

‘Refresher Course in Social Sciences’:

Research essential for addressing complex societal challenges: Academic

‘Need to harness tech potential to improve student engagement, learning outcomes’



Srinagar, Oct 4: The University of Kashmir (KU) is organising a two-week ‘Refresher Course in Social Sciences’ for the faculty members of higher education institutions (HEIs) that was inaugurated here Thursday.

The event, organised by the varsity’s UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), is being attended by participants from various HEIs, including universities and colleges, NITs, IITs and agricultural universities from within and outside J&K.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University, Srinagar, Prof Mohammad Mobin, highlighted the significance of specialised training and the critical need for research in social sciences.

"Research in social sciences is essential for understanding and addressing the complex societal challenges we face today. Through rigorous research, we can shape better policies and create a more informed society," Prof Mobin reiterated.

He also stressed the importance of recognising teachers' roles, responsibilities and rights, while adapting to new pedagogical trends and techniques.

Dean, Academic Affairs, Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Prof Shahid Rasool, emphasised the role of mindset in teaching and the increasing importance of technology in education.

“Teaching is not just a profession; it is an art and an attitude. A positive mindset enhances the learning environment, and technology has become a vital tool in modern teaching practices. We must harness its potential to improve student engagement and learning outcomes,” he maintained.

Dean, Social Sciences, KU, Prof Aneesa Shafi, underscored the importance of such programmes for faculty development and institutional growth.

“The exchange of ideas in such forums is crucial for refining our academic practices and making significant contributions to society,” she said, reaffirming the varsity’s commitment to excellence in teaching and research.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, UGC-MMTTC, Prof Fayaz Ahmad, emphasised the importance of various training courses offered by MMTTC.

“These programmes are vital for enhancing the teaching capabilities of educators and ensuring they remain updated with contemporary educational practices,” he said.

He also spoke about the critical role faculty development programmes play in producing effective educators, saying: “Consistent professional development is the foundation of effective teaching. While online learning has its benefits, it cannot replace the richness of face-to-face interactions.”

Course Coordinator for the Refresher Course in Social Sciences, Dr Mohammad Ajmal Shah, also spoke on the occasion, outlining the objectives of the course and its relevance in the current academic landscape.

Coordinator, UGC-MMTTC, Dr Faheem Syeed Masoodi, conducted the proceedings of the event and also proposed the formal vote of thanks.

MMTTC’s refresher programmes mainly focus on institutional orientation, teaching and learning enhancement, research and professional development, technological proficiency, student interaction and support, administrative and operational knowledge, networking and community building, ethical and professional standards, feedback and evaluation and well-being and work-life balance.