

Valedictory report of the 73rd General Orientation Course held on January 4th, 2016

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 institutions and departments back and meeting your former colleagues whereas feelings of dejection emanate from the fact that you are departing after three or 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. A total of 29 faculty members from different colleges and universities of J&K attended this course over the past four weeks in this serene campus of the University of Kashmir where the 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. I am highly thankful to Director, HRDC, Prof. Mohi-ud-din Sangmi who gave full freedom to me as Coordinator of this course to invite a host of Resource Persons from diverse streams of Education, Economics, Computer Sciences, Information Technology, History, Central Asian Studies, Psychology, Earth Sciences, Home Science, Women’s Studies, Physics, Media Education, Law, English Literature, Electronics and Communication Technology, Commerce, Business and Management Studies, Islamic Studies and Environmental Studies. As per feedback received from participants of this course most of the invited resource persons were highly resourceful, eloquent and articulate in putting across their viewpoints even though it needs to be mentioned that a few Resource Persons did not receive a very encouraging feedback from the participants. However presentations made by most of the invited resource persons were rich in content wherein 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 interacted with the participants of the General Orientation Course include Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Wani, Dean Research, Prof. Sheikh Javed Ahmad, Registrar, Prof. Musadiq Amin Sahaf, Ex-Registrar, Prof. Zafar Ahmad Reshi, Dean College Development Council, Prof. Nilofar Khan, Controller of Examination, Prof. Abdul Salam Bhat, Dean, Applied Sciences and Technology, Prof. Ghulam Mohiuddin Bhat, Director, North Campus, Dr Irshad Ahmad Wani, Dean and Director, Research and Development, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Mohammad Aslam, Dean, Social Sciences, CUK, Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof. Mohammad Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Mahmood Ahmad Khan, Chief Coordinator, DIQA, Dr Manzoor Ah Shah, Retired Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, Veteran Educationist, Prof. A.G. Madhosh, Veteran Economist, Prof. Nisar Ali, Principal, S. P. College, Srinagar, Prof. Yaseen Ahmad Shah, Head, Business School, Prof. Mufeed Ahmad, Head, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Prof. Shakil Ah. Romshoo, Head Dept. of Food Sciences, Prof. Farooq Masoodi, Head, Dept. of Physics, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Head Dept. of Psychology, Dr. Showkat Hussain, Ex-Joint Director Finance, Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Director I.T & S.S Er Maroof Qadri. Their lectures were perceived as very insightful and enlightening by the participants.

Major thrust during the General Orientation Course was laid upon basic modalities of teaching and learning process besides imparting induction type training so that the participants are familiarized with basic functioning of Examining Wing, IT&SS dept, DIQA etc. In pursuit of these very goals, apart from regular teaching sessions a day-long workshop on choice-based credit system was conducted by Dr. S. M. Shafi of the Dept. of Commerce wherein participants were made to design new curricula in accordance with CBCS and another day-long workshop on e-content development was conducted at EMMRC, University of Kashmir wherein participants were given hands-on training on e-content development. Two full days were devoted to sessions on higher education, teaching skills, microteaching, effectiveness and philosophy of education and two full days were devoted to information technology, e-governance, e-learning and e-resources. All these workshops were a unique experience that infused new skills among the participants and apprised them about the application and use of such modalities in higher education system. Participants also had a few sessions on service rules, income tax and leave rules governing teaching faculty in higher education. 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. 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 both the courses on daily basis. Overall it was a great learning opportunity for the participants.

I am quite hopeful that this course must have been a 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 invite all participants of the course to upload their suggestions and feedback over the feedback forum of our departmental website so that we may improvise upon the design and conduct of courses in future. At the end we express our gratitude to hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof Khurshid Andrabi for sparing time out of his hectic schedule and gracing this occasion with his august presence.

Dr. Geer Mohammad Ishaq
C O O R D I N A T O R