5. Learning To Lead

Learning from the last nine years’ experience, FAEA believes it is imperative to provide soft skills training (communication skills, team building, problem-solving etc.) aimed at leadership development. The aim of providing Scholarship supplemented with skill development program is to create socially responsible leaders who would occupy mantles of leadership in society and contribute to the betterment of the nation. So, to make their education relevant to changing times, a number of training programs were planned last year. Two training programs were organized during 26th December 2009 to 3rd January 2010 and November 11th 2010 to November 20th 2010 at Bangalore. FAEA hopes the learning journey planned for these students will break the shackles of limits and engage the young adults with options, abundance and possibilities.

This year the first program was organized at Kirori Mal College on ‘Skill Development Programme for FAEA-TATA Scholars. The workshop was held at the college Seminar Room and the participating scholars were provided accommodation on the College Campus (college hostel and warden’s residence).

Dr. Abid Hussain, former Member, Constitution Commission of India and Indian Ambassador to United States of America at inaugural function at Kirori Mal College, Delhi University with Prof. V.R. Mehta and Dr. Bhim Sen Singh, Principal Kirori Mal College

Dr. Abid Hussain was kind enough to accept the invitation to be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the workshop. Dr. Bhim Sen Singh, Principal, Kirori Mal College, welcomed the Chief Guest who inaugurated the workshop by lighting the traditional lamp. He delivered the inaugural speech. He emphasized on the ethos of Indian Culture and the value of education embedded in it. The occasion was graced by the presence of Prof. V. R. Mehta, Member Secretary FAEA, Mrs. Sheh Mehta and some faculty of the college. The inaugural session was followed by a tea break.

The workshop was primarily designed to develop skill among the scholars. The first session started with a self-introduction of the participants followed by discussing the focal theme of the workshop i.e. understanding one’s potentials. The idea was to
bring out what these scholars already had in them and make them understand that they had everything in them that is required to become an achiever. At the same time the programme had as one of its objectives to bring them closer to technology and recent trends in areas of study, research, development along with social and environmental issues which are generally believed to influence policy decisions locally as well as globally.

Keeping these objectives in mind the introductory session (Let us know each other) was followed by an almost 5 hours' session with a well known motivation and manager guru Mr. P. S. Rathore. He discussed the psychology of communication and ways to develop skills of effective communication in different environments like an interview for a job or discussing with a prospective client or for that matter people in authority. The importance of mannerism/s, body language in communication was discussed through active involvement of the participants. To overcome inhibitions, it was explained through demonstration where the participating scholars offered themselves as subjects. Mr. Rathore convinced the participants that what they believed was unattainable was very much within their reach. He motivated them to break hard compressed sheets by a single stroke of their hand and even to walk on the broken pieces of glass to illustrate that if the desire to accomplish a task is strong then even impossible become possible. The participants, not once but twice, walked on the glass pieces. By the end of the session the intended impact was more than evident.

The highlight of the second day of the workshop was discussions about the way economy or economics is being discussed in public domain and what is the agenda of such discussions. Mr. Ajay Ranjan Singh who teaches economics at Kirori Mal College and is presently pursuing his Ph. D. in Australia was the speaker. The session was followed by a discussion by Dr. Pankaj Sinha of FMS (DU). He discussed the possibilities that await the scholars with or without management degree and also the institutes and discipline that would suit them. Mr. Sinha explained what the top B – Schools look for in the candidates that these schools assess through tests and interviews and group discussions.

On all the days the scholars used to begin their day with Yoga Session and the last two
Sessions were devoted to interface with I.T. This included using tools of Ms-Office, Blogging, Webpage, Networking, Multimedia and programmes such as C++. This was organized at the Central Computer Lab. of the College under the guidance of the teacher of Computer Science at the College, Dr. Mamta Sareen and Mrs. Gitanjali Kher and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pandey of the Physics Department.

Prof. M. K. Pandit of the Department of Environmental Biology, DU talked about contemporary issues of environment and conservation. He highlighted the usefulness of people's participation and putting into use of local knowledge and sensibilities of people living in and around the forests, national parks and various reserves. Mr. Deb Dulal Halder of the English Department, Kirori Mal College, engaged with the scholars on meaningful communication skills. Prof. B.P. Sahu of the Department of History, DU discussed how a stratified society developed in India and the ideas of domination and subordination is inbuilt in this process of development particularly in terms of proliferation of caste. Dr. Surekha Carimella’s talk on ‘Climate Change, Gender and Public Health’ generated a lively debate.

Mr. Krishan Mahajan, a Senior Council, Supreme Court, talked to the scholars about ‘Right to Information Act 2009’ and how judiciously it can be used to bring a social change. Dr. Seema M. Parihar, Deputy Dean, Placement Cell discussed opportunities available and how best they can be utilized. Mr. Siddharth Mishra, a senior journalist talked about the evolution of press, its freedom and the social role it played.

Dr. P. K. Sinha Prof. AIIMS addressed the scholars on how public health schemes are managed to achieve desired goals. He discussed it in the context of the management of T.B. highlighting the fact that society will have to be roped in for the success of such programmes at all stages from early detection to the completion of the treatment. He stressed the need to educate people in general and also the medical practitioners not to deviate from the standard procedure for detection of the disease. He also discussed the adverse impact of irresponsible use of antibiotics.
Mr. Chandrabhan spoke on the problems faced by Dalit entrepreneur and how quite a few of them have braved and emerged successful. Mr. Rajib Ray who teaches Philosophy at Kirori Mal College talked about ethics and modern world. Dr. Asha Juwarkar, Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, provided insight into the latest researches environmental engineering and their scope. She also dwelt upon the possibilities that environmental science and technology have opened in the changed world today. She also highlighted the areas of research that need further attention for future developments.

After the long and busy schedule the Sundays was utilized to take the scholars on a trip to different historical monuments located in different parts of Delhi.

For the valedictory session Mr. Ajay Kumar, Vice President, Tata Communications Industries, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Bhim Sen Singh welcomed the Chief Guest. The participating scholars shared their experiences of their association with FAEA – TATA programme of scholarship and the way it has changed their life for better. The assistance has revolutionized their lives and their world view. The scholars were given the certificate of participation by the Chief Guest. Mr. Ajay Kumar made the valedictory speech where he lauded the achievement of the participants and extended his cooperation in case the scholars wanted to take up a job in the TATA group. With the vote of thanks from Professor V. R. Mehta the workshop came to an end.

"Skill Development Programme for FAEA Scholars during 25.12.2011 to 03.01.2012"

The ninth National Level Workshop on Skill Facilitation was organized by Jaipur National University (JNU) in collaboration with the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) and the Tata Group of Companies during 25th December 2011 to 3rd January 2012 at the JNU Campus, Jaipur. The workshop was organized for bright students from the socially and economically marginalized groups to enable them to pursue higher education in an institution of their choice anywhere in the country.

The ten day workshop was primarily designed to instill a sense of positive attitude and zeal in them to achieve success. The workshop was planned to motivate students, to develop the potential of FAEA scholars, strengthen their ability to achieve excellence and offer them better prospects for a brighter future to achieve excellence and professional competence so that they become exemplary leaders to the society and the nation with high moral and ethical values. Since the scholars lacked linguistic competence, the workshop basically aimed at sessions on Personality Development, Career Placement, Communication Skills, Stress Management and so on.

The workshop began on 25th December, 2011 in JNU with about fifty students from different parts of the country. The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Honorable Dr. Adarsh Kishor, Honorable Chancellor Mr. Sandeep Bakshi (JNU), Vice Chancellor Prof K L Sharma, besides them Prof. A K Panda, Prof. Yadav, and Prof H N Verma (JNU) also graced the occasion. The program began around 9.30am with the guests lighting the lamp.

The sessions were so designed as to enable students to increase their potential for self esteem, to develop in participants a global, secular, rational and social outlook, to prepare the students to be creative problem solvers and leaders, and become persons of distinction. To achieve these objectives sessions were designed to enhance communicative skills to make them confident and effective team players, and orient students to various career options, growth paths and to provide them with IT skills.
To conduct the sessions eminent resource persons were invited to hold the sessions on various topics mentioned below. All the sessions were interactive sessions where the students made presentations at the end. A system was also developed to monitoring scholarship receive feedback, self assessment, progress and follow up action.

The first Session was conducted on “Motivation” by Mr. Ankush Mahendra from Opportunity Knocks. He stressed on what is ‘motivation’? Why motivation? He also emphasized on the states of life where motivation is essential. Finally he concluded with a video of the movie Rocky-IV. The second session was on ‘Team Building’ which was conducted by Ms. Jyoti Sharma from the Opportunity Knocks. She stressed on the importance of working in a team. She included various models, to explain how to attain any objective and which qualities should the team members possess. The following session was on ‘Science, Dreams and Reality’ which was conducted by Prof. C.P. Malik. He correlated science with the various aspects of Management with lots of humor which the participants enjoyed thoroughly. The next session was on ‘Where You are to Where you want to be…..’ which was conducted by Ms. Tulika Sood. The session included activity covering the objective in life of the different students from different backgrounds, how to respond to them and overcome the hurdles by taking 100% responsibility to achieve the targets. The participants were then given access to the computers where they prepared PowerPoint presentation.

The second day had 3 classroom session and a lab session. The first session on ‘Business Communication’ was conducted by Ms. Jyoti Sharma which was an activity oriented session. It started with Group Discussion. The second session was ‘Creative Thinking’ conducted by Mr. Ankush Mahendra from Opportunity Knocks. In the session he mainly stressed on the fact that no one can stop oneself from thinking but at the same time can change and make the thinking work according to the situation demands. The third session was the implication of the second session where the students were asked to prepare a collage using the newspapers which were provided to them. And the students came out with innovative ideas and the best one was awarded. The forth session was on ‘Soft Skills’ conducted by Ms. Sangeeta Noval, which talked about why soft skills are important and how do they help us in our daily life to grow and how to create a positive outer impact on the people around. In the lab session participants were asked to make PowerPoint presentation on the sessions attended.

Similarly the third day started with a session on ‘Public Speaking’ conducted by Ms. Jyoti Sharma. It was an
activity oriented session, as it started with Group Discussion. The second session was on 'Social and Business Etiquettes' conducted by Ms. Twinkle Godhwani from Opportunity Knocks. In the session she mainly stressed on how a person should behave in a social gathering as well as about one's personal attire, way of speaking etc. The third session was also an activity session, in which students were given the punch line and they had to prepare an advertisement. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the session as well as learnt a useful skill.

The next session was on 'Attitude Building and Soft Skills' conducted by Prof. K.K. Gautam and Ms. Sangeeta Noval. In the session they talked about why soft skills are important and how do they help us in our daily lives to grow and how to create a positive outer impact on the people around. The final session once again was a lab session where participants prepared PowerPoint presentation.

On the following day sessions on 'Creative Thinking' by Mr. Anukush Mahendra, on 'Effects of pollution on wild life' by Prof. Bakke, on 'Biotechnology and its application on human diseases' by Prof. H.N. Verma, were organized.

On the following day during the first half the participants were taken to the National Children Science Congress Valedictory Function. During the second half session on 'e-Governance and its implications' was organized with Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma. He emphasized on the benefits of using the e-Governance, and also stressed on how e-governance has made the common man's life easy. The following session was on 'Rama and Ram Charitra Manas, a management thought' conducted by Prof. B. Shrivastava. He stressed on the strategies used by Rama during his Vanvas. He tried to relate the Ram Charitra Manas to the strategies used in Management. The following day Participants were taken for sightseeing. The next day the first session was conducted by Ms. Priya Sinha on 'Stress management' and the following session was conducted by Ms. Twinkle Godhwani on 'Language writing skills and Career guidance'.

The Valedictory function concluded the program on 3rd January 2012. Suneeli Anand on behalf of JNU fraternity and also on behalf of the "Foundation of Academic Excellence and Access" (FAEA) extended warm welcome to all the distinguished guests and student-scholar participants.

Prof. Abid Hussain, former Member Constitution Commission of India and Indian Ambassador to the United States of America was the Chief Guest. The other members were Prof. V.R. Mehta, Former Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University and Member Secretary of FAEA, Vice-Chancellor Prof. K.L. Sharma (JNU, Jaipur), Pro-Vice-Chancellor H.N Verma (JNU, Jaipur), Joint Director Mr. Prashant Sahai Saxena (School of Computer & System Sciences, JNU).

The program began with the lighting of the lamp. A detailed report of the workshop was presented to the Chief Guest. Then Vice-Chancellor Prof. K.L. Sharma distributed certificates to the participants. The function concluded with a vote of thanks to “Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access” (FAEA) on behalf of JNU fraternity extended by Mr. Prashant Sahai Saxena.