

National Conference on Language Pedagogy

11-13 December 2019 (PAC Code 15.16)

The **National Conference on Language Pedagogy** was organised by the Department of Education in Social Sciences & Humanities (DESSH) from 11-13 December, 2019 at Regional Institute of Education, Ajmer. The idea behind this national conference was to provide a common platform to all stakeholders working in the field of language education for sharing their experiences, researches, innovative practices and their impacts on improving the quality of school education in general and language pedagogy in particular. The conference was a unique endeavor in a sense that it was designed as an inclusive platform for three languages i.e. Hindi, English and Urdu in order to strengthen the spirit of multilingualism. In order to achieve this objective, research papers and articles in all the three languages were invited to include the academic inputs from the people working in each of these three languages.

The conference was organized with three main objectives. The first objective was to provide a platform to the language teachers, teacher educators, curriculum planners and linguistic experts to share their views, researches and innovative practices in language pedagogy; and the second was to cover all the major issues and concerns with language pedagogy with special reference to Hindi, English and Urdu; and the last objective was aimed at developing awareness amongst the teachers and teacher educators towards the emerging trends in language pedagogy with a special focus on addressing the current pedagogical issues and their concerns pertaining to the teaching and learning of language (s) in Indian perspective.

In this conference, more than 180 papers were received from language teachers, researchers, scholars, faculty members of DIETs, CTEs, SCERTs, SIERTs, SIEs, IASEs, Universities, NCERT, other teacher training institutions, colleges and NGOs working in the field of language education in particular and education in general. Out of the 180 papers received, 101 papers were finally selected for the presentation in technical sessions by the Review Committee. Out of 101 papers, 70 papers were presented during the conference in different technical sessions. Besides the paper presentation during the conference, one keynote address and four plenary lectures were also delivered by the invited speakers on the different themes of the conference. The discussion and deliberations made during the conference has generated an adequate, substantial and useful ideas leading to the enrichment of our knowledge related to various issues of language pedagogy.

It is expected that the ideas generated during the conference will help the teachers, teacher educators, researchers, scholars, language policy planners, people involved and concerned with the preparation of textbooks and teaching learning materials in language education.

The conference was inaugurated by the chief guest Prof. R.P. Singh, Honorable Vice Chancellor, MDS University, Ajmer and Guest of Honour Padma Shree Dr. C. P. Dewal, Key Note Speaker Prof. Rajneesh Arora, Director, EFL University, Lucknow, by lighting of the lamp along with other invited resource persons and dignitaries of the institute present on the occasion. The aims and objectives of *National Conference on Language Pedagogy* were highlighted by Prof. Rajesh Mishra, organizing Secretary of the conference.

On this occasion the Conference Souvenir was released by the chief guest, Prof. R.P. Singh, Guest of Honor Padma Shree C.P Dewal, Prof. Nagendra Singh, Prof. Rajneesh Arora, Prof. Ziaurrahman Siddiqui, Prof. Sunil Kumar, Prof. Saryug Yadav Dr. Albert Horo and Prof. Rajesh Mishra.



Releasing souvenir of the conference by chief guest & other dignitaries

Prof. R. P. Singh, while addressing the gathering said that language plays a crucial role in imparting education. He emphasized the importance of mother tongue and reiterated that if a person learns his/her mother tongue properly, it becomes easy to learn other languages also. In his address he stated that mother tongue can be used as a medium not only to learn other languages but it can also be used as an effective means to learn other subjects. Padam Shree C.P. Dewal said that in learning language the environment has a significant role to play. If a person has adequate command of his mother tongue, it will facilitate the process of learning other tongues. He said that mother tongue is an effective means to learn other languages without any difficulty. Human life is surrounded by language because mother gives birth to a person but language provides him/her *sanskar* and culture. Language prepares and nurtures human personality. Mother tongue is just like our mother; even if mother is physically impaired but only her milk and care nurtures the child. Similarly, even if our mother tongue is weak, it will provide a foundation of our personality and culture. In his keynote address, Prof. Arora argues that the teaching that does not include the voices of learners in the classroom is bound to fail. It is also against the constructivist paradigm of learning and teaching, and the policy vision of RTE-2009. He further asserts that the experiences of learners must be used as texts in the classroom which can even replace the textbooks prescribed. He emphasised that we certainly need the teaching materials which the learners can immediately relate to, the materials that

promote a culture in the classroom in which their voices are heard. We need materials which promote 'learner autonomy' and motivate them to take responsibility for their own learning. One way to achieve this would be to encourage them to choose their own materials, their own texts which can be analysed in the classroom to arrive at different meanings/interpretations. In his deliberation he also provided an overview of different perspectives on language pedagogy.



Audience and participants in Assembly Hall



There were four plenary sessions during the conference by prominent intellectuals working in the areas of language education, literature, psychology and media. The plenary sessions were organized to illuminate the scholars, researchers, teachers and teacher-educators and other stakeholders in the field of language learning and teaching. Prof. Sunil Kumar, Head, Dept. of Hindi, Magadha University, Bodh Gaya (Bihar) delivered his lecture on “*Hindi Bhasha Adhyapan Kala*”. Prof. Ziaurrahman Siddiqui, Dept. of Urdu, A.M.U. Aligarh delivered his lecture on *Urdu Language- Teaching and Learning*. The third plenary lecture was delivered by Dr. Anil K. Paliwal on *Language Pedagogy: Concerns, Issues and Challenges*. The fourth plenary lecture was delivered by Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Roy Senior Journalist and Author, DAILY POST, Chandigarh on *Communication, Development and Language*.

In all 70 papers on different sub-themes of the conference were presented in six technical sessions scheduled from 11th December 2019 to 13th December 2019. The technical sessions comprise the paper presentations by the participants, discussions and feedback thereon.



The chief guest of the valedictory function was Prof. N.K. Pandey, Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. While speaking, Prof. N. K. Pandey said that language is the most powerful possession of human life and it plays a very constructive role in the development of human personality as well as the integrating the society, nation and the world at large. Language is the best medium of conversation as well as communication. He stated that on the one hand, without language no education can be imparted and on the other, language is itself an important subject of teaching and training. He opined that due to some obvious circumstances, people have developed an interest to learn several languages of the world.

Language education has considerably widened its areas keeping in view of the global expectations arising out of research study done in the field of literature, art, culture, scientific and technical subjects. He reiterated that the language education poses serious challenges in a multilingual country like India and it is more relevant to revisit the language pedagogy and try to find out some suitable solutions.



Prof. N.K. Pandey delivering his Valedictory Lecture



Felicitation of the chief guest by i/c Principal Prof. Nagendra Singh