



مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی

मौलाना आज़ाद नेशनल उर्दू यूनिवर्सिटी  
MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL  
URDU UNIVERSITY  
(Accredited Grade "A+" by NAAC)

COLLEGE OF TEACHER EDUCATION, BHOPAL

کالج آف ٹیچر ایجوکیشن، بھوپال

**REPORT**

of

**CONFERENCE**

on

**Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2023



**FOUNDATIONAL  
LITERACY AND  
NUMERACY**

## Report

A day-long conference on the theme “Foundational Literacy and Numeracy” (FLN) was organized by CTE Bhopal. All the B.Ed., M.Ed. and Ph.D. students and faculty members attended the conference. Prof. Noushad Husain Principal presided over the session.

At the outset, Dr. Shabana Ashraf welcomed the participants and initiated the session with a brief introduction of the theme. She informed the participants that FLN is broadly conceptualized as “a child’s ability to read basic texts and solve basic math problems”. She further elaborated on how it was one of the major themes of the NEP 2020. In 2021, the NIPUN-Bharat programme was launched with a vision to ensure universal literacy and numeracy for Class 3 children by 2026-27. It envisaged a five-tier implementation mechanism, set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.



The next speaker in the session was Dr. Talmeez Fatma Naqvi, who unearthed the rudimentary intent of the FLN programme by giving the data of the PISA. She also stressed the importance of foundational literacy and language development. Dr. Naqvi referred the eminent scholar Paulo Freire who once said that literacy is about the reading the world instead of reading the word; she further added that to read the world, you must first read and understand the word. She stirred the prospective teachers to vow to strengthen the language of their wards. She also shared a number of inspiring stories and incidents in this context.



Dr. Bhanu Pratap Pritam advocated the importance of foundational literacy—and, in the favour of FLN, he said that the ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers i.e., FLN, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning. He further stressed that culturally responsive teaching, which strives to make learning relevant to the lived realities of children, and critical mathematics education, which teaches mathematics as a tool to critically read the world, are among several approaches widely sought after by schools worldwide. He showed concern about how, despite claims of how FLN is a goal for all children, its prioritization is almost exclusively meant to be for children from rural and marginalized backgrounds, thus creating two separate tracks within Indian education—one with children in elite and high-fee private schools getting to focus on rich and holistic content, and the other with marginalized children in low-fee private/public schools, who will not be able to go much beyond these foundational skills.



Prof. Noushad Husain Principal CTE Bhopal deliver the presidential lecture and motivated the students to work on the language development of their students. He specified that reading proficiency and arithmetic skills are very important. However, formulating learning as only the mastery of piecemeal reading and arithmetic skills entails a simultaneous overlooking of and lack of imagination around other



holistic components of learning. He inspired the prospective teachers to work on an approach where basic learning and critical thinking run parallel. He further asked the future teachers to come forward to prepare the children to achieve contemporary educational goals such as critical thinking, curiosity, or empowerment.



A documentary film was also screened on FLN and some activities were also shared with students.

The conference concluded with a valedictory ceremony where all students and faculty members vowed to spread and achieve the FLN objectives.

Convener

Dr. Talmeez Fatma Naqvi

Co-convener

Dr. Shabana Ashraf

Designed by

Dr. Tarannum Khan

Patron

Prof. Noushad Husain