

ⁱ Speech of Dr. Guaranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP

Participants.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening. I express my profound gratitude to the respected Vice Chancellor for inviting me to the concluding session of this International conference on Teaching and Learning 2016 hosted by the centre for Pedagogy at this University. I offer my sincere thanks to Prof Mahbub Alam Pial who technologically made me capable to listen to the keynote speech delivered by Dr Bob Mathew, a Director of Durham University, UK. His 'Reflections on University Education in the 21st Century' are potentially useful. He touches on the changes over 40 years and shows us the relation between technology and true learning at university. He attaches much importance to students' deep understanding of the subject material as opposed to rote learning. He correctly recognizes that technology is helpful but learning is basically a social process, requiring human interaction. He invites us to think radically on the importance of less reliance on lectures, more student centred activities, greater emphasis particularly in the early years of a degree on skill development and better use of technology to enhance the student experience.

My understanding is that clearer conception of a subject is crucial for learning not only at a university but also at various stages of life. A teacher comes to a class room having distinct conception of the subject on which they deliver their speech. But can a teacher always examine the understanding capability of the students who attend a class? Their conceptions are generally tested when they sit for their exams. I think informal interaction between teachers and students is essential for developing the conception of a student.

Robert frost, the modern poet of USA placed enormous importance on informal relationship between students and teachers for true learning. To me, the importance of this International conference on Teaching and Learning is quite considerable. Our government is making real effort to enhance quality education in tertiary level. With this end in view Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project extends cooperation to our universities through its Quality Assurance Unit. To make students pursue degrees should not be our long-term goal. To make students intellectually sound, globally competent, and highly creative should be our ultimate goal. I, of course, do not forget to instill a sense of humanity in our students.

This is how, we can change our society, we can bring about positive transformation in the world. Mahatma Gandhi suggests for individual change. We need to change ourselves in order to change the world. I think pedagogy is fairly effective for this change management.

I would like to take opportunity to congratulate the centre for pedagogy for arranging this conference. I again express my gratitude to the Vice chancellor for his unwavering support and encouragement.

Thank you all

ⁱ Dr. Guaranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP Speech to the concluding session of the International conference on "Teaching and Learning 2016" at Independent university Bangladesh (IUB)