



Inaugural Event Report

7th September'21

3:00 pm

Observation of International Literacy Week'21

Theme: *Literacy for a Human-Centred Recovery: Narrowing the Digital Divide*

The poster is blue and white. At the top left is the University of Delhi logo with the text 'दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय' and 'University of Delhi'. The main title 'OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LITERACY WEEK - 2021' is in the center. Below it, the dates '7 - 13 SEPT 2021 (Inauguration on 7 Sept 2021 at 3:00 PM)' are shown. A section titled 'OUR SPECIAL DISTINGUISHED GUEST' features a photo of Prof. Balram Pani and his name. Another section titled 'OUR SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR' features photos of Prof. Suman Kundu and Dr. Vikas Gupta. To the right, a photo of Prof. P. C. Joshi is shown with the title 'CHIEF GUEST SPEAKER Prof. P. C. Joshi Vice-Chancellor, DU'. A 'Programmes:' section lists 'ESSAY COMPETITION', 'POSTER COMPETITION', 'SPECIAL NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL LITERACY WEEK 2021', and 'PANEL DISCUSSION ON VIDYA VISTAR - 2'. At the bottom, there is a 'REGISTER NOW!' button with the URL 'shorturl.at/mFMUW', the designer's information 'DESIGN BY : RAMESHWAR GUPTA (+91) 8630831266 ceo@kipzer.com', and the location 'Department of Adult, Continuing Education & Extension (Faculty of Social Sciences) University of Delhi'.

Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension (DACEE), University of Delhi is a full-fledged Department which has been celebrating the literacy drive since 1978 and each year it observes the 'Literacy Day' during which brainstorming is done on previous achievements and future challenges for imparting literacy. UNESCO stresses the importance of literacy as the most powerful accelerator of sustainable development and has pledged that by 2030, the organization will ensure that the youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy. India is an active member of the UN and it also observes 'Literacy Day' each year, as the country has 37% of the world's illiterates.

Further, it has initiated several initiatives since independence to strengthen the interventions to impart basic and foundation literacy, wherein role of University's Adult Education Departments has been critical in terms of planning, conducting research and provide expertise for its success. With the advent of New Education Policy 2020, the Department has recognized the importance of a literate society in the era of knowledge economy by achieving 100% sustainable literacy in India and indulge the larger population to promote lifelong learning. This year the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi observed the **Literacy Week** from **7th September, 2021 to 13th September, 2021** on UNESCO's theme of 'Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide'.



The long term objectives of the weeklong literacy celebration observation include the following:

- To achieve optimum utilization of the university's resources for 100% sustainable literacy in India;
- To operationalize the idea of literacy through active mobilization and extension activities;
- To spread awareness on the importance of literacy for a learning society;
- To plan and implement regular initiatives by the Department for sustainable literacy purposes;
- To meaningfully engage students, scholars & faculty for achieving the goal of 100% literate India.

In the light of the above, the Department observed the inaugural celebration of the International Literacy Week on 7th September 2021. Each year literacy day is celebrated with different themes to spread the awareness and renounce its importance in common parlance. UNESCO's theme of this year focuses on theme of '*A human centered recovery: Narrowing the digital divide*' which was duly given immense importance. The weeklong programme organized by the Department included activities ranging from essay and poster competition, plantation initiative, pledge by the students, skill mapping and competency assessment of the unorganized sector workers including rickshaw & e-rickshaw pullers as well as an intensive panel discussion with the *Vidya Vistar* (flagship initiative by the University of Delhi) partners.

The inaugural event was graced with the presence of **Chief Guest, Professor P.C. Joshi, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi**; **Distinguished Guest, Professor Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges University of Delhi**; **Guests of Honor - Professor Suman Kundu, Director, South Campus University of Delhi & Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi**; and an **International Guest, Prof. Soeren Ehlers, from Helmut Schmidt University, Germany**. The kick-off was marked by plantation of various saplings and fruit trees by the Chief Guest, Distinguished Guest and Guests of Honour to remember the importance for creation of a sustainable environment. This was followed by lighting of the lamp as a good omen.





The inaugural address by the Chief Guest, Professor P.C. Joshi, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi began by congratulating the Department for this initiative and emphasized on making a 100% literate society, as each person's responsibility. He focused on the urgent need to enable 'literacy for all' under the Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030 along with the greater motto of 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Prof. P.C. Joshi reinforced the efficacy in providing non-formal modes of learning for encouraging lifelong learning. Further, he requested each individual to possess an academic social responsibility in order to achieve 100% literacy for all.





The Distinguished Guest at the event, Professor Balaram Pani, Dean of Colleges University of Delhi projected the role of DACEE for making India, hundred percent literate and thus realize the potential of each and every individual. Moreover, he laid attention upon extension as an activity which needs to be continuously followed by everyone.



The Guest of Honour at the event, Professor Suman Kundu, Director, South Campus, University of Delhi and Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi unanimously reinforced the need to promote lifelong learning for all. An International Guest, Prof. Soeren Ehlers, from Helmut Schmidt University, Germany laid stress upon the need to volunteer in order to attain 100% global literacy.



The auspicious occasion saw the release of a special edition newsletter to commemorate International Literacy Day 2021, the Department's latest newsletter on its updated activities as well as a special journal issue based on the theme of transgender welfare in which the foreword is contributed by **Dr. Veerendra Mishra, Director, National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), MSJE.**

Next, few students shared their field work experiences with regard to a skill mapping project initiated by Delhi government, in collaboration with Indian Adult Education Association (IAEA).



The special edition newsletter released on the inaugural day possesses commemorative messages from the Chief Guest, Prof. P.C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi; Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi; Balázs Németh, Associate Professor in Adult Learning and Education, University of Pécs, Hungary; Prof. Pankaj Arora, Director, Institute of Lifelong Learning; Prof. S.Y. Shah, Director, International Institute of Adult & Lifelong Education; Prof. Rajesh, H.O.D., DACEE; Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Member, National Council for Transgender Persons; and Aryan Pasha, Member, National Council for Transgender Persons.



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

Professor P. C. Joshi
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor (Acting)



MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the Department of Adult Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi is observing International Literacy Week 2021. September 8th was proclaimed as the International Literacy Day by UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on November 17, 1965. It was first celebrated in 1966. Its aim was to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

Each year, this day is celebrated with the aim to sensitize and mobilize public opinion and to elicit their interest and appreciations. On this day throughout the world a message is spread to individuals, organizations and states, to demonstrate their support and solidarity for literacy and to promote non-formal education for all, particularly for those who have been excluded from the formal system of education.

I congratulate all the students, scholars and faculty members of the Department and wish them all the success for Literacy week observation and I am sure that this department will play an important role in terms of realizing the 100% sustainable literacy of India in coming days.

(Prof. P. C. Joshi)

MESSAGE

I feel exuberant and elated when across the canvas of building foundations as well bridging gaps in all kinds of inequalities go hand in hand in the spectrum of higher education. It is a pride moment to see the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension fill this very gap with a deep sense of responsibility and demonstrates “Ubiquity of Learning” with solidarity to promote non-formal education for all, particularly for those who have been excluded from the formal system of Education. Overpowering the challenge of both illiteracy and Digital Divide has been the cornerstone of this Department in particular; which the University of Delhi reckons with and upholds its scholars, faculty members and students in high esteem. With the University of Delhi celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and walking head high in its Centennial Year, the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension has added another colour in its rainbow by observing the International Literacy week on the theme " Literacy to bridge Digital Divide and Empower India". To my mind, it is sheer pleasure to boast that the Department has curated a broad-base structure on this occasion, with an Essay and Poster Competition alongwith with release of e-newsletter, Panel discussion, and Tree Plantation drive to sensitize the youth for holistic perspective of literacy especially when India is on its way to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. I once again congratulate all the Students, Scholars and Faculties of the Department and wish them all the success for Literacy week celebrations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vikas Gupta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is slightly slanted to the right.

Dr. Vikas Gupta

Registrar

University of Delhi

MESSAGE



“Pen is mightier than the sword and spoken words. Hence, what better way to educate ourselves about the social issues of our society than through literacy. Transgender is one such issue that needs immediate addressing at all levels. Transgender is a highly significant and a subject that requires extensive study in order to comprehend the adversities and misfortunes faced by the members of the trans society. Spoken words are soon lost and forgotten in the dissonance of a million voices but books live forever through their printed words and become even more impactful when these words are given in a visual form through cinema. These tools can help shape young minds into responsible and sensitive humans who will lay the foundation of the future world, based on humanity, sans any kind of discrimination.”

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi

(Member: National Council for Transgender Persons)

MESSAGE



“Literacy is one of the best ways to understand and combat difficult social issues that shape our world, gender identity being one of them. Anything in print stays in mind as well as archives for a very long time. Hence it is more likely to have an impact on broadening horizons and bring about a social change for transgender people. Education about transgender through literacy at an early age, can help to sensitize the young generation and shape them into liberal, empathetic and tolerant leaders of tomorrow. There are numerous gender identity books, fiction and non-fiction, for children as well as adults that can help understand the difficulties and traumas faced by trans people and supporting them to lead a fulfilling life with respect and dignity that they deserve.”

Aryan Pasha

(Member: National Council for Transgender Persons)

MESSAGE

Let me hereby indicate that your programme to commemorate International Literacy Day 2021 is a very important initiative and effort to highlight the problems of inequity, inequalities and exclusion in the world referring to lifelong learning. In case we want to successfully fight back Illiteracy and under education, we have to start with the improvement of literacy and necessary basic skills. Lifelong learning in this regard means the overall development of education from initial/basic education, which is prerequisite of further education and lifelong learning for all. Also, this overall theme reminds us of illiterate adults who also need education through literacy programmes connecting generations, and members of different vulnerable groups. Moreover, literacy programmes need further funding to provide access to more potential learners, thereby, supporting their lives be more stable both in social and economic dimensions. As for economies, only literate people can step forward to vocational education and trainings to become employable and engage with quality forms of production in smart and inclusive communities.

Only literate people can understand how community responsibility and action can make us respond to social injustice and environmental crisis. In accordance with the UN SDGs, Learning to become, a recent initiative of UNESCO cannot be realized without growing attention to access and participatory issues to help people suffering shortages of basic human needs. In Hungary, educators and trainers at HEIs are concerned that lifelong learning must imply literacy work with those who need help to become resilient. This work is deeply reflected in your own initiative, you must be proud of.

We wish you all success and ask you to share your experience with us in Europe!

With all best regards,

Balázs Németh

Associate Professor in ALE – University of Pécs, Hungary
EAEA Board member

MESSAGE

I am extremely delighted to know that the Department is celebrating International Literacy Week. Moreover, the initiative to launch a special edition newsletter on the occasion of International Literacy Day 2021 is timely, as it highlights the need for each of us to take ownership and move towards achieving UN's SDG 4 of 'ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education & promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all'. Education including higher education is envisaged as an instrument of social transformation. Universities are expected to perform an important role in promoting social change and extend the knowledge gained to the community at large, for our nation's overall development. Therefore, education is viewed as a lifelong learning process. The Department of Adult, Continuing Education & Extension then becomes the focal point of facilitating extension activities in academic department for reinforcing theory and practice as part of the University-system.

This year International Literacy Day will be celebrated under the theme "Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide". The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted the learning of children, young people and adults at an unprecedented scale. It has also magnified the pre-existing inequalities in access to meaningful literacy learning opportunities, disproportionately affecting 773 million non-literate young people and adults. Another challenge is posed now with acceleration of digital innovations. Therefore, to gain employment and respond to social, economic and environmental challenges effectively, new skills need to be inculcated among the population. It is in this regard that creating lifelong learning opportunities for all becomes indispensable. On this International Day, I wish that the Department continues its mobilization efforts which help our society in becoming 100% literate, globally.

Best wishes for the successful celebration of the International Literacy Week!

Warm regards,

Pankaj Arora

Director

ILLL

MESSAGE

I am delighted to know that the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension of the University of Delhi will be celebrating *International Literacy Day* with a variety of programmes viz. Essay and Poster competition for the students and a panel discussion by eminent scholars. I am sure all these activities will not only sensitise the student community about the importance and role of literacy in our society, but also motivate them to participate in various activities aimed at the promotion of literacy. As mentioned in the National Education Policy 2020, “*The opportunity to attain foundational literacy, obtain an education, and pursue a livelihood must be viewed as basic rights of every citizen. Literacy and basic education open up whole new worlds of personal, civic, economic, and lifelong- learning opportunities for individuals that enable them to progress personally and professionally. At the level of society and the nation, literacy and basic education are powerful force multipliers which greatly enhance the success of all other developmental efforts. Worldwide data on nations indicate extremely high correlations between literacy rates and per capita GDP.*”

The student community can play a key role, not only in imparting literacy to non-literates through the programme of Each One Teach One, but also sensitise the community members through street plays and songs. As mentioned by Mahatma Gandhi, the focus of literacy programme should be to educate the minds of adults. I am sure under the dynamic leadership of Professor Rajesh (Head of the Department) the student community of University of Delhi will play a key role in the promotion of literacy, thereby furthering the objective of achieving 100% literacy by 2030.

Professor S.Y. Shah

Director

International Institute of Adult & Lifelong Education
17-B, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

MESSAGE

The Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension is a full-fledged multidisciplinary Department under faculty of social sciences currently running the courses of Master in Lifelong Learning, M.Phil. , Ph.D. and several skilled based short-term courses like Counselling and Guidance, ELP and Tour &Travel. The department has piloted the Courses like Cyber security and Journalism. Department has national and International MOUs and MOU under Vidya Vistar scheme of University of Delhi.

The recent Academic Council and Excuse Council approved four General Elective Courses for undergraduate students in the tune of New Education Policy, 2020. The department is planning for full-fledged multidisciplinary four years competency oriented Undergraduate program. In coming time, it has been planning to work for Recognition of Prior earning among unorganized sectors workers in Delhi and NCR. It is also planning to introduced skill based short term courses for training of functional literacy, foundational literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy, with help of other partner organizations under New Education Policy 2020 and 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' of the Government of India.

On the occasion of Centenary Year of University of Delhi, Department has planned to launch a new journal on Lifelong Learning and Extension at the National Level for development of knowledge society and affirm the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Today, Department of Adult, Continuing, Education and Extension is going to celebrate the International Literacy week on the theme "**Literacy to Bridge Digital Divide and Empower India**" with a motive to make India 100% literate and simultaneously help to bridge the Digital Divide and promote the inclusiveness of Education and Learning to all.



Prof. Rajesh

H.O.D.

DACEE

The inaugural event concluded with an award distribution ceremony to felicitate the winners as well as participants of the ‘essay and poster competition’. The list of winners is as under:

Essay

1st Prize - Anshika Sharma and Vishakha (Lady Irwin College, D.U.)

2nd Prize - Khushi (Rajdhani College, D.U.)

3rd Prize - Kalpana Kaushik (IAEA, Delhi)

Poster

1st Prize - Munavoor Praveen (Lucknow University)

2nd Prize - Amit Anant (Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh University)

3rd Prize - Apoorva Prakash (Miranda House, D.U.)





In conclusion, the Department made a commitment for the launch of an undergraduate program in lifelong learning, at the national level with international faculty members. Along with this, a centre of excellence/an incubation centre for transgender would soon be launched to support the unorganized sector of the society.

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय लोगों के दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव लाने के लिए सोर्स बुक बनाएगा, ट्रांसजेंडरों के संघर्ष से लेकर सफलता की कहानी होगी

पहल : ट्रांसजेंडर्स के प्रति समाज, छात्रों का नजरिया बदलेगा डीयू

नई दिल्ली | प्रभुज ठंडादाता

ट्रांसजेंडर्स के प्रति समाज का नजरिया बदलने के लिए डीयू सोर्स बुक बनाएगा। इसके लिए, देश में सफल ट्रांसजेंडर के संघर्ष से लेकर सफलता तक को दर्शाना को संग्रहित कर, छात्रों को बताया जाएगा।

इस सोर्स बुक की केन्द्र स्टॉडी के साथ ट्रांसजेंडर छात्रों के अलावा सामान्य छात्र भी अध्ययन करेंगे। ज्ञात हो कि

जल्द बनाया जाएगा ट्रांसजेंडर सेल

डीयू के प्रारंभिक विद्यार्थी एवं सलाहकार अंतर्राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता समाज भी मानव जा रहा है। इसमें समाज के सभी लोगों की विविधता करने की दिशा में डीयू के कार्यालयक कुर्सिति प्रो. पीसी जौरी ने भी विचार रखे। उन्होंने विशेष रूप से ट्रांसजेंडर सहित अन्य लोगों के लिए एक विविधत समाज की बात की। प्रो. गोलेश ने बताया कि डीयू में ट्रांसजेंडर सेल जनने को लेकर कुर्सिति का सकारात्मक रुख है। डीयू ट्रांसजेंडर छात्रों के लिए सकारात्मक हो इसके लिए प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है।

अन्य ब्रेनों में आवेदन किया है।

डीयू के रेग्युलर से अधिक एसओएल में ट्रांसजेंडर विद्यार्थी दर्शिता लेते हैं। इसीक बहाव पर

कक्षाएँ सकाह में दो दिन चलती हैं। उसमें भी ट्रांसजेंडर छात्रों की संख्या काफी कम रही है।

डीयू के प्रारंभिक विद्यार्थी से भी जुड़े हैं और उपरिता के विस्तार विभाग के विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. गोलेश ने बताया कि हम लोग ट्रांसजेंडर को रेल मॉडल के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते को कोशिश कर रहे हैं। क्योंकि आमतौर से समाज में यह धारणा है कि ट्रांसजेंडर बाबू गीत, गोपनीय, भीख यादेने का कार्य करते हैं। लोकिन, घो-घोर, इसमें बदलाव आया है। देश में कई जनान के प्रतिवेदनों में ट्रांसजेंडर नौकरी कर रहे हैं। धार्मिक कार्य से भी जुड़े हैं और उपरिता के देश में भी काम कर रहे हैं।

मुख्यमंत्री में लोगों में भद्र : उन्होंने कहा कि यथावत वाह है कि समाज की धारणा बदल कर इनके मुख्य धारणे में तात्परा जा सकता है। इससे ट्रांसजेंडर्स के सशक्तिकारण में मदद मिल सकेगी। जो सोर्स बुक हम तैयार करेंगे वह समाज के आम लोगों से ट्रांसजेंडर की जो दरी बरी है वह कभी हो सकती और इससे ट्रांसजेंडर्स को मुख्य धारा में शामिल करने में मदद मिलेगी।

Lastly, as University of Delhi reaches its centenary year in 2022, the Department of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension, University of Delhi would serve as the social face for all required extension activities under the ambit of adult, continuing education and lifelong learning.

Recommendations for Future Plan of Action

- Encouraging the development of an academic social responsibility to attain 100% global literacy;
- Recognizing the need for active volunteerism and further incentivizing those acts;
- Increasing efforts for strengthening continuing courses, continuing education courses and community labs for vulnerable population;
- Developing a centre of excellence/an incubation centre for transgender persons;
- Recapitalizing the university's resources for 100% sustainable literacy in India;
- Shaping the idea of literacy through actual operationalization;
- Conceptualizing meaningful engagements of students, scholars, faculty for achieving the goal of 100% literate India;
- Developing the chain of awareness on importance of literacy for a learning society;
- Strengthening multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary activities in the area of higher education, as per the first objective of Delhi University's Implementation Committee under the New Education Policy 2020;
- Developing partnerships with various Ministries for internships and lifelong learning possibilities as employability prospects;
- Introduction of a Learning Outcomes Based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) for an undergraduate level programme in Lifelong Learning & Extension discipline;
- Formulation of a lifelong learning policy in higher education by the Department;
- Understanding the role of the Department for sustainable literacy purposes;
- Establishing active linkages with other institutions for vocational training, human resources, infrastructural support and other relevant purposes.

Professor Rajesh

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