. Rajesh Makol, from Delhi Institute of Rural Development on “Scope of Research in Teacher Education”. They addressed the importance of research in teacher education.

The conference was attended by more than 60 participants and all the participants were provided with conference kits.

During the valedictory program conducted in the evening, the Dr. Vandana Saxena congratulated the Institute and the Management for organizing a national conference on a contemporarily relevant theme and the certificates to the participants too were given away by Prof. Sonia Jindal.

After the valedictory program, the conference came to an end, leaving fond memories in the minds of the guests and participants and a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in all members of the faculty and staff and student volunteers who were associated with its preparation and organization.

Finally, the programme ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Ruby Tyagi, Assistant Professor, GIAST.