



KSHEC



CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In Collaboration with

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC)

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES (AIU)

KARNATAKA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (KSHEC)

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

“REJUVENATION OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION IN INDIA”

AUGUST 10-11, 2018 | BENGALURU

JRD Auditorium, National Institute of Advanced Studies, IISc campus, Bengaluru

Undergraduate education in India is significant primarily because of the numbers enrolled in the various undergraduate courses like BA/B.Sc/B.Com courses and the diversity of colleges and institutions offering these courses. According to the AISHE report of 2017-18, 79.19% students are enrolled in undergraduate programs of which 68% are enrolled in Arts, Science and Commerce programs. Only 11.23% are enrolled in Post graduate courses. These numbers reflect that undergraduate programs like BA, B.Sc and B.Com is a terminal program for majority of the students who are likely to get added to the workforce of the country. These courses are delivered through 30000 plus colleges in the country spread across rural and urban areas in 29 states and 7 Union Territories.

The spread certainly gives us the big picture of the Undergraduate Education system in the country and the divergence it is experiencing. There is a flux seen in terms of quality, delivery, structure, assessments, management etc., reflecting the need for interventions both at policy, Institutional and Individual levels. The changes needed are needed both at the macro and micro levels.

Undergraduate enrolments In India (A few important statistics)

Percent of Undergraduate Enrolments	79.19%
Percent of Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences Enrolments in UG	36.4%
Percent of Science enrolments	17.1%
Percent of Commerce Enrolments	14.1
Percent of Post graduate Enrolments	11.23%
Percent in Ph.D programs	<0.5

Source: AISHE Report (2017-18)

Recognizing the need, Centre for Educational and Social Studies initiated a National Seminar on Rejuvenation of Undergraduate Education in India. The Seminar was designed in such a way that it enables breaking the mental models on several aspects concerning undergraduate education and to bring in a mindset change in those involved at the micro level. The approach to the seminar and its themes were very positive so that it is future directed and positively oriented.

The Seminar was organized by CESS in collaboration with **National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Association of Indian Universities and Karnataka State Higher Education Council**. The Two day National Seminar was held on 10th and 11th August 2018 at JRD Tata Auditorium, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

Program Structure:

The seminar was organized around 4 main themes under which several subthemes were identified. The program included Inauguration, Valedictory, Paper presentations, Plenary sessions, Panel Discussions, with two special programs 'An interaction with an author' and Rejuv-Idea Conclave. The Themes were Course Structure, Curriculum Design and Assessment, Pedagogical Practices and Innovation, Skill Development and Employability and Governance and Institutional Management & Technology.

The Inaugural Session brought out the need for rejuvenation and the future direction of UG Education in India. Dr. K. Kasturirangan giving an overall picture of the current education and economic scenario in the country, emphasized the role of undergraduate education as a critical element in developing professional competence. He also said developing the ability to go with new and emerging knowledge demands increasing to cater to the future workplace flexibility. He touched upon specific points of Liberal arts education and its relevance, fundamental research in the undergraduate education and restructuring the Undergraduate education with flexibility. In addition he said, school education plays a vital role in setting up the foundation to undergraduate studies and special attention must be given to the schooling process as well.

In the Keynote address Prof. D. P Singh presented the quality initiatives of the UGC to strengthen Undergraduate Education which focuses on improving the quality of students, teachers and universities as a whole. He added that separate induction programs would be organized to new students and newly recruited teachers to understand their expectations and also to inform them about what is expected from them. Along with this, refresher course would be organized for current teachers to enhance their knowledge about their subjects.

The guests of Honor Prof. Furqan Qamar brought out the large gap between the teacher student ratio and the need to expand the capabilities of Institutions rather than expanding the number of Institutions and Prof. Kori insisted that either NET or SLET examinations must be made mandatory for Private Institutions to ensure quality.



Inauguration and Valediction Programs

Valediction

The Valedictory program marked the closure of the seminar with Sri. S.V. Ranganath delivering the Valedictory address. Mr.Ranganath reiterated that the main focus of the National Seminar was to rethink about restructuring Undergraduate Education in India. He brought out the major problems faced by Undergraduate Education and primarily focused on the concern for quality in teaching. He said that there is a need for increase in passionate and dedicated teachers who are responsible for knowledge creation and facilitating lifelong learning. Prof. Venugopal the guest of honor for the session commended the organizers for designing such a program which is of great value to revamp Undergraduate Education. The best paper awards and best idea awards were distributed during Valediction.

An Interaction with the author of “College: Pathways for Possibilities”:

The author of the book **Dr.Saikath Majumdar** giving the outline of the book, mentioned the need for writing the book in a situation where Undergraduate Education is losing its value. According to him Undergraduate Education not only prepares an individual for a job but for life as career is spread over a life time of an individual. He gave an overview about liberal arts education and the way it got transformed during colonial and post-colonial history. Responding to the questions of panel members he said 'Artsience' is the right word to replace liberal arts education. Taking from Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory, Mr.Majumdar talked about the soul and structure of each of the disciplines that has to be considered while designing courses. He opined that a combination of these courses is the model for the future generations to come.



Panelists discussing on the expectations from stakeholders



An interaction with the Author

Rejuvidea Conclave

A platform for the delegates to brainstorm, innovate and represent practicable and scalable ideas was created through the Rejuv-Idea conclave. Participants were asked to provide their ideas on problems concerning various issues. 90 ideas were obtained across the five problem statements. A panel of jury reviewed these ideas and top 10 ideas were shortlisted for presentation. An opinion poll for best ideas was conducted with the help of ballot papers. The two best ideas were selected based on the opinions obtained through audience poll. Dr. Vishnu Shinde and Ms. Jasmine won the awards for their rejuvenating ideas.

Plenary sessions were conceptualized under four themes and sessions were envisioned with the view to rejuvenate Undergraduate Education. The plenary session on Course structure, curriculum development and assessment emphasized on promoting multidisciplinary liberal arts education, to integrate vocational & professional education, to provide flexible combination of courses with focus on employability, entrepreneurship development, to promote learning based curriculum frame work etc. The session on pedagogical practices and innovation discussed some of the key concepts like incidental learning, embodied learning, adaptive teaching and learning, science of learning, argumentation and computational learning. Unique experiments of Centre for Contemporary Studies at Indian Institute of Science and at Azim Premji Universities were presented. Skill development and employability session sensitized the participants to the need for skilling beyond classrooms. The session deliberated on establishment of Skill University and development of alternate ways of enhancing skills of students to make them employable. The fourth plenary session on Governance and institutional management emphasized the need for moral and ethical transformation of leadership that can bring substantial and dramatic changes in governance. The role of alumni in governance was also brought out.



Plenary Session on Skill development and Employability



Plenary session on Curriculum Structure , Course Design and Structure

Panel Discussion on Expectation of Stakeholders of Undergraduate Education

Given the challenges and opportunities owing to the unprecedented expansion in Undergraduate education, the panel discussion called for views of the panelists on the needs of the stakeholders. In response to this, the panelists brought out the importance of UG programs, as aspiring minds get harnessed at this stage of education. Thinking beyond constraints at the institutional level and ensuring the best teaching, learning, research process and building the entrepreneurial spirit among students and make them independent and autonomous individuals. From the Industry point of view the need to enable behavioural capabilities of students was recognized. An inclusive and updated methodology to ensure employability of UG students was also expressed. From the Voluntary organization perspective, the need for volunteering and engaging with society to make society an inclusive system was brought out. The students' point of view was that the UG system is unable to meet needs of the competitive exams. The needs of students to participate in the governance of institutions and student led initiatives were also expressed.

The paper presentation sessions were divided into nine parallel sessions over the course of two days. 93 papers were scheduled of which **72** papers were presented in the seminar. Four papers were awarded as *Best papers*. Some of the key areas that were discussed in the papers were orientation to teachers, continuous and comprehensive evaluation; importance of liberal arts education; dynamic and evolving curriculum; focus on research; understanding the psychological background of the teachers; pedagogical practices using technology; Innovative teaching and learning methods; importance of skill development in undergraduate education; impact on career opportunities of students and different dimensions of governance in larger and smaller Institutions. The Best Paper Awards were given to the Winners.



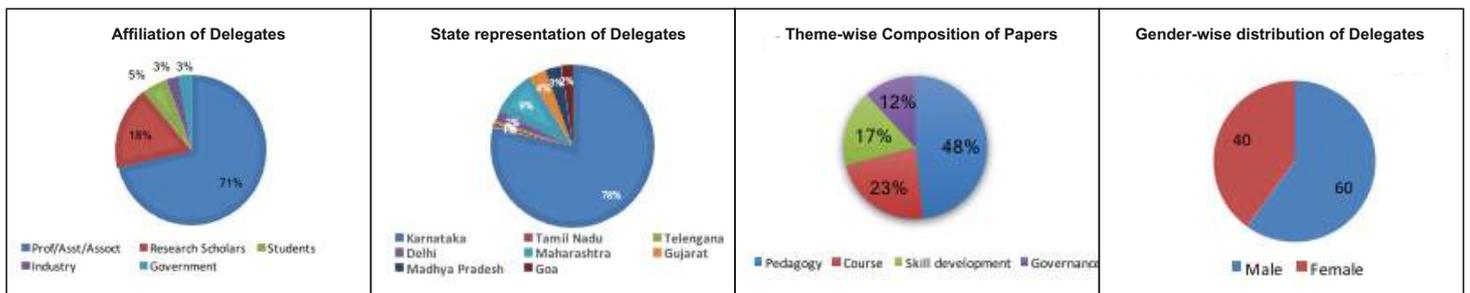
Presenting Idea at the Rejuv-Idea Conclave



Best Paper and Best Idea awardees at Valediction

Profile of Delegates for the Seminar

There were more than 400 attendees of which 372 were registered delegates across 14 states. The delegates included faculty of Arts, Science, Commerce, Management and Education from various Colleges and Universities, Industry representatives, Policy makers, Researchers and Students. Out of the delegates who attended the seminar, 72 delegates presented their papers under the four themes of the seminar.



The Children of Sparsh Trust presented a cultural event in which they performed traditional art forms of Karnataka including Yaksha Gaana and Dollu Kunitha.



A glimpse of the performance of Children of Sparsh Trust



Distribution of mementos to the Children

Outcomes and Road Map

The seminar was able to achieve the desired objectives and also initiated thinking amongst all participants on various aspects concerning Undergraduate Education. The seminar witnessed great enthusiasm amongst various groups to take this mission forward and reach the unreached areas. It contributed in identifying the need for rejuvenation of undergraduate education both at the policy level at the level of institutions. It enabled the identification of niche areas in undergraduate education that require further probe, intervention and transformation.

- The seminar opened the concept of “liberal arts/science education”, a multi-disciplinary approach with an emphasis on research at the undergraduate level. It gave scope for alternative thinking in spaces of teaching, learning, curriculum and assessment.
- The seminar focused on students' needs in terms of choice and flexibility in areas of assessment and course structure, empowering students in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership and social voluntarism.
- There was a gap recognized in teaching and pedagogy like Inadequate understanding of faculty, faulty practices in absence of standardized training and orientation, individualized teaching approaches were some of the inherent issues that were reflected in paper presentations. The seminar proposed use of learner determined pedagogy
- In view of the current affiliation and regulation system, institutions are constrained to think beyond given framework, thus the seminar called for institutionalized thinking and approach beyond university and affiliation
- The seminar recognized the need for building employers' confidence in the qualification and degrees awarded by Institutions.

Based on the above outcomes, CESS plans to take forward rejuvenation of Undergraduate Education on Mission mode and plan and implement interventions in the identified areas at University, College and individual levels.

Day One: 10th August 2018

Session	Guests and speakers
Inauguration	Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Former Chairman, ISRO Prof. D.P. Singh, Chairman, University Grants Commission Prof. Furqan Qamar, Secretary General, AIU, New Dehli Prof.S.A.Kori, Executive Director, KSHEC, Karnataka Prof. M. K. Sridhar, President CESS
Panel Discussion on Expectation of Stakeholders	Dr.Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean & Professor, SASTRA University Dhananjay Singh, Director General ,National HRD Network, Venkatesh Murthy, Founder, Youth for Seva AshishChauhan, Secretary, ABVP, India ChetanSingai, Deputy Director, Ramaiah Public Policy Institute Moderator
Course Structure, Curriculum Development and Assessment	Dr. K. Ramachandran, Former Professor, NIEPA Dr. Sanjay Kumar Satyarthi, Professor, Daman College Prof. H. S. Nagaraj, Founder, BASE Educational Services (Chairman)
Pedagogical Practices and Innovation	Dr. Vasudha Kamat, Former Vice-Chancellor, SNDT University, Mumbai Dr. Venu, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Azim Premji University Dr. Bitasta Das, Instructor, Centre for Curriculum Studies, IISc Prof. B. Thimme Gowda, Vice Chancellor, KSRDPR (Chairman)
Day Two: 11 th August 2018	
Skill Development and Employability	Dr. Vishnukanth Chatpalli, Adviser, NAAC Sri. Madan Padaki, CEO, Head Held High Foundation Prof. T. D. Kemparaiu. Vice Chancellor. Bangalore North University (Chairman)
Governance, Institutional Management and Leadership	Dr. Anurag Behar, Vice Chancellor, Azim Premji University Dr. M. K. Sridhar CESS Dr. Varadraj Bapat, Professor, IIT Mumbai (Chairman)
An Interaction With Author	Dr. Saikat Majumdar, Author of the book 'College: Pathways for Possibilities' Professor in English and Creative Writing Dr. Jeevan Kumar, Former professor, Bangalore University (Panellist) Dr. Manasa Nagabhusanam. Director. CESS (Panellist)
Valediction	Sri. S. V. Ranganath, Vice Chairman, KSHEC Dr. Venugopal K. R., Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University

In the words of speakers.....

I found the seminar structured very intelligently on the whole – this was evident from the very description of the two-day event and the list of panels and sessions that were described on the programme. As I attended the sessions, I realized, moreover, that they were planned in a way that they touched on a very diverse set of aspects of UG education, and between them, addressed this subject in its entirety, from curriculum to pedagogy to institutional governance and success and entrepreneurship..I was deeply impressed by the probing and thoughtful questions put to me by my co-panelists on my book College: Pathways of Possibility, and the level of engagement shown by the audience during the Q&A period. One of the best features of the seminar was the Rejuv conclave at the end, where the panelists had submitted ideas.

I was struck by the number of times the idea of multidisciplinary liberal art-science education came up in the ideas conclave, as this is an abiding interest of mine. On the whole, I found the seminar deeply well-thought, intelligently structured, and significant enough to generate new ideas and revive classic ones so that it can indeed begin a vibrant and impactful conversation on undergraduate education in India.

***Dr. Saikat Majumdar, Author of the book 'College-Pathways of Possibility';
Professor of English and Creative Writing, Ashoka University***

"A very well organised and well attended conference. The deliberations during the conference contributed immensely to the Identification of effective policy and programmatic initiatives that are required for reinvigorating undergraduate education in India

***Prof. K. Ramachandran,
Formerly Professor, NIEPA***

Undergraduate education is one of the most crucial links for leveraging human capital and the unique platform, seminar provided much needed focus for transformation of undergraduate education.

***Dhananjay Singh,
Executive Director,
National H.R.D N***