



Ramanujan College in Action !

The Fifth International Conference on Ethics on 12-13 March 2016
at Baha'i House

inaugurated by distinguished DU alumnus Dr Karan Singh

The Ethics overhauling of Social Responsibility at The Lotus Temple...



Chief Guest Dr Karan Singh second right



Director Baha'i House Shatrughan Jiwnani



Dr Tushar K Mishra
Keynote Address



Principal felicitating
Ambassador of Cyprus

The Centre for Ethics and Values and the Department of Commerce of Ramanujan College organised its 5th International Conference at the Baha'i House of Worship on 12-13 March 2016. In 35 experts from police, media, medical, education, corporate and environment sectors that included Vice Chancellors, top police and government officials, Padmeshree awarded doctors, foreign diplomats, and leading journalists and youth leaders exhorted their opinion on how to make ethical intervention possible into the social responsibility domain of these vital institutions of the country.

Dr Karan Singh, Member of Parliament graced the occasion as the chief guest of the function. He highlighted various dimensions of social responsibility and its relation being traced to the ancient times. He considered the importance of fundamental duties outlined in the directives principles of the state policy as much as the fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution. College Principal Dr S P Aggarwal welcomed the delegates while Keynote address was given by Dr T K Mishra, Director of the Ethics Centre. Dr Usha Munshi of Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi talked about cohesive approach in education in order to be more ethically responsible. **Mr Shatrughan Jiwnani**, a dignitary from the Baha'i

House of Worship spoke about the importance of core issues and challenges that one encounters when one proceeds on the path of ethics. The conference on the first day was divided into 3 plenary sessions.

The first panel discussion on “**Impact of Globalisation on the Social Responsibility of Education**” was chaired by former VC Prof A P Padhi. Prof Padhi highlighted the changes in the educational system and how the willingness of teachers to change their mindset can bring positive results. Former DUTA President Dr Aditya Narayan Misra highlighted the aspect of assimilation of knowledge in the society to bring social transformation. He opposed the concept of regimentation in higher education that restricts individual growth. Prof Balaganapathi of Philosophy department, University of Delhi talked about the paradigm shift in education and questioned basic role of education in relation to social responsibility. Prof R K Singh of Commerce department, Delhi School of Economics viewed education as a differentiator and explored various dimensions attached to it. He raised some fundamental questions on whether education is able to sensitise and empower us to give back enough to the society. Mr Roshan Sujeebun from Mauritius pointed out the critical and important aspects of positive thinking and approach and shared the secrets of the concept Karma (fundamentals of human thought process).

In “**Ethical Foundation of Media’s Social Responsibility**”. Mr KG Suresh, Editor Doordarshan, chaired the session and talked about ground level realities like encroachment in press, profiteers taking over the media. He reached out to the audience and asked them to be more vigilant on the media reporting. Leading journalist, Dr Sabina Kidwai of Jamia Millia Islamia raised issues like objectivity in news, biases, corporatized media, and half-truths. Prof Gita Bemazai of Institute of Mass Communication brought out the role of digital media to the attention of the audience. She talked about golden rules of media ethics: adhere to truthfulness, avoid conflict of interests, authenticity to name a few. Dr Hari K Sharma in his presentation highlighted the dangers of exaggeration in media and importance of transparent governance models. Ms Pallavi deputy student coordinator of Ethics centre of Ramanujan College talked about the potential role that media can play to bring positive change in the society.

In “**Ethics in Police and Public Administration**”. Mr N Ramachandran, President, Indian Police Foundation, chaired the session raising the issues of transparency and accountability in police administration. He pointed out issues of trust deficit, being unnecessarily secretive and stressed on internal reforms which can be achieved only through police leadership. Dr Sheela Reddy of Indian Institute of Public Administration related the issue of morality and ethics with the concepts of motivism and relativism respectively. She rightly said that ethics cannot be taught but caught. The need of the hour is creating right mindset of the administration. Mr Uday Sahay, IPS (Retd) shared his real life experiences and brought on table the common challenges that police administration faces today. He said 90 percent job of policeman is done by his own conviction. Only 10pc is out of political interference. Mr Gautam Parashar, President Ramanujan College Students’ Union, talked about basic maxims governing police and public administration. These sessions were followed by student’s group activity organised by the Baha’i house of Worship.

The fourth session was ‘**Benefits of environmental transparency of organisations**’ The session was chaired by Prof Surender Kumar. who emphasized the need of transparency in policy making in order to make environmental policies successful. Information needs to be put to public domain. Dr Jaikishan charted out the history of environmental degradation. Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar brought out the international dimension and drew contrast between developed and developing countries, their roles and contribution. HE Mr Demetrios Theophylactou, Ambassador of Cyprus to India, stressed the role of various stakeholders especially media which should actively promote the issue of objectivity. Ms Ankita Khurana, the student Prime Minister at Ramanujan College, highlighted the soft-skill ways to protect the environment by following the policy of reuse, recycle and renew.

At **‘Benefits of medical ethics and transparency’** the benefits of medical ethics and transparency to the society. Padmashree **Dr Sneh Bhargava (former AIIMS Director and DU alumna MAMC)** chaired the session. She talked about different levels of ethics in the medical field: education, patient, research level. Meritocracy and transparency in the sector should be encouraged. Self-regulation should be the rule of the thumb. Dr Ramesh Sarin of Apollo Indraprastha shared the basic ethical principles namely respect for autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice. He also pointed out the unethical practices. Dr Bhavna Parashar elaborated on ethics in the biomedical practice: its need and implication. It starts from education level, goes to patient level and then research. Ms Shrishti Dhuria, a student activist at NSS unit of Ramanujan College highlighted the benefits of medical ethics and need for transparency. She illustrated many real life examples in medical field.

The sixth session was on **‘Impact of globalization on corporate social responsibility’**. Prof. Kavita Sharma, Head D of Commerce University of Delhi chaired the session. The panellists deliberated on need and challenges associated with and various linkages between CSR and its dimensions. Dr Rekha Dayal of Jesus and Mary College highlighted the significance of transparency in CSR. Dr Sujeet Kumar of BR Ambedkar College brought out the role of traditional wisdom in the CSR. Mr Balachandra Shekhar, CEO of a start-up company, raised the bureaucratic hurdle coming in the way of CSR.

Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session **Prof. Gopa Sabharwal, the VC of Nalanda University, (and an alumna PhD Socio 1993 DSchool)** spoke at length on the important role that ethics and values can play in mitigating today’s socio-economic problems. Maj Gen. (Retd) Dilawar Singh, DG, Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Govt. of India, as the Guest of Honour, appealed to the 200 youth delegates attending the conference to spread the message of ethics and values to different parts of the country. He invited them to join hands with the Kendra.

Dr S P Aggarwal
College Principal

Dr T K Mishra
Conference Director