

REPORT OF 10TH EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT KOLKATA

Inaugural Session:

The Inaugural Session of the **10th All India Educational Conference (AIEC)**, organized by All India Educational Movement (AIEM) was held on **13th March, 2020** at Aliah University auditorium, Kolkata. Welcoming the guests and delegates.

Mr. Mozaffar Ali, General Secretary of AIEM traced the history and services rendered by the AIEM, which has been organizing such conferences annually on specific subjects. This year AIEM has chosen the theme of "**Education - vision 2030**" for the 10th AIEC. He stated that education is the tool for empowerment of -



Mr. Mozaffar Ali addressing while Dr. Khwaja M Shahid, Dr. M. Kapdi, Prof Ujjawal Chowdhury & Mr. Nurul Islam are on the dais.

environment of hate created during the last 5-6 years is not good for peace and educational development in the country, particularly the education of the minorities. All people, therefore, need to work jointly for peace and educational development a mass movement.

Prof Ujjawal Chowdhury, Pro Vice Chancellor, ADMAS University, Kolkata, presented

the key note address. At the outset, he expressed his regret and sorry for the recent communal violence in Delhi riots. He was grieved and saddened for brutality and madness shown by the members of the majority community. He apologized on behalf of them. He mentioned that those who were criminally assaulted and lost lives were not personally known to him but they were human beings and fellow citizens. Some of his students and acquaintances from the journalist fraternity were among those who had witnessed the mob brutalities. He was of the opinion that such killing of innocent persons in communal riots have shamed the nation.

Prof Chowdhury shared his experience of working in a professional educational institution – PEARL ACADEMY and explained that in the today's changing economic society and corporate world the education has to be skilled base. The earlier education was by books only but now knowledge is imparted more outside the books. The curriculum and syllabus, particularly of professional courses should contain a large content of practical professional skills and experience. He argued that jobs in government sector are getting reduced and with liberalization of economy and privatization of government services jobs are moving in the private sector. The growing private sector job market is placing more and more emphasis on knowledge of working skills and experience.



Prof. Ujjawal Chowdhury addressing the Inaugural Session

The time has come that a degree alone will not remain sole criteria of eligibility for any appointment. More and more recruitments are being made with preference to professional experience and expertise in skills required for the job. Prof Chowdhury argued for skilled based education in schools and higher education institutions too. He expressed serious concern for the economic

turmoil in the country on account of lopsided Government policies. He mentioned that unemployment is rising in India as India's unemployment rate has increased to 7.7% during December 2019, according to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Similarly, Gross Domestic Production (GDP) has fallen down at the lowest level of the decade. If unemployment is more the GDP proportionately falls down. There no major efforts on the part of the government to provide employment to the people. India's main employment provider is small and medium industry sector which is labour intensive and based on human skills. Government is making no serious attempt for Skill development which could generate huge jobs. Although there are 914 Universities in the country but not much has been done for skill development education. In the present day scenario of job market, obtaining a degree is not sufficient but it is the merit of the candidate, which is important and deciding factor in the selection process. In this context, he emphasized upon the need of digital competency. He was also of the opinion that the graduates should take more interest in entrepreneurship and set up their own enterprises. In this way, they will not only get self - employed but will also generate jobs for others.



A view of the audience at Alia University

Prof Chowdhury also explained at length about the importance of communication skills for the development and manifestation of the personality. He desired that school and colleges should develop special programs for training of communication abilities in English and Indian languages. "Education is the manifestation of perfection in man", he quoted Swami

Vivekananda. Prof Chowdhury, in address, placed great emphasis on teaching about the life and work great Indian and international personalities in different fields of subjects to present role models before students. It is one of the important method of inspiring and motivating young minds. Our mission should be to produce leaders in the society and not just degree holders for the job market. The Vision and Mission statements of institutions should be clearly spelled out and inculcated in the mind and hearts of students and faculty. The purpose of education should be much higher than just obtaining jobs. According to Prof Chowdhury, teachers should inspire students to achieve higher goals. These inspiring teachers are like second parents to the students. Training the teachers to play the role of parents is inevitable.

Prof Chowdhury concluded his address with the advice that Education Vision 2030 should incorporate the suggestions made by him for an education which can deliver results desired by the society.

Mr. Nurul Islam of Al Ameen Mission, Kolkata spoke in Bangla and appreciated the efforts of AIEM for educational awakening and choosing Kolkata for this 10educationalconference. He informed that their NGO has already supported about **42,000** students in preparing for medical and engineering exams and about **17000** are currently studying in various branches of their professional courses all over West Bengal.

Dr. Mubarak Kapdi from Mumbai stated that although our country is having a very ancient civilization of about 5000 years old, but its capital has recently witnessed one of the worst communal violence. He congratulated the ladies of the Kolkata -

Shaheen Bagh for sitting on dharna (demonstration) at Park Circus grounds against the draconian citizenship law. Actually they are saving the future of our youth. He suggested that instead of depending on the Government, parents should share responsibility for educating their children.

Dr. Sayeedur Rehman Faizi from Toronto, Canada advocated that an educated person and uneducated one cannot be equal. Lap of mother is the first school of a child. Only education can make us a good human beings.



Chairing the session, **Dr. Khwaja M. Shahid**, President, AIEM explained the background of AIEM and informed about the rationale for choosing the theme of the 10th AIEC i.e. **Education Vision – 2030**. He observed that the progress in the field of ICT and digitization of operations have immensely changed the traditional methods of teaching – learning. Open and Distance Learning has taken the teaching and learning to the door steps of the learner. The

learning can be undertaken at any time of the day, month or year according to the convenience of the student. The education has now gone beyond the four walls of the class rooms. The importance of ICT for providing education in ODL mode cannot be under stated.

The recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computation, Robotics etc have opened new avenues to provide fast changing vast knowledge to a large number of student populations. The educational institutions, now, should equip themselves with digital infrastructure and ensure digital knowledge and skills to its faculty and other staff members. New methods and techniques of teaching and pedagogy to impart education with help of new digital tools are unavoidable. It is essential to keep pace with innovations taking place with superfast speed in the digital world. Simultaneously, learners (students) should also be provided with necessary hardware like electricity, internet facility, computers, smart - phones and so on to make digital learning successful.

Educators should also plan for likely future innovations in the field of ICT and education. They should design courses and curriculum, develop pedagogy and examination system keeping in mind the innovations of new products and requirement of the society and corporate world. A vision for next, at least, ten years has to be prepared and a road map should be spread out to achieve designated goals. THERE IS A NEED OF EDUCATION VISION2030.

The minorities and particularly the Muslim minority which is educationally backward in comparison to other socio religious groups, need to be more diligent and on fast track in their efforts to educate themselves and to acquire necessary skills. Prof Khwaja Shahid also observed that there has been significant educational awakening among Muslims as a result of efforts made by our and many other NGOs and community leaders during the last about twenty years. Further, the next ten years would be very important as the new educational policy, which is in the offing, would be implemented during this period. The educationally retarded community should specifically make special efforts to support governmental education programs with its own add on efforts. There are certain specific and unique educational requirements of the minority communities. The community specific education plan -

should be so designed that it along with national educational schemes should identify and fulfill both national goals as well as community requirements in, say, next ten years.

Prof Khwaja Shahid further emphasized upon the need of such teachers who are well motivated and know developments in latest educational techniques to teach our new generation. He called upon education institutions to prepare a Teachers Development program. Such a program has to be dynamic and self-assessing. A teacher must necessarily undergo a regular knowledge, professional skill and life skill development program. He also emphasized upon the importance of an outreach program for each school and college. There is a need for our schools and colleges to work with missionary zeal to achieve tangible and quantifiable results.

While concluding his presidential address, Prof Khwaja Shahid appealed Prof Ujjawal Chowdhury PVC, ADAMAS University and Chief guest of the session that he need not apologies for the recent communal riot and brutal killing of innocent citizens in north east Delhi. The shame and condemnation should be reserved for cruel and criminal elements who perpetuated most inhuman acts of killing the men and women and burning their properties. It was a clear case of nexus and conspiracy between law enforcing agencies and political opportunism. The inefficiency and incompetency of the Police was evident in abundance during the riot in Delhi. These elements should bow their heads in shame for criminal negligence and conduct. And they should apologies, said Prof Khwaja. Persons like Prof Ujjawal Chowdhury are the pillars of secular and plural traditions of India. The future of India along with its constitutional values is safe only in the hands of persons like Prof Chowdhury. We salute them and we are proud of them.

In the end Prof Khwaja Shahid thanked and congratulated the organizers for a brilliant beginning of the conference. He also thanked and welcomed the guests and delegates for attending the conference.

The session was moderated by **Mr. Mozaffar Ali**, General Secretary AIEM.

1st SESSION: EARLY LEARNING AND OUR SCHOOLS AND MADARIS.

The session was presided over by **Dr Shaharyar Salim**, a social activist of Kolkata and addressed by the following:

- 1. Dr. Mubarak Kapdi**, Mumbai, writer and thinker
- 2. Dr. Mohd Nasruddin**, Principal Govt. English Medium model Madrasa



Dr. Mubarak Kapdi addressing while Dr. Nasruddin, Dr. Sharyar & Syed Mansoor Agha are on the dais

Initiating discussions **Dr. Mubarak Kapdi** stated that earlier students, parents and management used to run the schools but now society and the Government have also been added and made it more complex. Since the policy allows no detention till class VIII, one can very well understand the quality of our education. He felt that there was ignorance of priorities among our Muslim

Rulers as they were building Taj Mahal whereas Birtishers built Oxford University. There was no career planning and no idea of higher education with the result that the poor was the worst affected. Sir Syed was the first person who started campaign for education, brotherhood and communal harmony. We need to open the doors of our masajid and use juma address to educate our people.



Dr. Md. Nasruddin addressing the session

Dr. Md. Nasruddin, Headmaster, Burdwan Govt. Model Madrasah (English medium).

Md. Nasruddin informed that learning is a life-long process which starts with birth and continues till death from motor neuron movements till learning of critical thinking and evaluation abilities the process of learning never stops. He also mentioned nature, stages, process and theories of learning with

special focus on role of madaris as formal centers of learning.

Dr. Shaharyar in his presidential address stated that we should not underestimate Madrasah students as they are very intelligent and capable. His experience of working in **75 to 100** schools where he organized debates etc revealed that Madrasah students can do still better if they are provided proper facilities. He also informed the audience about the administrative control of these Madaris by the Madrasah Education Board and the Department of Minority Affairs. He felt that this is an important subject and needs full-fledged discussion. **Mr. Syed Mansoor Agha** who moderated the session agreed that at least half a day workshop is needed to discuss this subject in detail.

2nd SESSION-NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY:

The session was chaired by **Dr. Jakir Hussain Laskar**, HOD, Department of Education, Aliah University, Kolkata and addressed by the following:

1. **Prof Mohd. Akhtar Siddiqui**, former Chairman NCTE
2. **Syed Ahmed Muzakkir**, Director Centre for Educational Research & Training, New Delhi



Prof Akhtar Siddiqui addressing the session, while Syed A Muzakkir, Dr. Jakir Husain Laskar are on the dais

Prof Akhtar Siddiqui informed the audience that he was fortunately a member of Apex consultative groups of the Committee which drafted **487** pages New Educational policy. Its 4th draft was recently presented to the PM and it's likely to be finalized shortly. Whereas the **1986** policy emphasized on access and diversity, the focus of the new policy is on improving quality

education, equity and diversity. The word minority has been avoided. However the terms educationally under-represented groups and socio economically disadvantaged groups have been used whereas earlier it used to be educationally backward minorities. There is no mention of Arabic language anywhere and even Urdu has not been mentioned directly. However it is mentioned in the Program of Action for Madrasahs in the quality improvement program.

There is a mention of global knowledge and India becoming super power. Special Educational Zones are proposed to be created for socio economically under-represented groups. The spirit of three language formulae is likely to be retained but Sanskrit will be offered at every level as an optional subject. Final policy may now be announced any time.

Syed Ahmed Muzakkir spoke on CERT studies on NEP, accessibility, equity and quality education. He was of the view that NEP is focusing on Hindi, regional languages and other languages but Urdu and Arabic are not mentioned. There is undue commercialization and privatization of higher education which is not good. RTE is proposed to be extended to Higher Secondary stage but some children groups are not covered. Capitalization and donation should be capped and aphorism should be removed. Creation of Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog shows over centralization in a federal system. There seems an effort of saffronization also to certain extent.



Syed Ahmed Muzakkir addressing the session while Mr. Moin Akhtar Ansari & Prof Siddiqui are on the dais

In his presidential remarks, **Dr Jakir Husain Laskar** stated that the new policy is going to be a great challenge to the professionals. Although it is going to emphasize quality education but in a great country like India it is desirable that education is available to all at all levels. **Mr. Moin Akhtar Ansari** moderated the session.

3rd SESSION-TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS & DIGITIZATION OF EDUCATION

This session was chaired by **Prof. Khwaja Shahid**, President, AIEM, and was addressed by following senior faculty members from Jamia Hamdard and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi:

- 1. Prof. Afshar Alam**, Dean, Faculty of Technology, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
- 2. Prof. Abdul Quaiyum Ansari**, Department of Electrical Engineering., Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Prof. Afshar Alam talked about the abundance of educational technology tools and availability of massive amount of online teaching material that can be made use of for imparting education at every level. He emphasized on the diminishing role of classroom teaching and increasing use of Massive Online Open-source Courses (MOOC) available worldwide through the Internet.



Prof. Afshar Alam addressing the session

In India these MOOCs are made available through National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) and SWAYAM portal of the Government of India and by several other agencies. **SWAYAM** is a Hindi acronym that stands for "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" is an Indian Massive open online course platform. Availability of online journals and conference proceedings, tutorial and practice sessions has given the added

advantage to the e-learning and blended learning that has made possible the concept of the flipped classroom.

A flipped classroom is an instructional strategy and a type of blended learning that focuses on student engagement and active learning, giving the instructor a better opportunity to deal with mixed levels, student difficulties, and differentiated learning preferences during in-class time. Prof. Alam also described the concept of Outcome Based Education (OBE), where the focus is on the student centric learning rather

than the teacher centric learning. The OBE has been adopted by almost all the regulatory as well as accreditation agencies of the world including Indian agencies like AICTE and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).



Prof. Abdul Qaiyum Ansari addressing the session

Prof Abdul Qaiyum Ansari spoke on the need of innovation and entrepreneurship at the grass root level in the Indian education system. He emphasized that the most fundamental innovation happens in the rural India where people innovate in their own ways mostly for survival and better living within the limited resources that they possess. Even, the present Prime Minister of India has declared decade 2010-20 as

the 'Decade of Innovation', to unleash the creative potential of every Indian. Prof. Ansari gave very pertinent examples of few need-based grass-root innovations that have happened mostly in the remote villages and tribal areas and have remained mostly unnoticed. A humble effort of identifying such innovations and bringing them into public domain is being carried out by the Honey Bee Network of IIM Ahmadabad under the mentorship of Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, who is an Indian scholar in the area of grassroots innovations. During his lecture Prof. Ansari defined innovation as translating ideas into new or improved products, processes and services that could be taken to marketplace for economic growth and social development.

The problem solving strategies carried out to overcome serious inadequacies of a system is popularly known as **jugaad**, which for long has been a household word in India. India could give the world a new form of jugaad innovation as in 1966, the Yoga, Sitar and Carnatic Music. Leading companies like Future Group, GE, IBM, PepsiCo, Philips, Renault-Nissan, Siemens, Ta Tata Group, and Yes Bank, among -



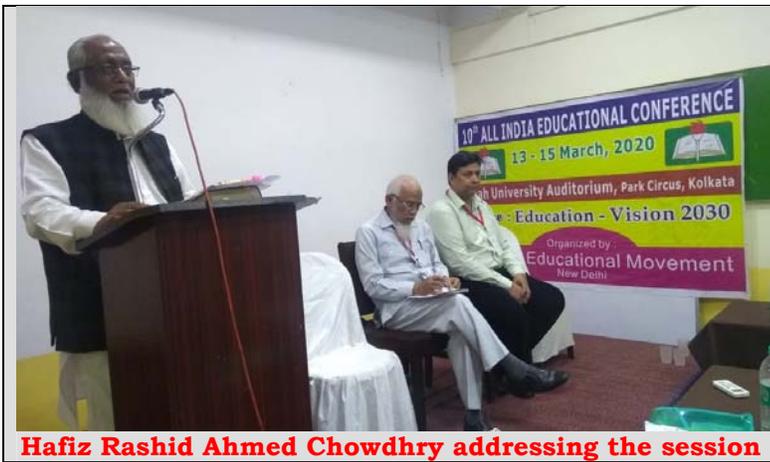
A view of the audience at Seva Kendra

other have already been practicing jugaad innovation to generate disruptive ideas and pioneer growth. From leveraging the cost efficiency of missed-calls to jury-rigged farm vehicles, the concept has been applied to pressing social and industrial problems to produce Rs. 1000/- water filters, Rs. 2000/- tablet PCs, Rs. 50000/- ECG machines, and the likes.

Prof. Ansari emphasized that the culture of innovative practices should be employed from the very beginning of the education system, may be from the school level itself, and the students should be given challenging tasks to find solutions themselves through frugal and flexible approaches.

4th SESSION -INDIAN JUDICIARY & MINORITY EDUCATION:

This session was chaired by **Mr. Abdul Rashid**, Addl General Secretary AIEM and addressed by Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Chowdhry, Sr. Advocate Gauhati High Court and Mr. Aslam Ahmed, Advocate Supreme Court and Treasurer AIEM.



Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Chowdhry addressing the session

Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Chowdhry spoke on the constitutional provisions on fundamental rights, role of Executive and the Judiciary in interpreting the various provisions of constitution particularly the rights of minorities enshrined in **Article 29 and 30**. Minority character of AMU which has been established by an Act of Parliament in **1920** has been a subject of controversy in various courts. So long as the minority

institution does not receive any grant from the State there is no problem but as soon as state grant is given, interference in the managing committee starts. In this connection he referred to the famous TMA Pai case.

Earlier regime in West Bengal did not approve any minority institution but presently powers of the managing committee have been protected by the State Madrasa Board and the Minority Department. In Assam the state Government has threatened to ban all Madrasas. However the general position all over the country is of non-interference in the functioning of minority institutions.

Aslam Ahmed, Advocate, Supreme Court, spoke on fundamental rights in general and reasonable restrictions on the same.



Advocate Aslam Ahmed addressing the session

He explained that Fundamental rights differ from ordinary legal rights in the sense that these are constitutionally conferred rights and cannot be taken away by the Parliament except to the extent of restrictions mentioned in the Constitution itself and that too only reasonable restrictions. Ordinary rights can be altered or amended by the Parliament any time. Examples of Fundamental rights are right to equality or freedom of expression. Example of an ordinary right is say

consumer's rights under Consumer laws or right over a property which are important legal rights but not fundamental rights. In democracies these provisions are very important.

He also explained certain provisions of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) which happen to be very useful and relevant in day to day life such as rights upon arrest, powers of police and rights of citizens, that women can be arrested only by female police officers and when the police can arrest with a warrant only and when without warrant.

Mr. Abdul Rashid, Addl. Gen Secretary, AIEM, in his presidential remarks thanked Hafiz Rashid Hafiz Rashid Chowdhry for enlightening the audience about the provisions of the constitution relating to minority education and stated that in view of different interpretations by various courts on this subject, there is need of a detailed legislation on the scope of scope of articles 29 and 30 as recommended by Ranganath Misra Commission.



Mr. Abdul Rashid addressing the session

5th SESSION- GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION:

This session was chaired by **Dr. Sayeedur Rehman Faizi**, Toronto, Canada, and addressed by **Dr. Abdul Rashid Agwan**, President Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy. **Dr. Agwan** enlightened the audience on the emerging global standards on education, which have unique lessons for India. In a flexible

education in near future, there will be no need for a formal classroom. Under the MOOC technique, teachers, in future, will turn into facilitators and examinations would be held on demand. Free quality education would be available up to secondary class with **100% GER**. Financial support would be needed up to **6%** of GDP.

Although enrollment in India has also increased in case of Muslim minority, but they are still lowest in term of literacy; they are just above the SC/ST. Our areas of concern are educational policies, child development, pedagogy, global standards and inclusive education. We need to have sustainable development goals and affordable technical education as also elimination of discrimination in education.



Dr. A.R. Agwan addressing the session while Dr. M. Ilyas Saifi is on the dais

Mother tongue at primary level is one of our educational rights and common schools are necessary for quality education. Generation Alfa **2.5** will be served shortly. In this digital age, learning also needs to be digitized. Top countries in the field of education include Finland, Japan, Denmark and South Korea, the model of which may be imitated with local modifications. The new policy is likely to focus on privatization and commercialization which is not

good although public private partnership could be a better choice.

Dr. Sayeedur Rehman Faizi in his presidential remarks stated that this is an important subject and needs more time for thorough discussion. Five top countries in education have made their students stress free. In his opinion in place of teacher, we should have a mentor.

The session was conducted by **Dr. Idrees Qureshi**, Executive Member of AIEM.

6th SESSION- EDUCATING GIRLS FOR PROGRESS & GROWTH:

This session was chaired by **Mrs. R. C. Khwaja**, Joint Secretary (Retd) Govt. of India and addressed by **Dr. Haleema Sadia**, President Shaukat Ara Trust, Noida.

Dr. Haleema Sadia started her address by mentioning that It is undeniable fact that women empowerment in education has a direct impact on the economic growth and national development in India. She narrated a few success stories of empowered women who transformed their families and brought fortune in the house. It was an interactive session with the audience on the role of women in development of the country and the world at large.



Dr. Haleema Sadia addressing the session

In this connection she also referred to the conditions of women in West Bengal, many of whom are working as domestic help in faraway Delhi due to poverty. She stated that only 27% of women have a role in the development of our country as against 48% in the world. Indian women are lagging behind because of ignorance of dozens of Government schemes and programs which are specially meant for

women. Besides, negative parental attitude towards girl child is also one of the main reason for lack of their proper development. There are only **47%** female teachers at primary level in our schools. There is shortage of schools within ten kilometer range besides lack of trained female teachers and separate toilets for girls. Social reasons are also responsible for their educational development as they also attend to random jobs at home. In addition there are health issues, food issues and in some areas they are forced to marry at early age denying further education. Lack of proper awareness and motivation and stereotype role given to them also leads to their inadequate development.

In her presidential remarks, **Mrs. R C Khwaja** stated that the entire nation was late in awakening to proper education of female child. It was only in the VI Five Year Plan (1980 – 85) that women education and development were integrated into National plans and they were now considered direct participants in the nation's development. This resulted in a number of developmental and empowerment programs for women and girls. However, on ground facts reveal an utterly dismal picture. Here each one of us can play a role and work consciously to educate our maids, help or anyone coming from weaker sections of the society and give monetary and material help to enable education opportunities to their wards.



Mrs. R.C. Khwaja addressing the session and other social activists are on the dais

Mrs. Khwaja added that coupled with this effort, it is essential to break the gender stereotype roles, assigning the girls only domestic activities. Interestingly, girls are now very keen to pursue studies and outshine the boys, when given equal opportunities. Mrs. R. C. Khwaja summed up with Mahatma Gandhi's popular adage that when you educate a girl, you educate an entire family – so much is her contribution. Lastly,

she appreciated the role of All India Educational Movement in creating educational awareness among the poor and the minorities by organizing such conferences and educational caravans.

Mrs. Mamduha Majid, Executive Member of AIEM moderated the session in her lively style.

7th SESSION- (OPEN SESSION):

Observations and comments of participants:

Members of AIEM and some participants offered the following observations and comments on the deliberations during the conference and on education in general.

Dr. Idrees Qureshi- Executive Member of AIEM:

He suggested that such programs should be organised in rural areas and we should advise the concerned persons how to open and run a school or college. There should be Education Development Committees at district level for this purpose.

Mr. Aslam Ahmed Advocate, Treasurer, AIEM:

He felt that there was communication gap and lack of tolerance between different communities which has created an atmosphere of hate in the society which is not helpful in educational development. He highlighted the importance of reasoning and rationality in our education system; whereas our present education system is based on obedience.

Mrs. Mamdooha Majid Secretary AIEM She also felt that we need to go down to rural areas and educate them about the opportunities which are waiting for them. We should make a group of working women for this purpose and visit rural areas to inspire rural women.

Mr. Ilyas Saifi, Secretary AIEM:

He advised that we can open learning centers anywhere which need no formal approval from any authority. Further career development centers are also required at district level for guidance of our youth. We also need to pay proper attention to Madrasa education. He lamented that local participation was not sufficient although our inaugural and concluding program are being organised in famous university of Kolkata.

Mr. Ghulam Mohammad, Secretary AIEM:

He informed about the educational situation of Muslims in West Bengal. He stated that affiliation or recognition of minority institutions has been very difficult. In fact, affiliation/recognition was impossible during earlier communist regime where only 139 schools were given recognition. Muslim minority is not having many NGOs to look after the interest of Muslim education. He informed that the salary structure in approved /recognized minority schools is very poor.

Mrs. Noor Jahan Shakeel, Member, All India Muslim Personal Law Board:

She stated that the present atmosphere of hate in the society coupled with our educational backwardness has kept us far from providing suitable education to our new generation. However we are not disappointed as individual efforts have led to success stories in many parts of the state. Setting up of Shaheen camp in Park Circus is a living example that our ladies are not lagging behind in matters concerning the community. She invited the participants to visit the camp.

Prof A Samad, Social Activist from Kolkata:

He expressed concern on the educational conditions of Muslims in West Bengal. Our NGOs and schools have no proper planning and suffer from paucity of staff with the result that it is not possible to provide quality education in such schools.

This session was moderated by Mr. Abdul Rashid, Adll Gen Secretary, AIEM

VALEDICTORY SESSION:

Mr. Mozaffar Ali, General Secretary AIEM welcomed the guests and informed that the theme of this conference is Education: Vision 2030 and we have discussed various sub topics in previous sessions and resolutions adopted would be presented in this session.

Dr. Khwaja M Shahid, President AIEM thanked Dr. Felix Raj, Vice Chancellor, St Xavier's University, Kolkata for having spared time and agreeing to be the chief guest in this valedictory session. He also briefed the audience about the AIEM and highlights of inaugural and six working sessions. He explained the importance of the theme of the conference: Education Vision: 2030 in view of fast changing developments taking place in the field of education. He also reiterated that next ten -

years are going to be very important when National Education Policy would be finalized and implemented.



Mr. Ghulam Mohammad being awarded participation certificate by President, AIEM

Prof Khwaja Shahid observed that Bengal has always led the nation in launching various movements. Persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, David Hare, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, William Cavey, Rabinder Nath Tagore and many others have provided enlighten leadership and find prominent place among the builders of Modern India. But unfortunately, West

Bengal, now, is among the worst five states in respect of secondary education and hold 33 position among 36 states at the higher education level. In the context, it is not should surprise most of us that the condition of the Muslims in West Bengal in respect of education, employment etc is at the bottom when compared to other provinces of India, as enumerated by the Sacher Committee Report. Prof Khwaja opined that education is the only tool to upgrade the quality of our life style and bring equity and justice in the society.

He noted that, at the national level, among the minorities and others socio economic groups, Muslims are recognized as educationally backward community on the basis of statistics, reports and other proven sources. Therefore, special efforts are required to be undertaken to bring them at par with the rest of the nation. In this regards we have a lot to learn from other communities specially Christians and New Buddhists. He requested Dr. Felix Raj to enlighten the conference specifically on this aspect as Muslims would like to benefit from their experiences.

Prof Khwaja Shahid further said that the reasons for educational backwardness of Muslims are manifold. But the most importantly, two main reasons are lack of proper infrastructure and quality education in community schools. These schools need to work with missionary zeal and move towards technological up gradation and teaching – learning innovations.

Finally, Prof Khwaja Shahid, President, AIEM thanked all speakers, guests and delegates for attending and enriching the deliberations of the conference. He also thanked the local and national level organizers for managing all aspects of arrangements in an excellent manner.

Mr. Ahmed Hasan Imran, Member of Rajya Sabah and Guest of Honor observed in his address that partition of Bengal in 1947 has had caused havoc to the development and education of Muslims in West Bengal. The partition witnessed migration of Muslim elites to East Bengal – now Bangladesh. He recalled the services rendered by Rukaya Begum before the independence of the country in undivided Bengal for women education. Rukaya Begum, who was born in 1880, believed that education is a precondition for women liberation; she, therefore, established a girl school in Kolkata in 1916 and also set up a Muslim Women Association – Anjuman e Khwateen e Islam. He, however, lamented that earlier communist regimes in West Bengal did nothing for minority educational institutions or for enhancing their employment. The Sacher Committee report has shown the poor educational status of Muslims in West Bengal. He further observed that there has now been an urge among Muslims in West Bengal for education. He specifically mentioned the services rendered by two famous minority institutions – Al Ameen Mission under Mr. Noorul Islam and Shishu Vikas Academy under president under president ship of Jb Abdul-



Mr. Ahmed Hasan Imran, MP addressing the session

developed a new campus for Aliah University. There are 600 *Madarsas* in the state which run with government financial support. They are as good as regular High Schools affiliated to West Bengal Education Board. He informed that more girls are studying in these *Madarsas* compared to boys. He, however, regretted that Muslim community is not fully availing these facilities for their educational and social betterment. He also informed that West Bengal also has a large Urdu speaking population; but their education is not well managed. The Urdu schools are not functioning well and require urgent attention for improving management and quality of education in these schools.

According to Mr. Ahmad Hasan, the Christian community has, however, performed well and could establish some good colleges. Mr. Ahmad Hasan also spoke about the proposed National Education Policy and observed that draft NEP is one sided and it needs to be pluralistic and inclusive.

Dr. Felix Raj, Vice-Chancellor, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and the chief guest of the session started his address by invoking the blessing of God and recited a hymn. He referred to recent killing and destruction of property in recent north east Delhi communal riots and condemned violence in strong words. He observed that harmony is humiliated whenever such violence is erupted in the country. He further mentioned that Hinduism is different from Hinduvta policies, which is aggressive towards minorities. He appealed that all minorities should stand together against divisive forces and join hands in their efforts to fight for secular values as enshrined in our constitution.



Dr. Felix Raj, VC addressing the session

Qasim, for educational development of minorities.

The Al Ameen Education Society has done good job and trained thousands of our youth in medical and engineering fields. The government has set up Aliah University and many Coaching centers for admissions in professional colleges and courses.

The TMC Govt. has also acted favorably to our community and has

He stressed upon the need of dialogue and cooperation between Muslim and Christian communities for development of minority education in the educational context of Articles 29 and 30. In this context, he appreciated the educational conference organized by the AIEM at Kolkata. This conference can be a beginning of Muslim Christian dialogue.

He assured to extend full support to the educational

efforts of the AIEM and local Muslim community. He observed that Christians have contributed a lot in the field of education and their contribution is acknowledged too. The main reason of success of Christian educational institutions is that we have kept education and politics apart but this is not the case in many Muslim

institutions. The Christian leadership has kept the politics and education separate; our institutions do not allow politics on their campuses. He further informed that Christian colleges and schools, as their principles, develop (a) discipline, (b) values and (c) formation of child's personality. Parents send their children to our educational institutions for acquiring these traits. And we are famous for successfully implementing these principles.

Dr Felix Raj also informed that there is a Christian Education Policy and we as a community and all our educational institutions according to the laid down policy. He suggested that Muslims should also prepare their education policy. Dr Felix Raj stated that draft National Educational Policy circulated by the government is sacrificing the values of democracy and secularism enshrined in our constitution of the country. He suggested that Muslims like Christians should also prepare their education policy. He emphasized that minorities have a right to have an education policy.

Dr. Felix Raj pointed out that there is a social dimension of the education. The educational institutions have an obligation to serve and transform its neighborhood community. He informed that St Xavier's university has adopted five villages in its vicinity and helping them in their education. He also informed that in order to facilitate girls to get education, they have opened the school near to their villages. They are also giving concessions to poor members from Christian and Muslim communities.

Dr. Raj explained at length about the necessity of interface with the Industry and corporate world. Many research programs can be launched with industries support. He further mentioned that innovation is also very necessary to keep knowledge at pace with the needs of the society and industry. We have to use Technology and innovations for human development. He gave the example that how Robots are now helping a restaurant to serve its customers. Industry and society will welcome such researches and innovations.

Advocate Aslam Ahmed, Treasurer AIEM presented a vote of thanks and specially thanked **Dr Felix Raj and Mr. Ahmed Hasan Imran, MP** for having spared their precious time to attend the conference.



A view of the Speakers and Organizers

AIEM delegates to the Education Conference included M/S Dr. Khwaja M Shahid, Mr. Abdul Rashid, Mr. Mozaffar Ali, Advocate Aslam Ahmed, Dr. AR Agwan, Dr. M. Ilyas Saifi, Prof A.Q. Ansari, Dr. Idrees Qureshi, Mr. S. Mansoor Agha, Mrs. R.C. Khwaja, Mrs. Mamdooha Majid, Dr. Haleema Sadia, Mr. Moin Akhtar, Mr. Ibrahim Ansari and Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Ghauri. Maulana Mustafa Nadvi from Lucknow, Mr. Abdul Aziz from Shaheen Group, Beedar and Prof. Mansoor Alam, Ex

HOD of Persian, Kolkata University, Prof Ghulam Sarwar, Ex HOD, Maulana Azad College, Dr. Neelam Ghazala, Principal Aulad Husain School, Ms. Uzma Alam, Member Muslim Personal Law Board, Ms. Suboohi Aziz, Secretary, West Bengal Muslim Women Association, Prof. Shahnawaz, Dr. Abdul Khaliq, A.P. Dept of Madarsa Alia, Dr. Shahid Khan, Head Master, Madarsa Alia, Mr. Mohammad Shahnawaz, Director, International School, Malda and Mr. Alauddin and Mr. Muktadir from Murshidabad joined the Conference.