

DISCUSSION FORUM

ON

“SHIKSHIT BHARAT, SAKSHAM BHARAT—QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL”

Organized by CUHP to Celebrate

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY

17 NOVEMBER 2014

An Open Discussion Forum was held today to celebrate the International Students' Day at Temporary Academic Block (TAB), Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shahpur on “Shikshit Bharat, Saksham Bharat: Quality Education for All.” The 17th November of every year is celebrated as the International Students' Day.

To lend meaning to this special day, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt of India has taken an initiative to organise a discussion on the above topic at all universities and other educational institutions of the country throughout the year so that the deliberations that take place and suggestions that emerge out of such discussions could be taken into account in the course of evolving a new education policy. MHRD has also proposed to select the best recommendations and suggestions on the subject and to invite one student leader from various universities to Delhi to interact with the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development and s/he will also be accorded an opportunity to attend a session of the Parliament when the subject of education will be discussed.

With the above in view, around forty participants (PhD and PG Students) shared their views on the topic and gave various suggestions and recommendations to promote quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. The students suggested bringing excellence in education sector by providing equal opportunity to all. Other important suggestions that were given by the students are as follows:

There is need:

- Not to compromise with the idea of social justice and welfare while thinking about quality education
- To promote adult education to make it more relevant in the current scenario
- To open specialized varsities for rural development, sports and liberal arts education
- To ensure education as a moral duty of the state by providing free and compulsory primary education to all
- To connect education and research with the community
- To create a technology-based transparent mechanism to recruit better teachers
- To bring in e-governance to improve present evaluation system
- To encourage learner-centred approach in the process of teaching

- To critically debate, discuss and evaluate the relevance of different ideologies in education system
- To inculcate gender sensitivity, humaneness and moral values
- To make teacher training more rigorous and update it periodically

While chairing the session, Dr. Roshan Lal Sharma, Dean, School of Humanities & Languages made his opening statement with a brief introduction of the parameters laid down by the UNICEF vis-à-vis quality education, and also underscored that students being the major stakeholders in the whole exercise of re-framing/modifying the education policy, it is time that they do some meaningful introspection about how education should be in the present scenario. Dr Manukonda Rabindranath, Dean School of Journalism, Mass Communication & New Media, Observer of the Discussion, stressed that though several new institutions have emerged due to significant increase in private sector participation over the last few years, concerns regarding the quality of education being imparted to students remain unaddressed. Dr Navneet Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Education acted as Mediator and commented critically and insightfully on various issues that emerged during the course of discussion. Dr Archana Katoch, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Creative Writing and Sh. Kuldeep Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Electronic Media attended the function as Rapporteurs. Dr Manpreet Arora, Assistant Professor, School of Business & Management Studies, was the overall coordinator of the Discussion Forum.