

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FDP)

Catalyzing Academic Reforms through Capacity Building of Universities Administration

A six-day Capacity Building Programme on “Catalyzing Academic Reforms through Capacity Building of Universities Administration” was organized by Association of Indian Universities-Academic & Administrative Development Centre-University of Science and Technology Meghalaya, from May 20th to 25th, 2024, through online mode. Faculty members from different regions across India including and various parts of Northeast participated in the Programme alongside Faculty members and administrators from the host institute.

The Inaugural session was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Dr. B.L. Ahuja, Vice Chancellor of Bodoland University; Dr. Rajul K. Gajjar, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Technological University; Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of AIU; Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director and Head of Research, Convenor of AADC; and Professor G.D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor of USTM and President of AIU. The session emphasized enhancing university administration capabilities, the importance of skill distribution, and modern teaching methods aligned with NEP 2020. Key topics included innovative learning, teacher training, digital tools integration, strategic partnerships, continuous training, mobility programs, quality assurance, and sustainable academic reforms. Discussions also covered governance, resource management, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative approaches.

Dr. P.G. Rao, Distinguished Scientist at CSIR, New Delhi, led a session on university administration aspects such as syllabus preparation, academic calendars, skill development, student orientation, and entrepreneurship. He stressed the importance of adding value, developing extraordinary relationships, and fostering belief in extraordinary ideas. Leadership skills, technology utilization for innovation, and conducting local issue research for PhD programs were key discussion points. The session underscored disciplined, student-centric leadership and effective administration through strong relationships.

Dr. Rajan Saxena, Former Vice Chancellor of SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, focused on technological advancements and new approaches in higher education. He highlighted the transformative effect of digital technologies on education, stressing the importance of digitalization for enhancing learning effectiveness and engagement.

Prof. (Dr.) A. B. Joshi, Director Academics at Kaushalya: The Skill University, Ahmedabad, discussed technological interventions in education. He highlighted digitalization's potential to improve learning and engagement, exploring cloud applications, digital technologies, and associated challenges. Key themes included paradigm shifts in higher education, digital learning, and the importance of tools for lower energy consumption, automation, and communication.

Dr. Safia Farooqui, Professor and Director at Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth Centre for Online Learning, led a session on online courses and digital technology's transformative impact on education. She covered the benefits, growth opportunities, and challenges of digital transformation in higher education.

Participants examined stages of digital transformation and recognized the need for proficiency across all areas to maximize growth potential.

The Valedictory featured a report by Dr. Lilika Zhimomi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Rural Development at USTM, followed by Valedictory address by the chief guest, Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, commending AIU and USTM for the event and highlighting continuous learning and innovation in academia and research. The president, AIU, Prof. G.D. Sharma, expressed gratitude to participants, organizers, and speakers, reaffirming USTM's and AIU's commitment to academic excellence and collaboration.

Dr. R.K. Sharma, Advisor at USTM, concluded with a vote of thanks, appreciating everyone's contributions to the event's success. The valedictory session marked the end of a highly productive and enlightening programme, motivating participants to pursue academic and professional excellence.

Overall, the One Week Capacity Development Programme enriched learning, facilitated idea exchange, and provided valuable networking opportunities among university administrators.