

Report on

Two Day National Level Webinar on Contemporary Reflections on English Language Teaching: Challenges and Possibilities

The Department of English, GDC Bijbehara on 13th and 14th of July 2020 organised Two Days National Webinar on theme *Contemporary Reflections on English Language Teaching: Challenges and Possibilities*. The program was formally started by Dr. Irshad Ahmad Itoo who in his introductory note emphasized upon the methods and approaches being used to teach English language in contemporary India. Dr. Rashma Siraj, Head, Department of English, formally welcomed expert speakers, Principal, GDC Bijbehara, faculty members of the college and the participants to the session. Moreover, the esteemed principal of the college, Prof. Nighat Fatima highlighted the theme of the webinar and enlightened the participants by her thought provoking talk. She focused on the present scenario of English language teaching and learning in general. The prominent speaker of the first session, Prof. Dr. Vinita Singh Chawdhry threw light on the challenges of English Language at grass root level. She deliberated on the present scenario of ELT, Paradigm Shift from teacher centered approach to student centered approach. Prof. Chawdhry highlighted the significance and need of technology integrated approach to be adopted while teaching English language. The second speaker of first session was the prominent intellectual Prof. Dr. Hameeda Bano famous as Hameeda Nayeem who discussed the present scenario of teaching learning process in Kashmir and importance of introduction of Communicative English skills at Undergraduate Level under Choice Based Credit System. In her talk, Prof. Hameeda Nayeem stressed the need for giving English language learning a special attention because it is used as lingua franca across the globe. The first resource person of second session of the Webinar was Prof. Dr. Ajaz Mohammad Sheikh who highlighted the cultural and mother tongue influence on English language teaching in schools and colleges of India in general and Kashmir in particular. Dr. Ajaz also pinpointed the flawed policies being used to teach English in Schools of the valley which left bad impression upon students regarding English language learning. The second expert Dr. Javid Iqbal Bhat in his presentation enlightened the participants through a detailed description of the development of English language in India. He also emphasized upon the challenges being faced in Kashmir like non availability of suitable technology for teaching English Language. The last expert speaker was Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ganie who foregrounded the need to introduce English soft skills as a subject at school level to inculcate in our students the passion for learning English Language at the very first stage of life. He also suggested availing the benefit of online crash course in English Language learning. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Irshad Ahmad Itoo who thanked the experts for their thought provoking presentations and valuable suggestions to overcome the challenges for teaching and learning English language in the contemporary India. He thanked Principal for her dedication in conducting the webinar. He also thanked to program convener Head Department of English GDC Bijbehara Prof. Rashma Siraj for her supporting hand. Last but not the least he thanked the participants, technical support provided by Prof. Ashaq Hussain Shah Head department of computer science GDC Bijbehara, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Wani (Lecturer EVS GDC Bijbehara), Dr. Mohd Iqbal Rather (Lecturer Islamic Studies GDC Bijbehara), and Dr. Towseef Ahmad Lone (Lecturer Urdu GDC Bijbehara) for being part and parcel of the webinar.