

REPORT OF 10<sup>TH</sup> EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT KOLKATA

**Inaugural Session:**

The Inaugural Session of the **10<sup>th</sup> All India Educational Conference (AIEC)**, was held on **13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020** at Aliah University auditorium, Kolkata. **Mr. Mozaffar Ali**, General Secretary welcomed the guests and informed that AIEC has chosen the theme of "**Education - vision 2030**" for the 10<sup>th</sup> AIEC.

**Prof Ujjwal Chowdhury**, Pro Vice Chancellor, ADMAS University, Kolkata, presented the keynote address. 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. 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. Prof Chowdhury also explained at length about the importance of communication skills for the development and manifestation of the personality.

**Mr. Nurul Islam** of Al Ameen Mission, Kolkata appreciated the efforts of AIEC for educational awakening and choosing Kolkata for this 10<sup>th</sup> educational conference.

**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 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 MShahid**, President, AIEC explained the background of AIEC - and informed about the rationale for choosing the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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:

**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. The policy allows of no detention till class VIII, has deteriorated the quality of our education. He felt that the education was ignored of our Muslim Rulers 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.

**Dr. Md. Nasruddin**, Headmaster, Burdwan Govt. Model Madrasah (English medium) informed that learning is a life-long process which starts with birth and continues till death. 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

**Prof Akhtar Siddiqui** informed that 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.

**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.

In his presidential remarks, **Dr Jakir Husain Laskar** stated that the new policy is going to be a great challenge to the professionals and in a great country like India it is desirable that education is available to all at all levels.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION-TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS & DIGITIZATION OF EDUCATION**

This session was chaired by **Prof. Khwaja Shahid**, President, AIEM, and was addressed by 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. 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 Quaiyum 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.

### **4<sup>th</sup> 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** 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**.

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

He also explained certain provisions of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) which happen to be very useful and relevant in day to day life.

**Mr. Abdul Rashid**, Addl. Gen Secretary, 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.

### **5<sup>th</sup> 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**.

**Dr. Sayeedur Rehman Faizi** stated that this is an important subject five top countries in education have made their students stress free. In his opinion in place of teacher, we should have a mentor.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> 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 that women empowerment in education has a direct impact on the economic growth and national development in India.

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.

**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.

She quoted Mahatma Gandhi's popular adage that when you educate a girl, you educate an entire family – so much is her contribution.

**7<sup>th</sup> SESSION- (OPEN SESSION):** was meant for Observations and comments of participants:

Members of AIEM and some participants who offered the observations included. Dr. Idrees Qureshi, Executive Member of AIEM, Ms. Mamdooha Majid, Secretary, AIEM, Mr. Ilyas Saifi, Secretary, AIEM, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad, Secretary, AIEM, Mrs. Noor Jahan Shakeel, Member, All India Personal Law Board and Prof Samad, Social Activist from Kolkata.

Valedictory Session

**Dr. Khwaja M Shahid**, President AIEM thanked Dr. Felix Raj, Vice Chancellor, St Xavier's University, Kolkata for having agreed 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 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 and therefore, special efforts are required to be undertaken to bring them at par with the rest of the nation.

**Mr. Ahmed Hasan Imran**, Member of Rajya Sabah and Guest of Honor recalled the services rendered by Rukaya Begum before the independence of the country in undivided Bengal for women education. He 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 appreciated the educational conference organized by the AIEM at Kolkata and stated that 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.

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. Dr. Raj also explained at length about the necessity of interface with the Industry and corporate world.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Kolkata on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

18<sup>th</sup> AGM of AIEM was held at Seva Kendra, Kolkata West Bengal on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The AGM confirmed the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and adopted the Annual Report for 2020-21 and Financial Report for that year. The AGM also approved a budget provision of Rs.6.00 lakh for 2020-21.

The AGM considered the constitution of the Governing Body as per rules and authorized the President and the Gen Secretary to reconstitute the same, which has since been done and notified.

### **Upskills for the Teachers - Preparing Teachers for the Emerging Needs**

A zoom event organized jointly by Delhi-based Shaukat Ara Education Trust (SAET) and the educative channel Jahan e Mann on June 29, 2020, was enriched by national and international experts. Chaired by the President of Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy and Secretary, AIEM Dr Abdul Rashid Agwan and moderated by Dr Halima Sadia chairperson of SAET. It was addressed by Mrs. Rafia Zafar Ali Director Leaders Private School UAE, Mr. Rajendran Padmanabhan Ex-chairman Abu Dhabi Principals' Association UAE, Dr Halima Sadia Deputy Director (Education) Delhi Waqf Board, Prof. Riham Khan Suri Director TPO Jamia Millia Islamia and Dr Anis Ahmad Director Salmiya Indian Model School Kuwait..

### **Meeting of Governing Body held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 & 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

Meetings of the Governing Body of AIEM were 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 partly on Zoom platform and decided that on account of prevailing Covid-19, our activities should continue to be organized on digital media. It was also decided to organize seminars on 'Abolition of practice of Dowry and Media and Freedom of Speech' which have since been organized.

### **SEMINAR ON MEDIA & FREEDOM OF SPEECH & CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS**

All India Educational Movement (AIEM) organised a SEMINAR on the theme "Media & Freedom of speech and Constitutional and Legal safeguards" at New Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Distinguished guests were welcomed by Advocate Raees Ahmad a lawyer, a senior media person and Mr. Abdul Rashid, Adll Gen Secretary of AIEM, gave a brief introduction of the AIEM and the program.

Prof Ms. Kahkashan Danyal Faculty of Law, JMI was the chief guest and key note speaker. She spoke at length on the making of the Constitution of India (for short abbreviates as "CoI") and the fundamental rights and free speech provisions. She explained that Fundamental Rights cannot be taken by Govt. nor can the Parliament make a law against fundamental rights.

Prof. V. K. Tripathi who was Guest of Honor started his speech from a social aspect and his efforts to bring about harmony in the aftermath of Bhagalpur riots in 1989, he mentioned his work in riot affected areas in Gujarat, Assam, Western UP and other places. He stressed on importance of communal harmony.

Mr. M.R. Shamshad and Mr. Abu Bakr Sabbaq eminent lawyers practicing in the Supreme Court of India and have appeared in various Constitutional Law matters also spoke on the Constitutional values and legal safeguards.

Mr. Prashant Tandon, who is a veteran in journalism spoke from the journalistic perspective and media's duty to the public right to freedom of information and citizen's duty towards any news item. He emphasized that the makers of the CoI did not create a separate category of free speech by media entities but rather kept it as part of free speech only in generic manner under Article 19.

The speeches were moderated by Advocate Aslam Ahmed, member of AIEM. President AIEM Dr. Khwaja M Shahid thanked Prof Kahkashan Danyal and other speakers for having spared time and joining the seminar.