

International Seminar on “Effective Mentoring for Academic Excellence”

SLC (University of Delhi) ShyamLal College organized an International Seminar on “Effective Mentoring for Academic Excellence” on 30 October, 2019. The seminar hosted well known academicians and mentors from across disciplines in India and abroad such as Prof. I. M. Pandey, DG, VIPS and Former Director, IIMA, Prof. Jamie P. Halsall, University of Huddersfield, UK, Prof. Michael Snowden, University of Huddersfield, UK and Prof. SriparnaBasu, Fore School of Management. Participants from various institutes in Delhi and NCR actively registered their presence in various sessions of the seminar and also positively contributed to the deliberations made.

After the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, the seminar was formally inaugurated with the introduction of the theme of the seminar by Dr. KushaTiwari, Coordinator, IQAC, SLC. Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, SLC delivered the welcome address in the honor of the guests present on the occasion. Emphasizing on the importance of mentoring at academic institutions, he informed the participants of the formal introduction of mentorship as a curricular activity as mandated by University Grants Commission guidelines. He further stated that the idea of mentorship is an enriching experience to both the mentor and mentee and has deep historical roots in academia in India and outside from ancient times. He also noted out that SLC has already introduced mentorship by assigning certain students to each teacher as a part of their academic activity. Prof. I. M. Pandey as a Chief Guest to the occasion congratulated Prof. Kar and Dr. KushaTiwari for organizing a seminar on an important issue such as academic mentoring. In his address to the gathering of teachers and students at the inaugural session, he talked on various aspects of mentoring and how it has built up over a period of time as the baton was passed on from generation to generation. Prof. Sriparna Basu too remained present at the inaugural ceremony and spoke on the importance of collaborative and empathetic ways of mentoring rather than hierarchical ones.

The next session of the Seminar on the theme of “Exploring Pedagogy through Mentoring-Context and Theory” hosted Prof. Jamie P. Halsall and Prof. Michael Snowden and was chaired by Prof. Sriparna Basu. Prof. Snowden’s presentation focused on the definitions, model, structure, location and impact of the idea of mentorship. He noted out that mentoring is a socially

constructed term and therefore cannot be separated from context, failing to which will create confusion and inconsistency. Prof. Jamie P Halsall, based on the models developed by him stated that the new age of globalization has brought in government, private sector and NGOs as players in the field of education and therefore has become complex when integrated together. Likening teaching and research to that of chicken or egg situation, he noted that research activities have come to acquire significance in the modern times and therefore mentorship need to inculcate these changes and has to become relevant.

The last session of the seminar was a workshop on “Mentoring: Stakeholders Expectations” which included Prof. Michael Snowden, Prof. Jamie P Halsall, Prof. Sriparna Basu, Dr. Kusha Tiwari as panelists. The workshop also included students who voiced their ideas and expectations out in relation to mentoring. The workshop provoked thought churning discussions on mentoring and various other aspects that are integral to it. The seminar was concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Kusha Tiwari.