

## **Workshop on “Education and Employability: Opportunities and Challenges”**

IQAC, University of Lucknow conducted a one day workshop on Education and Employability: Issues and Challenges. The participants were drawn from Departments of Science and Arts. The workshop was inaugurated in the Department of Business Administration and Prof. Harsha Mohan, The Dean Students Welfare, Dr. Rajeev Manohar, Director NAAC, and Dr. Ajai Prakash, Coordinator, IQAC workshops were present at the inaugural. There were 76 nominations received for the workshop out of which 60 participants attended the workshop.

The workshop was designed to identify issues involved in education and employability in current day education. The workshop was divided into two stages. In the first stage the participants were introduced to issues of quality management in higher education. Prof. H.P. Mathur highlighted the structural changes that need to be brought in Indian education system to face the fundamental challenges of access, equity and quality. The need to integrate theory with practice and development of skills were equally emphasized. In the second stage the participants were given the task of identifying issues and chart a road map of improvement around one of the issues related to the issue. The participants were divided in groups and the groups were given the task to analyze issues of enhancing employability through better educations. The students had to identify issues, develop a strategy and an action plan around the issues identified.

The prominent issues identified by the participants were

- personality development,
- curriculum development,
- better communication,
- how to finance education to meet quality education challenges,
- depth of competition in globalised scenario,
- adoption of technology and testing of learning during education,
- how to develop theoretical concepts/constructs and their practical applications,
- developing a global mindset,
- teamwork,
- bringing improvements in governance through all round participation,
- improving self dependence, and
- providing a meaningful vision and clarity of objectives to the students as well as to institutions.

It was identified that educational institutions need to draw a clear objective for specific courses, improve library facilities with relevant support. The workshop groups

identified interventions at the level of personality development, coordinated technology, identification of competitive realities etc. and whether the institutions have a continuous mechanism of upgrading pedagogy to improve employability, quality through interventions in admission process, restructuring recruitment and training of teachers, pedagogy and examination. One of the issues that was strongly accepted was the conscious efforts that the various stakeholders need to address the issue of quality in education. At the end of the workshop a comprehensive plan was developed on the issues identified. The participants of the workshop were very enthusiastic in understanding the issues and sharing their viewpoint for improving employability through various education improvements. Prof. H.P. Mathur, Faculty of Management Studies Banaras Hindu University, Dr. Ajai Prakash and Mr. Sanjay Medhavi were resource persons to deliberate on the issues of the workshop. Prof. Mathur and Dr. Ajai Prakash moderated the workshop after deliberations. The one day workshop is expected to go a long way as this workshop will provide the suggestions to the university to be considered for improving employability by looking and working on the issues identified.

1. Total No. of Nominations: 60
2. Total No. of Attendants: 60
3. Speaker of the Workshop:
  - a) Prof. H.P. Mathur (FMS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi)
  - b) Mr. Sanjay Medhavi (Department of Business Administration, University of Lucknow, Lucknow)
  - c) Dr. Ajai Prakash (Department of Business Administration, University of Lucknow, Lucknow)
4. Coordinator of the Workshop: Dr. Ajai Prakash
5. Topic of the Workshop: Education & Employability: Opportunities & Challenges