

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT
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National Webinar on Women in Indian Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities

The role of women in every area of society and nation's progress is important: - Dr. Pankaj Mittal

A national Webinar on "Women in Indian Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities" was organized jointly by the Central University of Odisha, Koraput and Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar today. Dr.(Smt.) Pankaj Mittal Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi addressed on this occasion as the Chief Speaker. Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai; Prof. Sunaina Singh, Hon'ble VC, Nalanda University, Nalanda and Prof. I Ramabrahmam Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Odisha spoke as special Guests. The seminar was presided over by Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MGCUB.

As the chief guest, Dr. Pankaj Mittal, General Secretary of the Indian University Association, New Delhi, said that today women have come forward in every field. There is also a need to change the mental concepts towards women, when we think of big scientists, doctors, then the image of male is created in our brain and when we think of nurse or receptionist, the image of woman comes to the mind. Changes are now taking place in our male dominated society, but even today, in rural society, men take decisions regarding higher education and opportunities for women. We should also ponder over this attitude. Managing family is also a big challenge that women easily do. Now training courses with small skill development are also being run in many institutions, due to which women are becoming self-sufficient by doing this course. Women's colleges and women's universities are in larger numbers needed. In the end, Dr. Pankaj Mittal gave inspirational suggestions to women that there are two types of people in the world, first - those who got moulded in the lap of time, second - those who changed the role and context. It is up to you to decide what to do.

Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Prof. I Ramabrahmam expressed happiness about this web seminar as a Special Guest and said that women are decision makers. Women are also good administrators, managers and consultants. Women also have the ability to lead the society and the country. He said that in this 'Covid 19 time' too, many women were seen standing with the society. They acted as Corona warriors. University administration also needs to think about why women should come forward in higher education.

The Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University Prof. Sunaina Singh said that in the Vedas also there has been talk of education and education of women. In ancient times, girls were taught fine arts. Women have been given the right to education in the Yajurveda and Rigveda as well. Depriving women from education is like torturing her. Women of India have advanced in every field. There are many challenges facing women even today. Therefore, there is a need to turn these challenges into opportunities. Women can face every situation and make efficient representation in every field.

Vice Chancellor of SNDT Women's University Prof. Sasikala Vanzari threw light on Swami Vivekananda's views towards education. Development of a person is through education is a shared belief by all. Education should be such that character building and brain development can be done. Women should be given first priority in India's education system, only then will the nation develop. Purity and pride of women is possible only through education. Awareness has also increased among women towards higher education: this is a positive initiative. Men have also contributed to the development of women.

Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, presided over the National Web Seminar. He said that this web seminar is a very large scale educational ritual in which many participants from abroad are also participating. At present the proportion of women in higher education has increased statistically. This is an encouraging sign. After listening to the views of the four experienced speakers of today's seminar, a new opportunity and path can be created for women by discussing and reflecting on it. The title of the seminar is extremely important.

More than 8 thousand participants registered in this national web seminar and more than one thousand people from different provinces of the country participated in this program through the zoom app. Also some participants from abroad were also involved. This national web seminar was aimed at reaching fifty thousand people through various social media platforms.

On behalf of the Central University of Odisha Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Asst. Professor & HoD I/c. Dept of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources and Presiding Officer of the ICC coordinated the webinar. Dr. Banerjee highlighted the subject in brief. Dr. Minati Sahoo, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics read the profile of Prof. Shashikala Wanjari where as Dr. Rudrani Mohanty Assistant Professor, Department of Odia, CUO read the profile of Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma. The coordination of the programme was guided by Prof. P. Durgaprasad, Visiting Professor (Sociology).

On behalf of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Prof. Shahana Mazumdar was the convener of the National Web Seminar. It was coordinated by Dr. Sapna Sugandha, Associate Professor, Department of Management Sciences, Dr. Preeti Vajpayee and Dr. Sapna partnered her.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relation Officer