



Report of the University Foundation Day Lecture 2020

25th November marks the foundation day of Netaji Subhas Open University. Hence, to commemorate this day, an online lecture was organized through the digital platform at 3pm. This is a special day when the entire university family has a chance to reflect not only the beginnings of NSOU and its founders, but also on the significant development since the university's inception.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay conducted the programme where the Chief Guest was Prof. Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Former Director, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) and Former Chairman of National Open School (NOS). Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU presided over the programme .

Dr. Upadhyay began the programme by welcoming the Chief Guest, Prof. Mukhopadhyay, the Chairperson, Prof. Sarkar, the other dignitaries who were present in the lecture and all the other participants viz. Directors, faculties, non-academic staff and students. Professor Srikanth Mohapatra, Vice-Chancellor, OSOU, Odisha, Professor Ami Upadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, BAOU, Gujarat and Professor U. Negi, Vice-Chancellor UOU, Uttarakhand also graced the Foundation Day Lecture. 98 participants attended this online lecture programme from different corners of the country.

Shri Mohan Kumar Chattopadhyay, Registrar of NSOU gave the welcome address. He mentioned that on 25th November, 1997, NSOU opened its doors to the public for the very

first time and applauded all the members of the university for their continuous effort to keep its name flying high. Next, Shri Chattopadhyay introduced Prof. Mukhopadhyay and requested him to share his valuable insights on the day's lecture on Open and Distance Education for 21st century.

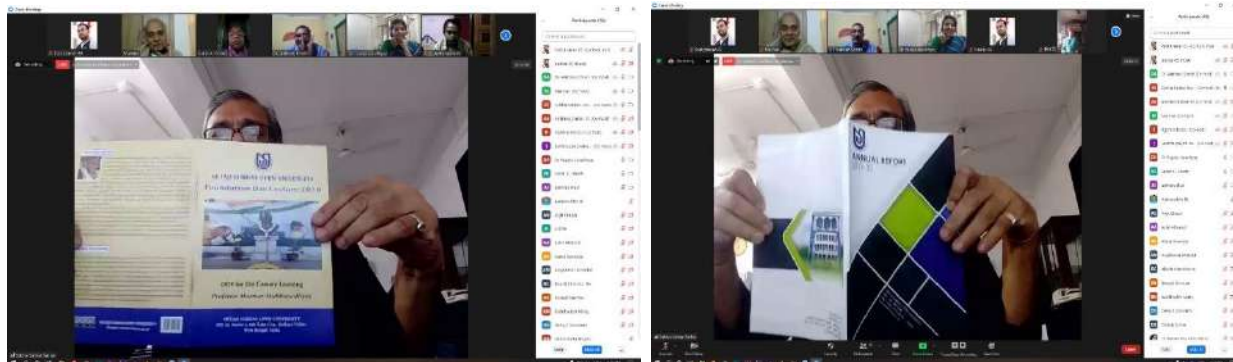


Prof. Mukhopadhyay opined about the presence of various skills in the 21st century: learning and innovation skills in the form of critical and creative thinking, information, media and technology skills which is reflected through knowledge about Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and most importantly life and career skills where one learns social responsibility, leadership, responsibilities and ethics.

He mentioned how Open and Distance Education (ODE) has become increasingly important in the present scenario to tackle these types of skills. ODE is important for providing greater access to education, but it has also proved time and again to be a successful mode of higher education, although not necessarily recognized by students and government around the world. In a developing country like India, education is still a dream for many. Though we are living in the 21st century, there are lots of barriers in the formal education system. As formal education is not so economical, non-formal education is gaining lots of importance in recent years. Distance education is a modern way of learning, allowing students to study within their own space and time without being physically present in the institution. Prof. Mukhopadhyay stressed upon the use of technology in every sphere of education for the benefit of the mass. He also discussed the 6th generation ODE system where the e-learning holds the key position in the education system

Professor Anirban Ghosh in his brief presentation informed that this year the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) was given the responsibility to organize the university Foundation Day Lecture 2020. In this occasion, CIQA was privileged to publish the

Foundation Day Lecture 2020 and the Annual Report 2019-20 in both print and non-print version. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor released both the publications online with the hope that both will help the ODL professionals in developing the learning environment suitable for 21st century learners.



A goodwill message received from NSOU alumnus Dr. Subhajit Bose, Director-Strategic Planning, Indigo Airlines was also shared.

Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor delivered the Presidential address where he thanked Professor Mukhopadhyay for sharing his valuable thoughts on the topic. He mentioned how the members of NSOU are working diligently to achieve its goal of reaching the unreached in this current pandemic scenario.



Finally, Mrs. Priyanthi Bagchi, Asst. Professor in Economics, NSOU proposed the formal vote of thanks. The programme ended at around 4.30pm.

----Report prepared by Mrs. Priyanthi Bagchi

Lecture on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/k0nLT2e6oEY>