

National Workshop on Emerging Trends in Information Technology in University Management

A National Workshop on 'Emerging Trends in Information Technology in University Management' was organized by Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi in collaboration with Shivaji University, Kolhapur on August 28-30, 2017. The venue was Department Computer Science, Shivaji University. The event witnessed participation of total 38 university officials and IT administrative staff members from reputed universities and institutes across India. The participants were mostly serving as Controllers of Examinations, Deputy Registrars, IT Managers or Programmers in their respective universities.

The workshop was e-inaugurated by Prof. D T Shirke, Pro Vice Chancellor of Shivaji University. Prof. R R Mudholkar, Computer Science Department of Shivaji University and Coordinator of workshop welcomed and felicitated all the dignitaries on the stage. Dr Amarendra Pani, Deputy Director and In Charge, Research Division of AIU, Dr V D Nanavadekar, Registrar, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and Dr. Usha Rai Negi, Assistant Director, Research from AIU were amongst dignitaries present during the inaugural function.

Dr Amarendra Pani, Deputy Director and Incharge, Research Division, AIU unfolded the crux theme of the workshop. He explained that the technological revolution in the form of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought revolutionary changes in the management of institutions of higher learning. Hence, a pressing need was felt to orient and sensitize the administrators about the recent developments in information technology and make them maximize the utilization of ICT for improving the quality and efficiency of university management and decision-making. Following the Inauguration the Technical sessions were started.

In the first Technical session Dr B M Hirdekar, Registrar, Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur presented different perspectives of e-learning and record keeping of students. The session was chaired by Prof P S Patil, Dean of Science and Technology Faculty, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Dr Deepak Shikarpur, IT Evangelist, Entrepreneur, Writer and Social Activist from Pune spoke in Session-II, emphasizing on innovative infrastructure for ICT implementation. This particular session was chaired by Prof (Mrs.) P S Patankar, Department of Education, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Session- III & IV were designed thoughtfully to be interactive sessions encouraging participation from attendees and encompassed the software demonstration of Smart Interactive Digital board with inbuilt processor. The participants were invited to share their views and the practice and provision of digitization process and status of progress attained in their respective universities. These session via active participation of attendees turned out to be lively and resulted in transfer and sharing of best practices. Day-1 ended with local site seeing and visit to the fort *Panhala*.

On 29th August, Prof S P Pani, Utkal University, Bhubneshwar provided a detailed account on chronology of technological transformation in IT and shared his views about difficulties faced in digitization of university sections. He highlighted many points and examples of practical implementation of digitization based on his own experiences. Session-II was chaired by Prof P N Vasambekar, Department of Electronics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Mr. Mahesh Kulkarni, Associate Director, C-DAC, Pune, spoke and discussed about ERP solutions available to University Management. This session turned out to very interactive session with ample queries from participants. Session-III and IV were dedicated to software demos on University Management developed by C-DAC, Pune. Issues faced during automation of university administration were discussed with participants cum IT Officers. Day-2 concluded with small summarization of days activities by Prof Mudholkar.

On 30th August, Dr Atul Wadegaonkar, General Manager, Digital University Business Development Program, Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL), Pune was the invited speaker in Session-I. He shared his ideas of university digitalization. Participants were encouraged to share their ideas during interactions. This session was chaired by Prof A M Gaurav, Head, Department of Commerce, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. Session-II was an online-session by Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi who conducted it through *Skype* and this particular session was chaired by Prof K D Sonawane, Head, Department of Microbiology, Shivaji University,

Kolhapur. He elaborated on the online Pre and Post examination system. He advised the participants on how they can play their roles effectively in University digitization system.

Session-III after lunch was dedicated to software demo of software's developed by MKCL, Pune. *Start-to-End* digitization of student registrations till he/she passes out from University was also demonstrated. It also included computerization of unbridged examination system. In final Session-IV Prof. D T Shirke focused on creation of central database of all teachers in all Universities and affiliated Colleges of India. He further discussed about the issues involved in updating the database. This session was chaired by Prof. D M Kashid, Head Department of Statistics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

The third day of the workshop was concluded with Valedictory Function with Mr. Mahesh Kakade, Director, Examination and Evaluation, Shivaji University, Kolhapur as the Chief-Guest. Prof. Mudholkar welcomed the chief guest and participants to the valedictory function. Dr Amarendra Pani presented the overall proceedings of workshop. He expressed happiness over the overall conduction of workshop. Participants in their feedback expressed the satisfaction and suggested for frequent holding of such workshops. They were satisfied with workshop contents as well as hospitality rendered during the workshop. Dr. VS Kumbhar introduced the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest highlighted the progress in digitization of Shivaji University Examination and SRPD system. The Function concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Kabir Kharade. Participants dispersed after group photo session and certificate distribution. Dr. (Smt.) U. R. Pol, Dr. (Smt) K. S. Oza, Mr. P. T. Goyal, Mr. P. S. Vadar, Mr. Parasuram, Mr. P. S. Karmarkar who were the faculty members and Mr. Korvi and office staff of Department of Computer Science, Shivaji University, Kolhapur contributed towards hosting the workshop successfully. The Department of Computer Science, Shivaji University, Kolhapur expressed thanks to AIU for assigning the workshop in particular to Dr Amarendra Pani, Dr. Usha Rai Negi and Prof. Devanand Shinde, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and other authorities for extending the motivation and support in successful hosting the workshop.