



Report on
A Web Discussion on ‘Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future’
To Celebrate Teacher’s Day 2021

Organised by

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

Accredited by NAAC with Grade ‘A’

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Event Details

Day and Time: **5th September 2021; 3.30-5.30 PM**

Web Platform: Social handles to join for the Celebration was supported by NSOU ICT Agency-

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89948595483>

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpD3t3S6U4k>

Partakers:

Around 70 participants comprising of learners enrolled under different Programmes of SoE (Existing batches of B.Ed Spl Ed, PGED Part-I & II, BDP EED 1st Year & 2nd year, alumni, Faculty members, Officers and Officials of NSOU.

Background of the Event:

This initiative was thought to assemble the countless issues plaguing the teaching-learning conditions in educational institutions. An unprecedented event, the COVID-19 pandemic challenges has already constrained education systems in various new ways resulting in a revision of how teachers teach and more generally work. While the topic of leadership has been somewhat neglected amongst the multitude of issues facing the teaching profession in the push towards achieving the SDG 4 and Education 2030 goals, the issue of teacher leadership in relation to crisis responses is not just timely, but critical in terms of the contributions teachers have recently made to provide remote learning, support vulnerable populations, re-open educational institutions, and ensure that learning gaps in the curriculum are being mitigated. As reiterated from UNESCO 2020, the chosen theme also considers the role of teachers in building

resilience and shaping the future of education and the teaching profession. This backdrop was thought to be a perfect way to commemorate the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The web discussion was planned with three special deliberations on ‘**Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future**’ to acknowledge and appreciate ‘Teachers’ all round us coping this new normal each passing day.

EVENT FLOW

The celebration cum discussion session was very crisp with the following sequence of events:

Opening the event:

The digital event started with greetings from **Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst Prof, SoE, NSOU, the host and moderator** of the event and highlighted the sequence of events in brief. She reinstated the initiating spirit of Dr. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU and inspiration of Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, NSOU in organising this unique digital event.

On behalf of the School of Education, NSOU, Dr Papiya Upadhyay took the merry and privilege to welcome the august congregation to the conjoint event: National Web Discussion on “Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future” to celebrate Teachers Day 2021.

She took the preference to briefly introduce that today the illustrious speakers: Swami Divyagunanda Maharaj, Prof. Bhujendranath Panda and Dr. Himangshu Das. Also, in the learned audience- there were Directors, officers, faculty members, officials & staff from NSOU, learners, Scholars and all other participants who have adorned the virtual muster.

As a mark to celebrate Teacher’s Day 2021, this day provides the occasion to celebrate 132nd Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a renowned philosopher, scholar, politician and Bharat Ratna recipient, who was born on the same day in 1888. Since 1962 — the year he took oath as the President of India — Teacher’s Day is celebrated on his birthday to commemorate his work, something he is believed to have considered a “proud privilege”. The objective is to remember and remind the crucial role teachers play in moulding students’ lives and careers.

Dr. Upadhyay added, like last year, this year too, SoE took to celebrate considering the COVID-19 pandemic, to recover and revitalize education. Taking the cue from UNESCO, it is felt that the Covid-19 pandemic affected the education process, it created challenges for teachers across the world. It created a need to revisit the method of giving education.

Welcome Address:

The formal welcoming of the invited speakers, participants, delegates and other attendees was addressed by **Prof. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU**

Introducing the theme:

Prof. Sanat Kr Ghosh, Professor, SoE, NSOU highlighted the focus of the web discussion and also signified the relevance of the illustrious speakers as appropriate to throw light on the plight of pandemic on the education system at large.

Panel of Speakers:

In order to do justice to the event title, the following eminent educationists across the nation were invited to share their thoughts and insights:

✚ **Swami Dr. Divyagunananda**, *Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Sikshana Mandira, RKM Math Head Quarters, Belur Math, Howrah*

✚ **Prof. (Dr.) Bhujendra Nath Panda**, *Prof. of Education & Dean of Research, Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Bhubaneswar*

✚ **Dr Himangshu Das**, *Director, National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, (Divyangjan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand*

DELIBERATIONS BY THE SPEAKERS IN A NUTSHELL:

Swami Divyagunananda Maharaj shared some valuable experiences in his speech and very precise on certain issues in terms of sustentative findings.

He started with those words of an Upanishad “It is the teacher and the disciple, both of them are saying this together, let us do this together. Whatever we are studying, what we have studied, let it acquire power in us, let it be alive in us.

- Teaching is not a profession it is a passion.
- How do we acquire knowledge?
- Online teaching and learning will continue after this pandemic.
- Teaching is a noble task so we may have sincere approach to our students.
- Teacher needs tremendous sincerity and right attitude, only then he /she can handle the present changes.
- Reminded us again that education is a weapon.

Prof. Bhujendra Nath Panda, in his talk, made some very important cogent remarks.

- Online learning is not a cup of tea for everybody.
- Digital divide is another hurdle for learners to negotiate
- Education is a vehicle for social construction and National development.
- How learners are facing problems 1. Disruption phase (economic, in community and in educational system) 2. Transitional phase (How teacher can navigate the planning process, quality of learning and safety of learners.
- He emphasized much more on the importance of reimagination process and identified the areas where reimagination is required in a right manner. [Selection of the content, formation of task force, redesign of the curriculum, reimagining the role of teachers and future of our students.]

Dr. Himanshu Das in his lecture discussed on the status of special education school in our education systems and questioned the role of basic components and mentioned that there is a crisis in our mind and thinking. Thinking beyond the self is very important to face any kind of challenges. He expressed that teacher needs to have proper understanding on collaborative learning and importance of Resident curriculum.

Sum up:

This was followed by summing up of the three deliberations in a very judicious manner. It was coalesced by **Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj**, Professor, SoE, NSOU in a very prudent way. Prof. Chattaraj reiterated all the impactful speeches in a very systematic manner.

Ceremonial Release of the Proceedings Book:

The conjoint event also marked the formal release of the e-Proceedings Book. To do the honours, **Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU** was invited. Prof. Ghosh congratulated SoE, the Review and Editorial Board and contributors for the scholarly publication. He reiterated that this Book is an outcome of the Two-Day International Webinar on ‘Futures of Education: Learning to become’, held during 3rd -4th August 2020. Prof. Ghosh in his short speech stated that the Book is a voluminous compilation of around 47 chapters based on research papers/articles and a host of readers will be benefitted from the knowledge/views expressed in the e-Book.

Presidential Address:

The event proceeded with the Presidential Address delivered by **Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU**. Prof. Ghosh extended his gratitude to all the eminent speakers, their contribution towards the society at large and their valuable lectures. He also interpreted that these great teachers are an inspiration to the youth and community. Prof. Ghosh presented a short contour of teaching-learning-evaluation roadmap of NSOU. He further explained how NSOU has strengthened its huge learner base through ICT support and successfully implemented the various ICT-based interventions in the ODL system.

The event progressed to the end with proposing vote of thanks by **Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU**.

The web event was officially closed with a hope to meet with such initiative in the future.

Report prepared by

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay & Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj
