

IQAC, Shyam Lal College (SLC), under the guidance of the Principal Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar, took a pioneer initiative to organize a one day National Workshop on e-Learning and MOOCs: Pedagogical Innovations and e-Learning in collaboration with Guru Angad Dev Teaching Learning Centre (GAD-TLC) of MHRD on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. This was the first workshop of its kind in any higher education institution that aims to expose the teachers directly to the advance developments in the field of e-Learning in India. The workshop was well attended by the faculty members from SLC as well as from other colleges of Delhi University. This workshop offered a platform to all academics and teachers present an opportunity to understand and get familiarized with the new pedagogical approaches being developed through MOOCs and other e-Learning portals introduced by the Government of India. We as teachers in the institutions of higher learning are witness to major transformations and changes happening in the world of academics with the Government of India's initiative to make e-Learning an integral part of the education system in the country. E-Learning provides opportunities for a life-long learning through which the learner gets a unique educational opportunity to expand and explore the horizons of knowledge. Teachers in the institutions of higher learning have been using ICT tools in their classroom teaching for a long time now but with the introduction of the e-Learning portals like MOOCs, e-pathshala, SWAYAM etc., we are able to take our teaching methodologies a step further and explore wider possibilities of learning across disciplines.

The workshop was conducted by eminent resource persons associated with GAD-TLC - Prof. A.K. Bakhshi, Vice-Chancellor, PDM University and Chairman GAD-TLC, Prof. K.V Bhanumurthy, Former Dean Faculty of Commerce and Business and Head Department of Commerce, University of Delhi and Dr. Vimal Rarh, senior Faculty at SGTB Khalsa College and Joint Director, GAD-TLC. Prof. Bakhshi talked about how the quality of static content and the quality of subject expert determines the quality of e-Learning. He also explained how the static content goes through the process of multimedia enrichment that ultimately develops the e-content under MOOCs. Prof. Bakhshi drew the attention of the audience towards the ultimate purpose of the whole process which is to make self-learning exciting and interesting and break the monologue 'Chalk and Talk' method of traditional teaching.

Dr. Vimal Rarh and Prof. Bhanumurthy took the sessions further and introduced the scope and achievements under MOOCs. Dr. Vimal Rarh pointed out how MOOCs, the MHRD initiative, is a game changer in India that provides the scope to meet the growing demands for more enrolments in the higher education institutes in India. Learning through MOOCs becomes a more student centric process that not only provides the Teaching-Learning material but also provides the flexibility of time frame to complete the course.

This workshop became a pioneer initiative by the IQAC of SLC that has helped the teacher participants to understand the process of accessing and utilizing hundreds of courses introduced through virtual medium and available to a larger segment of learners who can choose from these courses that are being offered at different university/college/school level. The workshop and the

subsequent interaction had a fruitful outcome in familiarizing the participants with the MHRD project of creating and facilitating the e-learning database in the fields of higher education.

The Workshop was also accompanied by Republic Day celebrations in the College wherein the Principal, Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar hoisted the National Flag along with other teachers and students followed by the National Voter's Day oath ceremony and a spectacular dance performance by a SLC student, who is a classically trained dancer, on 'Vande Matram'.



