



International Webinar on 'Celebrating Differences and Inclusion' Report

Event Particulars:

- ✚ Date & Time: 6th March 2022, Sunday; 4.30 P.M. (IST)
- ✚ Digital Platform: ZOOM
- ✚ Participants: Around 81
- ✚ Nature of Participants: Learners, scholars, faculty members, officers, officials and other academicians.

Objectives of the Event:

- ✚ To create an atmosphere of accepting the beauty of differences and act strategically
- ✚ To deliberate upon the aspects of celebrating inclusion *vis a vis* differences/diversity
- ✚ To promote a platform for candid interaction

Overture:

It is a pride in fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for our people to grow. It has become imperative to recognize each individual's unique personalities, harness diverse strengths, and celebrate the success of everyone as one, both professionally and personally. If the policies aren't compatible with individual's needs, let us be an advocate for him or her. Let us celebrate the differences/diversity of our people and recognize their unique differences. We may find many similarities in how our people make an impact in the community by volunteering their time, overcoming challenges with a positive attitude, and pursuing their interests, hobbies, dreams, aspirations outside of daily work.

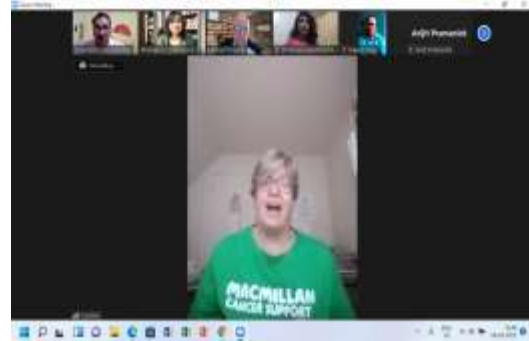


With these constructive thoughts and progressive views, the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) organized the **first International Webinar in the year 2022 on ‘Celebrating Differences and Inclusion’** to view every ‘out-of-the-box’ practice and perhaps more importantly, the celebration of inclusivity in a tide of righteousness.

Event Sequence:

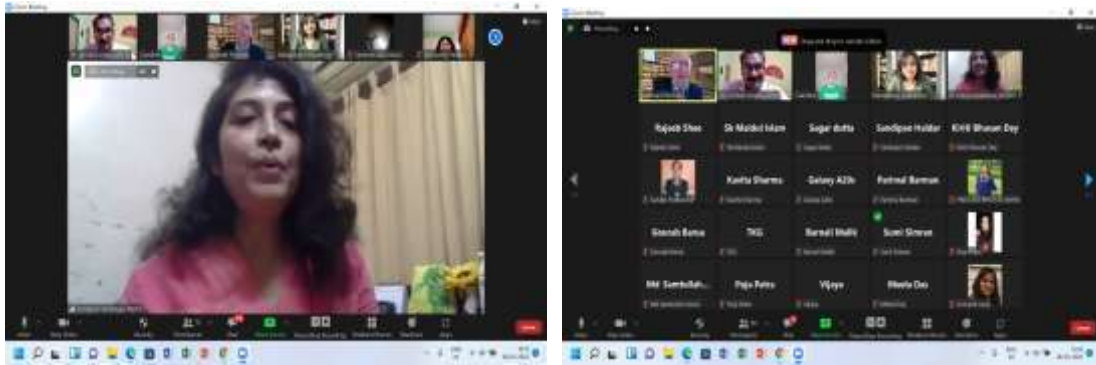
Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Assistant Professor of Education, NSOU was the emcee of the event. The webinar propelled through the following deliberations:

- At the outset, on behalf of the NSOU, Dr. Upadhyay greeted one and all in the virtual muster. She invited **Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA to deliver the formal welcome address**. Prof. Ghosh diligently welcomed the erudite speakers, faculties, officers, mentors and learners with warmth. In addition to this he stated a brief introduction of NSOU before the luminaries and participants. Prof Ghosh went on to establish how NSOU being the 10th Open University revived and revitalized its existence traversing 25 glorious years. He further highlighted the various pedagogical approaches adopted, adapted and initiated by the University for sustainability of higher education in the state. The University strives to reach the unreached and embraces diverse learner and learning community. He extended his speech by adding that the 5-week MOOC on “Understanding Neurodiversity” is being conducted successfully by the CIQA & CDSER of the University. Total enrolment for the 1st cycle of this MOOC is 717. And that this webinar will create an ambience of inclusivity in understanding differences and celebrating them.



- Dr. Upadhyay briefly introduced the **illustrious speakers: Mr. Michael Purches**, School of Education, Leeds Beckett University, UK and **Ms. Caroline Hill**, Education Consultant, UK. She sketched upon their works and interest in the realm of Inclusive Education.
- The next session was handed over to **Ms. Manobina Chakraborty**, Inclusive Education Expert (India & UK) & Founder, i for Inclusion Global, for initiating the deliberation. This session witnessed excellent deliberation by the speakers and it was fascinatingly moderated by Ms. Chakraborty. Mr. Purches and Ms. Hill exchanged their views on inclusionary practices and philosophy of diversity/differences across the nations. Ms. Manobina presented slides and video of Mr. Purches to rejuvenate the discussion on the theme. Ms. Hill pronounced the crises and credits in implementation of policies and sometimes erroneous outcome (quality teaching, curriculum, pedagogy, learning stressors, infrastructure, legislations etc.) that prevails in the name of Inclusive Education in many parts of the world. The session was truly captivating and drew attention of all the participants.
- After an hour of deliberation, the next session was open to interaction. Ms. Manobina Chakraborty coordinated the **Q & A session** by allowing questions from the

participants. These were responded and addressed by the resource speakers with practical knowledge and instinct of ground realism.



- ✚ This was followed with a **session summary** by Dr. Upadhyay. Prof. Ghosh added few laudatory wishes with high hopes to collaborate and keep in touch with the erudite academicians for future endeavors.
- ✚ The Webinar clinched with proposing formal **vote of thanks** by Dr. Upadhyay.

Outcome of the Event:

The Webinar grasped that differences/diversity and inclusion is critical components of innovation, productivity and ultimately success for an ever-evolving society.

---Report prepared by Dr. P. Upadhyay, Organizing Secretary