

**VALEDICTORY REPORT OF THE SHORT-TERM COURSE IN INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY HELD B/N JUNE 14TH – 20TH, 2016**

I wholeheartedly welcome Chief Guest of this valedictory function, Respected Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Wani, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Mohiddin Sangmi, Director, HRDC, all the participants of this week-long short-term course on Information Technology. It is my proud privilege to present a brief report of the proceedings of this course. This course on Information Technology had as usual attracted an overwhelming response from the applicants and out of a huge number of applications received 36 participants belonging to 12 universities and 24 colleges hailing from three states namely Haryana, Punjab and J&K were selected for this course. Over the past seven days extensive deliberations were held on various facets related to Information Technology. During this period Resource Persons from within and outside the University of Kashmir made presentations on various aspects related to IT including Green IT and e-waste management, e-resources and pervasive computing, academic mining, introductory and advanced features of MS-Office including MS-Word and MS-Excel. Resource persons were invited from NUEPA, New Delhi, Department of Computer Sciences, University of Kashmir, Directorate of Information Technology, University of Kashmir, Dept. of Computer Sciences, NIT, Srinagar and The Business School, University of Kashmir.

A day long practical session was conducted by Prof. K. Srinivas, Director, ICT, NUEPA, New Delhi on “Mastering the art of teaching and learning online with Moodle Software” in which he emphasized upon the participants to create their own small online platforms for dissemination of information to their students online through cloud learning approaches. Prof. K. Srinivas interacted at length with the participants upon the role of ICT in Higher Education • Online Courses & Cloud Computing • Open Educational Resources (OER) & their Utility • Online Course Instructional Design • Online Education using Moodle and MOOCs. As per the feedback received from participants this practical session in particular and the whole course in general has been very informative, useful and interesting. Kudos to Course Coordinator, Dr. Muheet Ahmad Butt for organizing and conducting the course to the best satisfaction of the participants. Worthy Director HRDC, Prof Mohiddin Sangmi has always been keen to have as many short-term courses on IT as possible keeping in view the need to harness IT skills among the faculty members of our colleges and universities. That is precisely the reason that we had hooked up Dr Muheet recently in the month of March this year for a short-term course on IT for academic administrators and was invited again this month for this short-term course for faculty members. We do not stop at that. In November this year we shall be conducting third short-term course in a row on Information Technology.

Our sole aim is to promote anytime learning, anywhere learning besides enhancing easy access to information in these times of IT explosion. Need of the hour is that that our teachers should possess technological literacy. We want our human resource to keep pace with changing times and get equipped with latest knowledge and skills in such upcoming technologies of the twenty first century since in times to come, Information technologies are going to seriously affect each and every aspect of human activity and shall have an important role to play in the field of education and training. Therefore the need of new technologies in teaching learning process has grown stronger and faster as ever moreso in light of the fact that today's students are smart and swift enough to cross-check the knowledge imparted by teachers in their classrooms. Therefore it becomes a huge challenge for the teacher to not only be factually accurate, but updated and armed with latest information on the topic of discussion at the same time. This poses a huge challenge to the teachers to teach what is most relevant and most recent on the subject rather than what is obsolete and redundant. Information Technology has changed the scenario of education particularly, pedagogy and instruction making teaching learning process more productive, creating collaborative, learner centered and interactive global learning environments.

Prof. Mohiddin Sangmi, Director HRDC has always accorded top priority to such high impact courses and has been keen to invite the most talented and resourceful resource persons in order to meet the needs of variety of learners and make the most appropriate resource material available to the participants. Over the past seven days I have been pursuing the Resource Persons to the extent of annoying them for the sake of study material related to their topic of discussion. Whatever resource material could be collected has been made available for the participants on the website of our centre. In days to come we shall be looking forward to uploading more study material for the benefit of the participants as and when received from the resource persons. We look forward to more feedback from the participants of this course today as well as on the feedback forum of our centre's website. This shall help us improvise upon the design and conduct of such courses in future. We always welcome constructive criticism and even apologize for any lapses in the conduct of this course. Hope this course has been instrumental in honing the IT skills of the participants and in contributing significantly towards their personal, professional and career development. We wish all the participants of this course all the very best in their career and hope to see them again in this centre in future either as participants or resource persons for some other course.

Dr Geer M. Ishaq
COORDINATOR