

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE, DATE: 02.05.2024

Central University of Odisha Hosts Two-Day National Seminar on NEP 2020: Challenges and Opportunities

The Central University of Odisha recently held a two-day National Seminar focusing on "National Education Policy 2020: Challenges and Opportunities" at its Sunabeda Campus. Organized by the Department of Education in collaboration with Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, the seminar spanned from 1 May to 2 May 2024. The seminar concluded with a valedictory programme today on, 02 May 2024.

The second day of the seminar commenced with an enriching session aimed at facilitating dialogue and collaboration among the Heads of Departments (HoDs) across all academic departments of CUO. Chaired by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, and graced by Sh. B. R. Shankaranand, National Organizing Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, the session provided a platform for HoDs to share insights and experiences on implementing NEP 2020 within their respective departments. Prof. Rohini Prasad, Former Vice-Chancellor of Sant Gahira Guru Sarguja University, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, also added valuable insights to the discussion.

Key points emphasized during the session included the importance of social responsiveness and organizational unity for national development, cultivating fearlessness in students, and promoting a student-centric education system as envisaged in NEP 2020. Cooperation over competition was advocated, along with the alignment of university policies with the mandates of NEP 2020. Flexibility in academic research and the prioritization of social relevance in job interviews were also highlighted. The session underscored the significance of interdisciplinary approaches, mechanisms to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), and the introduction of need-based certificate courses for experiential learning. Furthermore, it stressed the importance of promoting integration between academia and industry and the encouragement of value-based literature and translation studies.

In the subsequent session phase, an interactive discussion continued with faculty members. The resource person urged all attendees to read and interpret the NEP 2020 document thoroughly, emphasizing the need for constructive interpretation. The revamping of assessment techniques and the pedagogy of subjects, according to NEP 2020, was advocated, alongside reconsidering the traditional role of teachers for educational reforms. Emphasis was placed on making classrooms vibrant and vocational to enhance the learning experience. Drawing inspiration from the Bhagavad Gita, attendees were encouraged to embody the true spirit of being a teacher, emphasizing creativity and lifelong learning.

The seminar provided an invaluable platform for addressing the challenges and exploring the opportunities presented by NEP 2020. By fostering collaboration and dialogue among academic stakeholders, the event aimed to contribute to advancing education policy and practice in India.

At the valedictory session of the seminar, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Parhi, the Organising Secretary, warmly welcomed esteemed guests and then presented a concise yet comprehensive report summarizing the highlights of the two-day National Seminar. Participants were invited to provide feedback on the seminar's proceedings. Prof. Rohini Prasad, Former Vice-Chancellor of Sant Gahira Guru Sarguja University, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour, delivering an insightful address. Sh. B. R. Shankaranand, the National Organising Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Nagpur, shared his perspectives as the Chief Guest. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, the Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha, formally concluding the seminar. Certificates of Participation were distributed to participants as a token of appreciation, followed by a Vote of Thanks offered by Mr. Gagan Bihari Suar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education, Central University of Odisha. The program concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, leaving all attendees with a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie.

On the first day, the dignitaries inaugurated an Art Exhibition organized by the Dept. of Education students. Other distinguished guests present at the event included Prof. N.C. Panda, Registrar of the University, Prof. Bharat Kumar Panda, Head of Department, Department of Education, Dr. Umesh Kumar Singh, Sh. Akhun Gaykuard of Bharatiya Sikshana Mandal, and Dr. Ramendra Kumar Parhi, Organizing Secretary of the National Seminar.

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