

**REPORT OF THE OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY
DATED 11TH NOVEMBER 2021 ORGANISED BY
SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES,
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KOTTAYAM, KERALA**

“Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role models” - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

India is a country that has given due importance to education and considered it as the best medium to ensure the wellbeing of its citizen. The fact that Indian education system is the world’s second largest higher education system shows the opportunities created within the nation itself. The Parliament of India on 4th August 2009 passed the Right to Education Act guaranteeing free and compulsory education for children aged between six to fourteen years under Article 21(A) of the Constitution of India. Thus, providing education has become the foremost step taken for the best prospects of the citizens. When we analyse the history of India, we always had great leaders who envisioned the development of the country through education. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was one such leader who is also the first Education Minister of Independent India who laid the foundations of the modern Indian education. His vision and mission has turned into major milestones in the educational history of India.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (presently known as Ministry of Education) has intimated to celebrate National Education Day, every year on 11th November in the honour of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad since 2008. The School of Pedagogical Sciences (SPS) under Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) Kottayam, being one of the pioneer institution in the field of teacher education and research has also taken the step to observe the National Education Day which was conducted imbibing the essence and spirit of the day.

Ms. Reshma Rosh compered the programme. She gave a brief introduction on the purpose of observing National Education Day and elaborated on the contributions made by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The programme commenced with the rendering of prayer song by SPS chorus comprising of Ms. Minna Pius, Ms. Maria George, Ms. Jain Ann Chacko and Ms. Rinchu Mariam Varkey. Prof. Dr. Jaya Jaise (Professor, SPS, MGU) recited our national pledge followed by the audience, reminding us of our responsibilities towards the country. Dr. Ismail Thamarasserri (Assistant Professor, SPS,

MGU) welcomed the gathering. He reflected on the importance of National Education Day and contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He also spoke on the relevance of the curriculum developed by the experts of School of Pedagogical Sciences incorporating all the necessary requirements of our times related to education. He warmly welcomed all the dignitaries and participants of the programme and also introduced the chief guest.

The meeting was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. PT Baburaj (Professor and Head, School of Behavioural Sciences, MGU & Director, Inter University Centre for Disability Studies). His words were highly motivating and reflective of his educational experiences. Being a great well-wisher of SPS, he recollected his good memories and experiences with the department. He was much enthusiastic about the future endeavours of the department. His love for his teachers and students was well evident in his words. Being a forerunner in turning Mahatma Gandhi University into a friendly campus for the differently abled, he talked on inclusive education as well. His thought about making education accessible to the marginalised was really influential in moulding the perspectives of future teachers. He expressed his sincere greetings for the future endeavours of SPS and the potential of the Department to reach international standards of the education.

The presidential address was given by Prof. Dr. Minikutty A (Head of the Department, SPS, MGU). She talked on the role of education in behaviour modification and the importance of channelizing the energy of youth into the right path. She said that through education, one can excel in both personal and social life. Dr. Muhammad K.V in his note of felicitation spoke on the need and significance of value based education and how it benefits the society. He also said that the implementation of the Right to Education Act 2009 must not be confined in enrolment alone but focus to provide quality education also. Teachers should ensure the quality of education to be imparted and must know the learner wholly. All the needs of learner must be catered. Ms. Asha Mohanan (PhD Scholar, SPS, MGU), also an alumna of SPS shared her experiences in the department. She made the students of SPS realise the significance of the opportunities created in the department and to make use of it. Mr. Ebenzer PV (Student Representative, 3rd Semester MEd) boosted the spirits of audience through his note of felicitation. He commented that the vibrant and vast education system India can offer before the world is the result of the vision of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He enlightened the future teachers to reach new heights of international fame like Prathibha Bhal through their sincere and determined efforts. Ms. Ajitha T.A (Student, 1st Semester MEd) talked about the new developments in the scenario of education in Kerala. She

mentioned about the gender neutral uniform introduced in the Valayanchirangra School, the first school in Kerala to have so. On the behalf of the audience, Mr. Sijo Joseph (3rd Semester Student, SPS) made his reflections about the programme. He told that even the small acts in our life must be for the betterment of the society. And those unknown sacrifices are as worthy as the known victories. A video was presented by Mr. Blesson Varghese displaying the major milestones in the history of Indian Education System and the contributions and life of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Dr. Siby G Netto proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his note of gratitude to all, gathered in the meeting and being the first offline programme conducted after an interval caused due to covid-19 pandemic, he inferred this as a great start. The proper conduct of the programme was possible with the initiative taken by programme subcommittee consisting of Prof Dr. Minikutty A as the patron and Dr. Ismail Thamarasserri as the coordinator. Also the efforts taken by students - Ms. Deepa Mariam Joshua as rapporteur, Ms. Reshma Rosh as anchor, Mr Akhil Abraham as photographer, Ms. Amalu Katunilam, Mr. Lijo Babu and Ms. Nimisha PU in arranging the reception, refreshments and logistics helped in the smooth conduct of the programme. All the students, administrative staff and non-teaching staff of the department did their parts well for making the event possible and memorable as a great success.





