

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FDP) **Mentoring Pedagogy & Classroom Delivery Enhancement Techniques**

The Inaugural Faculty Development Program (FDP) under the auspices of AIU-USTM Academic and Administrative Development Centre commenced on January 8th, 2024, running through January 13th, 2024. Themed "Mentoring Pedagogy & Classroom Delivery Enhancement Techniques," the program was conducted in a blended mode, combining both physical and virtual elements.

The opening ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof Raghavendra P. Tiwari, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, who served as the Chief Guest. Additionally, Prof G.D. Sharma, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of USTM and President AIU, alongside AIU officials including Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director and Head of Research, and Convenor AADC, and Dr Usha Rai Negi, Assistant Director of Research and Coordinator AADC, honored the event with their presence. The Resource person for the entire sessions was Shri Anjan Chaudhuri empanelled Trainer Dibrugarh University, Assam Administrative Staff College, EICT Academy and IIT Guwahati.

The week-long program aimed to enhance classroom management and emotional intelligence skills among educators, emphasizing life skills essential for both teachers and students. Topics covered included verbal and non-verbal communication, with a focus on clarity, coherence, and effectiveness in conveying ideas. Practical exercises, role-playing scenarios, and case studies were utilized throughout to provide hands-on experience and deepen understanding.

The Program explored into different topics like Life skills, which are essential for both educators and students, were explored in depth. The focus was not only on academic knowledge but also on developing emotional intelligence, empathy, and interpersonal skills among teachers. Understanding the importance of communication in creating a conducive learning environment was a key objective.

The program delved into the significance of both verbal and non-verbal communication. Verbal communication skills were honed to ensure clarity, coherence, and effectiveness in conveying ideas. Participants were encouraged to refine their language, tone, and articulation to resonate with diverse learners in the classroom.

Non-verbal communication was explored through the lenses of kinesics, proxemics, and chronemics. Kinesics, which involves body language and facial expressions, was dissected to help teachers convey emotions, enthusiasm, and engagement effectively. Proxemics, the study of personal space, was discussed to help educators understand the impact of physical

distance on communication and build a positive rapport with students. Additionally, chronemics, the study of time in communication, was highlighted to emphasize the importance of pacing and timing in delivering instructions and managing classroom activities.

The integration of kinesics, proxemics, and chronemics aimed at catering to diverse learning styles—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Visual learners benefited from understanding body language and facial expressions, auditory learners found resonance in effective verbal communication, and kinesthetic learners connected with the physical aspects of proxemics.

Throughout the FDP, practical exercises, role-playing scenarios, and case studies were utilized to provide hands-on experience and facilitate a deeper understanding of the concepts discussed. The goal was not just to equip teachers with theoretical knowledge but to empower them with practical skills that could be seamlessly integrated into their teaching methodologies.

By the end of the week, participants were expected to have a comprehensive toolkit encompassing life skills, effective verbal and non-verbal communication strategies, and a nuanced understanding of kinesics, proxemics, and chronemics. This holistic approach aimed at fostering a positive and enriching learning environment for both educators and students.

The FDP concluded with the Valedictory Program, graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Ramesh Ch. Deka, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Cotton University, as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished dignitaries included Prof. GD Sharma, Honorable Vice Chancellor of USTM, along with esteemed advisors from AIU, Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU, and Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director & Head of Research, Convener, AADC, alongside Deans, HoDs, faculty members of USTM, and offline participants.

The program culminated with an uplifting message, emphasizing that the knowledge acquired should ignite our passion for education, and our collaborative efforts should pave the way for a brighter and more enlightened future.