

**A Report of National Seminar
On
'Thought of Epoch making thinkers
& its relevance in the present.'
HELD ON MARCH 20TH AND 21ST 2014**

This seminar was organized by North Maharashtra University's School of Thoughts. Sane Guruji Sanskar Kendra also contributed financially to the seminar. It was a two day seminar, each day having three sessions each.

The sub-themes for the first day were as follows:

1. **Buddhist Studies & Research Centre -
Buddhist Philosophy, Literature,
Tipitaka, Architecture**
2. **Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Studies &
Research Centre-
Contribution of Chatrapati Shivaji
Maharaj towards Swaraj**
3. **Mahatma Phule Studies & Research
Centre-
Propagation of the message of
Mahatma Phule**
4. **Swami Vivekananda Studies &
Research Centre-
Swami Vivekananda and Leadership
development of the Youth**

The sub-themes of the second day:

5. **Paper presentation by students
and research scholars.**
6. **Mahatma Gandhi Studies & Research
Centre-
Mahatma Gandhi's Views on
Education and the Present Scenario**
7. **Sane Guruji Sanskar Kendra-
Child Psychology & Sane Guruji**

The inaugural session was presided over by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the North Maharashtra University Prof. Dr. Sudhir Meshram. Prin. Dr. A.S. Paithane, Dean of MMSS was the Chief Guest of the function.



The national seminar opened melodiously with the singing a song on the life of Savitribai Phule by Miss Priti Chaudhari student of education .



The Director of School of Thoughts, Dr. Archana Degaonkar gave the welcome speech.

The chief guest was the eminent progressive thinker Dr. A.H. Salunke & the seminar was inaugurated by the famous writer and social activist Father Francis Dibruto.

Father Francis Dibruto pointed out in his inaugural speech that the growth of material prosperity is seen to be accompanied by terrible moral



accompanied by terrible moral degeneration. An answer to this problem needs to be searched and explored, he opined. He also added that formal education may not provide the right answer.

Dr.A.H.Salunke attempted to



trace the interconnections between the six thinkers which are studied under the School of Thoughts.

In this context he opined that Gautam Buddha has had an all pervasive influence on most of the later thinkers. He pointed out the need to carry out fresh research regarding all thinkers in this light as the traditional portrayal of these thinkers may be one-sided and biased. He also pointed out the need to go to the original writings of these authors without any preconceived notions and in humility.

In his presidential remarks, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor emphasized



the need to practice the values of freedom, equality and justice.

The second session involved two parallel sessions by the Buddhist Study and Research Centre and Swami Vivekanand Study and Research Centre.

The Buddhist session included three experts. Bhadant Vimalkirti Gunasiri, Mr. Ravishankar Singh were the plenary speakers. Bhadant Vimalakrti pointed out the importance and significance of Buddhist thought in everyday life.



He emphasized the importance of simple moral life and thinking in today's world. Conquering greed was important. Mr. Raveshankar Singh gave an exposition of the Buddhist thought and explained its importance characteristics. The chairperson, Dr. Pratibha Taksande



made the presidential remarks and gave her views on Buddhist thought.

This was followed by paper presentations by research scholars and students.

The parallel plenary session included Dr.M.C.Mashram as the plenary speaker & Mr.Wishwas Lapalkar as the Chairman. Dr. M. C.

Meshram brought out the importance of Swami Vivekanand's thought in the context of the exposition offered by Stephan Covey, the author of the best seller 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.' He pointed out the five points necessary for a good, well organized life. Mr. Lapalkar gave his presidential comments.



He opined that the message of Swamiji is relevant for students even today. This was followed by individual paper presentations by research scholars and students.

The third plenary session on Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj took place after lunch. Social activist Shri Chandrashekhar Shikhare was the



plenary speaker who gave a novel exposition and interpretation of the life and work of Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He explained at length various dimensions of the extraordinary achievements of Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He ruled out the notion of a gobrahman

pratipalak king. He also dismissed the 'Maratha king theory'. Shri Dada Neve offered the presidential remarks. This was followed by paper presentations by students and research scholars.

The fourth & the last plenary session of the first day was on Mahatma Phule. Dr. Govind Gayaki



was the plenary speaker who gave a speech on the work and achievements of Phule. Dr. Shriram Gundhekar the renowned thinker on Mahatma Phule (who has authored many books on Phule) gave an exposition on Mahatma Phule as his presidential remarks. This was followed by paper presentations by students and research scholars. This was how the first day of the seminar drew to a close.

The first session of the second day was reserved for the paper presentations of students and research scholars exclusively. A number of students read out their papers on Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekanand, and Sane Guruji. This session was presided over by Dr. Mahboob Desai.

The fifth plenary session was devoted to 'Mahatma Gandhi's views on education and the present scenario. Dr. Mahboob Desai was the plenary speaker and Shri Tulasidas Somaiya was the chairman. Dr. Mehboob Desai



expressed regret in his speech that we have simply forgotten Mahatma Gandhi today. It took a foreigner to make a film on him. Foreign universities offer meaningful courses on Gandhi and encourage students to study his thought. Whereas we are still wondering about his relevance in the present scenario. What we really need is to practice his principles.

The chairman of the session, Shri Tulasidas Somaiya emphasized



that Mahatma Gandhi was probably the first religiously minded person to assign importance to physical, manual work. He himself along with many of his followers like Vinoba Bhave carried out rigorous physical work and worked towards the freedom of the country.

The sixth plenary session was about Child psychology and Sane Guruji. The plenary speaker was Shrimati Renu Gavaskar and Shri Avinash Patil was the chairman. Renu Gavaskar held the audience



spellbound with a very lively exposition of Sane Guruji's Thoughts. Mothers and teachers must reach out to the child emotionally, just like Sane Guruji did, she said. Mothers should speak the language the child understands and thus communicate with him, was her chief contention. She brought out the relevance of Guruji's thoughts in the scenario today which is riddled with a number of social problems.

Shri Avinash Patil offered his presidential remarks.

This session was marked by the presence of school children from schools in rural area who had won prizes for painting, singing and so on. Prizes were distributed to them by the plenary speaker, Renu Gavaskar.



The post lunch session was the valedictory function for which the chairman was Dr. D. G. Hundiwale, Director, BCUD, NMU, Jalgaon. The chief guest was Dr. B. N. Deshmukh, retired High court Judge from the Aurangabad Khandapeeth.

Dr. Archana Degaonkar, Director of School of Thoughts offered brief summary of the proceedings that had taken place so far. After this the chief guest spoke. Dr. B. N. Deshmukh



gave a very dignified speech in which he pointed out that the Indian Constitution was written by someone who had actually suffered the injustices generated by the Chaturvarnya system. He described the power of the court which it gains from the Indian Constitution itself. There is a provision in the Indian constitution such that if the ruling party indulges in unlawful practices, the court has the right to intervene. It was a very structured and scholarly discourse where students

had the opportunity to learn many important things.

Dr. D. G. Hundiwale described various types of thought and pointed out the importance of the study and the activities carried out by the School of Thoughts.



Prof. R. D. Kulkarni Head of Vivekanand Study and Research Centre, offered the vote of Thanks. He compeering of the inaugural session was carried out by Mr. Sunil Patil, Head of Sane Guruji Kendra. The compeering of the valedictory session was done by Dr. Anil Chikate, head of Mahatma Gandhi study and research centre.

The six plenary sessions were compeered by two students, Miss Priti Chaudhary and Mr. Prashant Sathe.

In all the seminar was a grand success. Sixty three students and research scholars registered for the seminar. More than two hundred people benefitted by listening to and participating in the overall discourse. Sixteen resource persons were invited for this national event.

