

Report on National Education Day 2024

Introduction:

National Education Day is celebrated annually on November 11 in India to honor the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Minister of Education in independent India. This day underscores the transformative power of education in empowering individuals and society. Maulana Azad's visionary contributions to India's education system remain significant, and this day serves as a tribute to his relentless efforts to make education accessible for all.

Event Overview:

The National Education Day celebration for 2024 was organized on November 15 at ICFAI University, Building-4 Shillong. The event was a collaborative effort by the Departments of Education, Political Science, and English and Communication Studies. With the theme "**Empowering the Future through Quality Education**," the program commenced at 1:00 PM host by Mr. Deiborme Lyngdoh, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.

Distinguished attendees included Dr. Alicia Gatphoh, Vice Chancellor of ICFAI University, Dr. Indrani B. Bhuyan, Registrar, Dr. Berylda H.P. Buam, the Guest Speaker and Dr. Surajit Sen, Controller of Examinations, along with faculty members and students from the three departments.

Program Highlights:

The event began with a warm welcome by Miss Batriti V. Dympep, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Communication Studies. She introduced the theme and highlighted the legacy of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, emphasizing his dedication to equitable and progressive education. She reiterated that this celebration reaffirms the commitment to inclusivity, quality education, and societal empowerment. Then followed by a formally felicitation of the Guest Speaker, Dr. Berylda H.P. Buam by Miss Noksangmedangla Tzudir Passah, Assistant Professor and HoD of English and Communication Studies, while Miss Suman Talukdar, Assistant Professor of the Department of Political Science introduced Dr. Buam, detailing her outstanding contributions to education and the state as a whole.

Keynote Address:

Dr. Indrani B. Bhuyan delivered an insightful Preambular address on National Education Day, reflecting on Maulana Azad's a visionary leader who played an instrumental role in shaping the modern education system of India. and ICFAI University's efforts to provide quality education to all. She emphasized critical thinking, creativity, and resilience as pillars of the institution's mission followed by Dr. Alicia Gatphoh, Vice Chancellor, opened with the presiding remarks on the National Education Day and highlighted the theme "**Empowering the Future through Quality Education**" in her remarks, addressing contemporary challenges such as digital learning, accessibility, and inclusive education. She also discussed on the New Educational Policy, 2020

which marks a transformative shift in India's approach to education. Its significance lies in its comprehensive and progressive vision, aiming to modernize the education system, promote holistic development, and ensure that education is accessible, inclusive, and equitable for all. One of the most significant aspects of the NEP is its emphasis on holistic education. The policy advocates for a shift away from rote learning and promotes a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to education, which focuses on developing cognitive skills, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Later added that New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which advocates for a holistic, multidisciplinary approach, breaking barriers between subjects and emphasizing cognitive, creative, and problem-solving skills.

Lecture by Dr. Berylda H.P. Buam:

Dr. Buam began her keynote lecture by honoring the contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to India's educational framework, including the establishment of IITs and adult education programs. She underlined the significance of National Education Day in spreading awareness about education's transformative power.

Her lecture explored the NEP 2020, its focus on experiential and competency-based learning, and its role in fostering critical thinking, creativity, and inclusiveness. NEP 2020 emphasizes a holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary education system that encourages students to take a broad spectrum of subjects, irrespective of their stream. This shift aims to break down rigid barriers between subjects (like arts, science, and commerce) and promotes learning across disciplines. This approach helps students develop critical thinking, creativity, and a broader skill set.

She also addressed challenges like the digital divide and unequal access to education, emphasizing media literacy, time management, and self-discipline as essential elements of quality education. Quality Education promotes physical development, social development, and emotional development. The power of transformation defines and creates something new and develops new skills and the four skills that need to be developed viz., collaboration, communications, critical thinking and reasoning.

Dr. Buam stressed the importance of inclusive education, advocating for marginalized communities' access to equitable learning opportunities. She discussed how NEP 2020 promotes local languages in primary education, fostering cultural identity and cognitive development. The speaker concluded with a call for holistic development as a cornerstone of quality education.

Lastly the speaker concluded by emphasizing on inclusive education ensuring the audience, comprising students and faculty members actively to participate in the session. The interactive Q&A allowed students to discuss the future of education in India and raise pertinent questions about educational reforms and challenges.

The lecture concluded the closing remarks delivered by Dr. Alicia Gatphoh, summarizing the

day's key takeaways and reiterating ICFAI University's dedication to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in education. Miss Manisha Kharmalki, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the organizers, participants, and attendees for their contributions to the program's success.

The National Education Day celebration at ICFAI University was a resounding success, leaving participants inspired and motivated to pursue quality education and uphold Maulana Azad's vision for a progressive and inclusive society.

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