

'Project Grant Writing and Fellowships': HEIs evolving under NEP-2020; more focused on impactful research: Expert

'Mastering skills crucial in today's academic environment'



Srinagar, Nov 12: To equip faculty and professionals from various institutions with the skills to write successful grant proposals and secure fellowship, the University of Kashmir (KU), Tuesday inaugurated a residential programme here. Titled, 'Project Grant Writing and Fellowships,' the programme is being organised by the varsity's Malviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) and runs through November 20.

This short term interdisciplinary programme aims to empower the participants to attract funding for impactful research projects.

Participants from various institutions, including colleges, NITs, IITs, and agricultural universities, both within and outside Kashmir are attending the programme.

On the occasion, Dean Research, Prof M Sultan Bhat, emphasised the significance of project grants and fellowships in advancing academic research.

"The higher education landscape is evolving under NEP-2020 and universities are now more focused on impactful research. Our university has excelled in securing various flagship research projects and we need to maintain this momentum by honing our grant writing skills," he said.

He encouraged participants to focus on applied research with societal relevance, urging that proposals should reflect this focus.

KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the dual importance of research and teaching in academia.

"This programme is essential for guiding faculty on securing grants and fellowships from esteemed national and international bodies. Meaningful and high-quality

research enhances the academic and professional landscape of our university," he said.

Special guest, Dean, Medical Faculty SKIMS, Srinagar, Prof Shariq R Masoodi, highlighted the competitive nature of grant funding.

"Effective grant writing is not only about well-crafted proposals but also about understanding the priorities of funding agencies. Mastering this skill is crucial in today's academic environment," he said, proposing collaborative healthcare research between KU and SKIMS and inviting participants to bring forward ideas.

Course Coordinator, Dr Ghulam Nabi Dar provided an overview of the programme, explaining that it aims to bridge gaps between researchers, reviewers and administrative experts.

"Grant opportunities are available, but success requires knowledge of effective strategies. This programme will help participants transform their research ideas into actionable projects," he added.

In his welcome address, Director, MMTTC, Prof Fayaz Ahmad, highlighted the centre's commitment to supporting faculty development through similar training programmes.

"This week-long initiative will address the challenges faculty face in securing project grants and fellowships, benefiting all participants," he said.

Coordinator, MMTTC, Dr Faheem Syed Masoodi, conducted the proceedings of the event Co-coordinator, Khwaja Mohammad Shafi, proposed the formal vote of thanks.