



डा. बी आर अम्बेदकर राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, जालंधर

Dr. B R AMBEDKAR NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, JALANDHAR

जी टी रोड़ बाई पास, जालंधर-१४४०११, पंजाब (भारत)

G T Road Bye Pass, Jalandhar-144011, Punjab (India)

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**Subject: Report of Webinar on “Post COVID–19: Mitigation Strategies for Challenges of Online Education in India” on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

Department of Humanities and Management, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar organized a TEQIP III sponsored **Webinar on “Post COVID–19: Mitigation Strategies for Challenges of Online Education in India” on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.** The event witnessed overwhelming participation across the country from different states such as Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi NCR, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Punjab and Himachal as more than **170 participants registered** for the webinar. The panelists of the webinar included **Prof. K.K. Aggarwal**, Chairman National Board of Accreditation (NBA), **Prof. Chandra Shakher**, Honorary Professor, IIT Delhi, **Prof. Durg Singh Chauhan**, Pro Chancellor, GLA University, Former Vice-Chancellor, Uttar Pradesh Technical University, **Prof. Yoginder Singh Verma** Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh and **Dr LK Awasthi**, Director, Dr BR Ambedkar NIT Jalandhar.

**Dr Sonia Chawla**, moderator of the webinar, welcomed the participants and informed the participants about the challenges to be addressed during the webinar. She further introduced the speakers during the event and extended a motivational discourse to the participants of the webinar.

**Dr L K Awasthi**, emphasized that motive of the webinar is to ponder over the issues like driving teaching engagement at scale while ensuring inclusive e-learning solutions and finding the possible solutions of digital divide; and designing the strategies to design a robust examination and evaluation system under such conditions.

**Prof. K.K. Aggarwal**, Chairman NBA emphasised on blended learning and engaging in both online and classroom teaching based on the course contents. He talked about Education 4.0 for greater flexibility in the academic structure. He accentuated that online education is one of the solution under pandemic conditions but not panacea for all the challenges before the academic fraternity. He also shared his thought of introducing the subject wise accreditation in the times to come.



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**Prof. Chandra Shakher**, Honorary Professor, IIT Delhi emphasized that there cannot be legislation of education. Under the present pandemic conditions, teaching pedagogies have to be revised based on the gaps. He stressed that peer-to-peer leaning is missed in case of online education along with leading to self-isolation. He stated that academic institutes are still grappling with the evaluation and assessment issues.

**Prof. Durg Singh Chauhan**, Pro Chancellor, GLA University talked about the socio economic diversity, financial disparities along with the huge digital divide as the challenges for online education in India. He highlighted to produce universal engineers to make them excellent employable people. He laid the onus on the faculty to decide the proportion of teaching online vs. classroom teaching.

**Prof. Yoginder Singh Verma** Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh sated that education is a development agenda and mitigation strategies post COVID should be based on 4C's i.e. career, competency, connect and character. He advocated a multi-prolonged strategy to fight COVID-19 and to provide a near reality experience to students through online education.

**Dr LK Awasthi**, Director, NIT Jalandhar indicated that COVID-19 has presented huge opportunities as well for the academic fraternity such as setting up virtual laboratories, leading new startups in the field of assessment and evaluation methodologies, etc. He advocated and suggested faculty of NITs, IITs and other HEIs to work and build indigenous educational technologies

All the experts suggested varied novel ways to upgrade the academic standards in the tough times. Unanimously all the speakers underlined that a blended learning integrating technology and classroom teaching is the only possible mitigation strategy under such pandemic condition. More onus is on the faculty to upgrade their competencies and provide near realty experience as much as possible, as the situations are still very uncertain. The Presentations were followed by question answer session as the inquisitive participants raised number of queries during the event. At last, Dr Sonia Chawla proposed vote of thanks to the revered experts and participants of the webinar.