

Report

Seminar on **Fostering Excellence in Research** **&** ***Inauguration of*** **Course Work for Ph.D. Students**

January 15, 2013

A one day seminar was organized by the task group for “Fostering Excellence in Research” and on the occasion of inauguration of course works for Ph.D. students in University auditorium on 15th January, 2013. The objective of this seminar was to enthuse newly admitted Ph.D. students towards good quality research work. Eminent academicians of the country were invited to address the gathering. Prof. V.K.Singh, Director IISER, Bhopal, Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair Professor for Peace, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and Prof. Harish Padh, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Patel University, Anand, Gujarat were the guest speakers, who shared their knowledge with the participants.

The program began with formal welcome of the guests and welcome address by Prof. Anil Kumar, Coordinator of the task group for fostering excellence in research. The objective of this task group is to promote research in diversified areas and to motivate faculty members to conduct good quality research. Prof. Ganesh Kawadia, Chairperson, Ph.D. Cell informed the participants about the DET-12 that was conducted by the university for the first time. He shared that almost 4500 candidates had applied for the entrance exam. Out of these, 2500 were selected for the second round and faced interview. Finally, 1200 students are admitted for the PhD course work.

Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. D. P. Singh addressed the participants. He accentuated on ethical practices in research and encouraged the young researchers to aim for excellence. He re-emphasized on the fact that human society and environmental issues are deeply linked with each other. Therefore, a strong emphasis on technological advancement must not neglect the environmental issues. Sensitivity towards environmental aspects needs to be escalated once again and it is expected that quality of life rather than standard of living should be the guiding framework to evolve such an approach. The University intends to promote awareness of the society in this direction and shall strive for right awakening of the stakeholders.

The eminent guest speaker Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya, the UNESCO Chair Professor for Peace at Malaviya Centre for Peace Research at Banaras Hindu University, a distinguished academician in the field of International Relations and Peace, is considered

to have made a foundational contribution to the growth of peace and conflict resolution studies in India. He has authored/co-authored several books published by Routledge, Ashgate, Oxford University Press, Information Age and has written research articles in reputed international journals such as the Denver Journal of International Law & Policy; International Studies (Sage) and Strategic Analysis (Routledge). Prof. Upadhyay said, “Research should not be just a means of getting a job, it should be considered as a philosophy of life”. He highlighted the role of research and learning and emphasized on creativity and curiosity among researchers.

Another eminent speaker for the session was Prof. Harish Padh, a well-known name in the field of Biotechnology in India, is the Vice Chancellor of Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat. Prof. Padh has made large contributions to development of field of biotechnology in the state of Gujarat. He developed, designed and ran National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER) at Ahmedabad, and developed campus for the same at Gandhinagar. He shared his thoughts on how public universities can carve a niche for themselves in research. He shared that this focus is essential for state universities in light of competition faced from private and foreign universities.

The next speaker for the day was Prof. Vinod Kumar Singh, a scientist and an academician par excellence. He is currently on deputation as Founder Director of IISER, Bhopal. He was also discharged with responsibilities as Founder Director of SPA Bhopal (additional charge) and Chairman of Board of Governors (BoG) NITTTR, Bhopal. He is a Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC to PM). Professor Singh with his vast experience of research with renowned scientists Dr. Sukh Dev in Canada at University of Calgary and University of British Columbia and Nobel Laureate, Professor E. J. Corey, shared his views on “Challenges in Higher Education”. He mentioned that while the academic administrators need to work on building world-class resources to attract good talent for research. Simultaneously, the faculty and researchers need to elevate themselves above the resource crunch and think of enhancing the quality of their research.

Over 1100 researchers and scholars attended the program. In the end Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. D. P. Singh summarized his views about the three sessions. Vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Pratibha Sharma, Incharge, organizing committee of the seminar and was anchored by Dr. Yamini Karmarkar, member of organizing team. Dr. Akhilesh Singh and Dr. Chandan Gupta, Dr. Suresh Patidar, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Dr. Ajay Tiwari, Dr. Pratosh Bansal, and Dr. Govind Maheswari were the team members involved in organizing the whole event successfully. Ms. Shivani Bhagwat and the students of Biotechnology and Chemistry departments were involved in managing the registration of all the participants and volunteering/maintenance of discipline.
