

Valedictory report of the 71st General Orientation Course held on May 28th, 2016

At the outset I heartily welcome today's chief guest Prof. Abdul Salam Bhat, Controller of Examinations, University of Kashmir and today's guest of honour, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Baramulla besides all participants of the 71st General Orientation Course to this valedictory function.

It is said, 'an hour spent in the company of a scholar is worth reading a hundred books'. Valediction is a time that yields a flurry of emotions and feelings – most of them pleasant and some of them unpleasant. Pleasant emotions arise on account of feelings of accomplishment, acquisition of knowledge, happiness of joining your parent departments back and meeting your former colleagues and feelings of dejection emanate from the fact that you are departing after four weeks of joyful company, interaction and newly acquired friendships. Anyhow that is how life moves on.

At the culmination of this four week General Orientation Course, it is gratifying to present a gist of proceedings that went by during this period. College and university teachers from J&K, Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, U.P and Andhra Pradesh had an excellent time over the past four weeks in this serene campus of the University of Kashmir. Lush green ambience of Naseembagh and soothing shade of chinars provided a perfect atmosphere for brainstorming, intellectual discourse and exchange of ideas. This course was like a bouquet of flowers that had flowers of different hues, colours and fragrances. Kudos to Director, Prof. Mohi-ud-din Sangmi who had invited a host of Resource Persons from diverse streams of Law, English Literature, Electronics and Communication Technology, Commerce, Business and Management Studies, Islamic Studies, Education, Economics, Computer Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, History, Geography, Central Asian Studies, Psychology, Geology, Home Science, Women's Studies and Environmental Studies. As per feedback received from participants of this course all the invited resource persons both senior and junior were equally resourceful, eloquent and articulate in putting across their points of view. Their presentations were rich in content and substance and they not only shared their knowledge but also their wisdom, and their lifetime experiences giving real life examples of the efforts they had put in their own areas of expertise and the bottlenecks they had faced. This gave the participants an insight on how to overcome such difficulties while in pursuit of their goals and missions and that is surely going to stand them in a good stead in the times to come.

Some of the eminent resource persons who had been invited during this course included Prof. Syed Raza Hashim, Former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Prof. Saroj Yadav, Dean, Academic Affairs, NCERT, New Delhi, Prof. Imran Saleem, Dept. of Commerce, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Khurshid Ali, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. G. R. Gani, Ex-Commissioner, Secretary Transport, J&K Govt., Prof. Geeta Singh, Dean, Academic Staff College, Delhi University. Prof. Gull Mohammad Wani, Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, Mr. M. J. Aslam, Prof. M. A. Sofi, Prof. Nisar Ali and Prof. Noor Mohammad Bilal. Their lectures were perceived as very good, insightful and enlightening by the participants.

Apart from regular teaching classes a workshop on choice-based credit system was conducted by Dr. S. M. Shafi of the Dept. of Commerce and a case study was supervised by Prof. Mohi-ud-din

Sangmi, Director, UGC-HRDC, University of Kashmir. This was a unique experience that infused new spirits and vigour among the participants and apprised them of the modalities of crisis management in higher education. Participants also had a refreshing and delightful educational tour to Naranag. They also wrote book reviews, gave 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 amiable manner.

We are quite sure that this course must have been an exhilarating, stimulating and invigorating experience whose lessons learnt will stand a good stead in their day to day teaching that will in turn immensely benefit their students. We request all participants of the course to upload their suggestions and feedback over the feedback forum of our departmental website so that we may improvise the design and conduct of courses in future. At the end we express our gratitude to today's chief guest, Prof. Abdul Salam Bhat and today's guest of honour, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf for sparing time out of their hectic schedule and gracing this occasion with their august presence besides distributing certificates among the participants.

Dr. Geer Mohammad Ishaq
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