

Integral University Completes its Sixth One-Week Short Term Course on “Academic Leadership” (March 17-23, 2017)



Human Resource Development Center (HRDC), Integral University, Lucknow successfully completed the sixth One-Week Short-Term Course on “Academic Leadership” on March 23, 2017. The program was organized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India’s Center for Academic Leadership and Education Management (CALEM), Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The course was under the scheme of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching to re-energize and revitalize academic leadership in the Indian Academia.

In the inaugural program, Dr. Syed Aqeel Ahmad, Director HRDC, Integral University welcomed the participants and also wished them success in their course pursuit. He said that leadership can and does occur in the domains of teaching, research and administration. Leaders in teaching are imbued with an extraordinary ability to know what knowledge is more critical to teach, excite students and peer about learning, know what teaching practices are most effective, and invest their considerable energies in the promotion of student learning. Dr. Syed Aqeel Ahmad requested the participants to utilize the knowledge and training acquired during the session in their academic environment. The Coordinator of the course, Prof. Parvaiz Talib from the Department of Business Administration, AMU, Aligarh briefly introduced the STC. He said that academic leadership depends on communication, research and excellence in learning and teaching skills.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Aqil Ahmad, CoE, Integral University said that one of the well-known American critics Terry Eagleton is pronouncing in USA that American Universities and Colleges are dying because they have just remained training centers and nothing else. The similar case is with us in India! Universities and colleges are going to die natural death— what we need is the Academic Leadership qualities for meeting Higher Education challenges today.

During the program, country's top level academicians i. e. Prof. Talib, Dr. Ahmad Faraz, Prof. Asim Siddiqui and Dr. Jabir talked on the importance of “Interpersonal Relationship,” “Personality Assessment,” “Self-awareness or Self-knowledge,” “Professional Effectiveness” and “Communication Skills”. Prof. Talib engaged the participants in different activities i. e. group discussion and self-evaluation or reflection. He said that self-knowledge is the understanding of oneself or one's own motives or character. Self-knowledge is essential not only to writing, but to doing almost anything really well. It allows you to work through from a deep place - from the deep, dark corners of your subconscious mind. He emphasized on interpersonal aspects of human behavior and also discussed major barriers to communication. He explained 7 Cs of communication in details by elaborating each of them with proper examples.

Dr. Jabir in his lecture reflected upon the problematics of methodology in academics especially in teaching and learning. He stressed on research ethics in Indian Academia and also suggested best possible ways for academic growth. Dr. Ahmad Faraz Khan talked on personality assessment. The 'self-image' is the key to human personality and human behavior. When you change the self-image, you change the personality and the behavior.

He mentioned that assessing personality belongs to a very special knowledge. It has to do something with the proficiency of professional psychology to be objectively more efficient in research and professional fields. Dr. Khan engaged the participant in their personality assessment and then discussed everyone individually with their worksheet. Dr. Asim Siddiqui focused on communication skills in academics especially on the strategies of academic writing. He stated that writing is a technology which can only be learnt by practice. While writing in academics one must avoid editing during the writing process. He said the editing part must be left to be done at the end. The editor must not disturb the writer as the person can play both the roles.

Being a good listener is one of the best ways to be a good communicator. Language, eye contact, hand gestures, and tone all color the message you are trying to convey play very crucial part. One needs clarity, concision, friendliness, confidence, empathy, open-mindedness and respect.

Before the Valedictory Function (session), Hon'ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor, AMU Aligarh, Brigadier Ahmad Ali, also spoke on "Effective Academic Leadership." In his lecture, he said that leaders must be tenacious— they must be self-aware, self-regulative, motivated, empathetic and socially skilled. He also mentioned the Indian "GUNAS" (characters of leadership) i. e. "tamas," lazy, dual, and inert quality, "rajas," active, assertive and passionate, "satwic," engaged in action, knowing that result will follow. He said that leadership is either democratic or autocratic and told that the leaders' presence is felt and workers' absence is felt. He said that motivation, delegation, positivity, trustworthiness, creativity, feedback and responsibility are the pillars of leadership. The AMU PVC shed light on different leadership styles and said that you are a successful teacher if your students come back after many years and remember your name. He said that technology is an anathema and the future of education lies in technology.

In her speech, Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Assistant Director UGC HRDC AMU Aligarh congratulated the participants. She said that it may be sixth course at IU, but for AMU it is 49th in the entire country. She mentioned that usually there are three prerequisites, infrastructure, experienced people and noble mission— Integral University has all these three. She added that teachers must lead students, teachings and non-teaching to high quality ladders, teaching and training needs highly experienced academicians. Dr. Jamal Mohd Arif PVC Integral University said that the professional ethics must be nurtured properly and the academic leader must be proactive— he should have mission and the target.

Integral University founder Prof. Syed Waseem Akhtar, the father and founding figure congratulated the participants and thanked UGC HRDC AMU Aligarh. He said that we wish to be listed in top ten world education organizations and must drop Lord Macaulay's vicious education policies. He said that knowledge is the only treasure which gets increased whenever distributed.



