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Report on Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration

On April 7, 2025, Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated at the School of Education Studies (SES), Lodhi Road Campus, in collaboration with the Outreach and Extension Division. The event served as a meaningful tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and aimed to reflect on his enduring contributions to education and social justice.

The celebration began with the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, setting a thoughtful and reflective tone for the day's celebrations. The celebration featured two key events, the first of which was a panel discussion held at 10:30 AM on the theme: "*Constitutional Values and Everyday Teaching.*" Faculty members from the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) and the Dean SES actively participated in the session. The discussion focused on the relevance of constitutional values in the field of education, particularly in daily teaching practices.

Dr. Sunita Singh, Dean of the School of Education Studies, emphasized the importance of integrating Ambedkar's vision and philosophy into classroom practices. She highlighted the need for educators to create inclusive learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of all students and advocated for equity, dignity, and justice in education.

Dr. Neema Chaurasiya spoke about the inclusive classroom environment, drawing real-life examples from her school teaching experience, she elaborated upon the issues of discrimination that mar the everyday lived reality in schools. She stressed on creative solutions for these issues, and discussed the importance of maintaining peer networks in professional context, in order to keep the constitutional values alive.

Dr. Neha spoke about the concept of equity, with a particular focus on language. She emphasized that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognizes multilingualism as one of its fundamental principles, and therefore, it is essential to provide equal linguistic space for all students in the classroom. She pointed out that many students drop out of school due to the pressure of having to learn and use a language they cannot speak, read, or write. To address this issue, she stressed the importance of creating an environment where students can freely use their mother tongue or regional language. Allowing students to express themselves in their own language, she argued, is crucial for fostering inclusivity and ensuring meaningful participation in the learning process.

Dr Rishabh Kumar Mishra emphasized that constitutional values help us to create an inclusive and equitable classroom. A teacher should reflect what are the hidden messages that he/she is conveying in his/her classroom. A classroom should be a place where constitutional values need to be practiced rather than preached.

Ms. Nirju Borah highlighted the importance of recognizing that every child experiences a different childhood. She posed a critical question for educators: *How can a teacher*

accommodate each child within a common framework? According to her, the foundation of meaningful learning lies in being reflective and responsible for one's actions—qualities essential for nurturing thoughtful individuals. She emphasized that from linguistic inclusion to demonstrating empathy in everyday interactions, teachers play a vital role in uplifting marginalized students and enabling them to dream beyond their circumstances. Ms. Borah asserted that it is through continuous learning and self-reflection that teachers can go beyond expectations and actively work to dismantle discrimination in the classroom. She concluded by encouraging educators to consistently reflect on their own openness to growth by asking, *"How open am I to learning?"*

Dr. Nidhi spoke about the importance of teaching textbook chapters on equality and social justice in an effective and engaging manner, drawing from her own experiences in schools. She emphasized the value of creating personal connections with students by having one-on-one conversations, both inside and outside the classroom. According to her, such interactions help teachers understand the challenges students may be facing, whether at home or within the classroom environment. Dr. Nidhi highlighted that these conversations are crucial for addressing students' individual needs and fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning atmosphere.

During the session, students in the audience raised insightful questions on critical issues such as the identity of Dalits in classroom spaces, methods of addressing inequality and discrimination, the importance of multilingualism in education etc. These interactions led to a rich exchange of perspectives between faculty and students.

The next segment of the event was a quiz competition on the theme *"Ambedkar's Life and Contributions"*, moderated by Ms. Nisha Karar and Dr. Bhageshwari Verma. Students from ITEP participated with great enthusiasm. Eleven teams took part, with each team comprising three students. The winning team consisted of students from the first semester of ITEP—Price, Daulatram, and Sumit Kumar Shah—who demonstrated exceptional knowledge and teamwork.

The events not only honored the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar but also inspired future educators to critically engage with the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution and apply them meaningfully in their teaching practices.















