

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CELL (RDC) WEBINAR REPORT (2024)

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The Research & Development Cell, Lady Keane College, Shillong, with Dr. Gareth Gordon Syngai as its convener; in collaboration with Team Researcher Resources (USA) organized an **International Webinar** titled **“Sensitization Programme for Promoting Research Culture in the Institution”** for the faculty members of Lady Keane College, Shillong on March 15, 2024. In all, there were 57 faculty members who participated in the webinar. A gist of the deliberations held during the technical sessions is as given below:

## **Technical Sessions:**

- In line with the theme of the programme, the first resource person **Dr. Padma Singh, Scientist - E, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi**, delivered a lecture on the topic **“Research Funding Opportunities in India”**.

Through her presentation she underscored on the importance of research as a means to help answer scientific questions, invent, build and innovate, which at the sametime also happens to be a thrust area that the **National Education Policy 2020** envisions to develop active research communities across disciplines in academic institutions.

In consonance with this objective, the Government of India has set up bodies like the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), National Board of Accreditation (NBA), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), for necessary approval, accreditation and ranking of higher educational institutions (HEIs).

In her presentation, the speaker listed the **major funding agencies in India** in the field of **Life Sciences and Allied disciplines** like the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Department of Health Research (DHR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Likewise, she also highlighted the **major funding agencies in India** for the **Social Sciences and Humanities** which includes the Department of Higher Education (DHE), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM).

In terms of **international programmes for Arts and Humanities**, a special mention was made of the **Spencer Foundation** for Small Research Grants on Education Programme; the **Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships**; and the **Teacher Training Students** under the **Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Programme**.

It was also emphasized that in North-East India, the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** is the nodal agency for taking care of the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.

The resource person next illuminated on the **types of funding or support** that the different agencies provide and these could be in the form of a research grant, seminar/ workshop grant, training programme grant, fellowship grant, travel grant, publication grant, and even an infrastructure grant.

Penultimately, the speaker delved on the fundamentals of writing effective grant applications which includes the components of (a) the rationale

behind the project, (b) possible impact, (c) novelty/ innovation, (d) methodology, and (e) implementation strategy.

Lastly, the resource person had a piece of advice for the institution leaders on ways to encourage research in the institution which is by way of providing flexibility, time and rewards for the faculty members for their research contributions and also by providing a budget and infrastructure support.

And for the faculty members her suggestion on ways to encourage research is to have clear research goals, a research mentor, and to address local issues and problems in their study.

- The second resource person for the programme was **Dr. Saurabh Mehta, Associate Scientist, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, Florida, USA**; and his topic of deliberation was on **“Useful Resources for Academic Research”**.

Through his presentation, the speaker outlined research as being the foundation for innovation which can immensely contribute to the society by way of educating and training the next generation which can open up opportunities for their employability and also as a means of career development for faculty in academic institutions.

Subsequently, the speaker highlighted of the popular resources for accessing research journals and articles and these being Google Scholar, DOAJ, PubMed, SSRN, World Wide Science, Semantic Scholar, UGC-CARE.

Thereafter, the speaker illuminated on the best reference management tools for researchers like Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote, RefWorks, JabRef, PaperPile, and CrossRef for the benefit of the participants.

Lastly, the resource person apprised the participants of the plagiarism detection and prevention tools whose application is of utmost importance

now-a-days and these being softwares like Turnitin iThenticate, Noplag, Unicheck and Grammarly.

### **Participants Feedback:**

The participants found the programme to be simple to comprehend and at the sametime enlightening; others commented that it was a very helpful and informative exercise; it was a great initiative; and a source of motivation for those planning to do research.

In closing, the webinar was moderated by Dr. (Mrs.) Stephanie Paula Basaiawmoit, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Lady Keane College; and the welcome address given by Dr. D. K. B. Mukhim, Principal, Lady Keane College; and the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. A. M. Shangpliang, Vice Principal, Lady Keane College, Shillong.



**A screenshot of the webinar**