PRESS RELEASE

6th Annual International Conference of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) Concludes

The three day conference was co-hosted by Azim Premji University and Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC).

Bangalore, December 16, 2015: The 6th Annual International Conference of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) concluded today at the Azim Premji University Campus. Along with Azim Premji University, the three-day conference on ‘Education: Domination, Emancipation and Dignity’, was co-hosted by Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC).

The three invited panels held today were on The Alternative Education Schools; Multiple Uses of History in Curriculum and Textbooks; and Influencing Policy on Education: Efforts by Non-Governmental Organisations to Transform State Policy and Practice.

Around 35 research papers were also presented by scholars. Education and Social Inequality: Class and Marginalization; Language, Identity and Power: Multiple Pedagogic Possibilities; Teacher Identity and Experience; Education in the Era of Globalization; Adjusting to and resisting Colonial Initiatives; Alternative Schooling and Innovations in Education; Caste, Tribe and Education; and Politics of Higher Education.

The scholars who spoke on these issues include Dileep Ranjekar, Arvind Sardana, Arun V., Roopa Devadasan, Professor(s) Jane Sahi, Hridaykant Dewan, Anil Sethi, Subir Maitra, Sunandan KV, Kaustav Roy, Bishnu Mishra, Vijitha Rajan, Maxine Bernstein, Kumkum Roy, C.N. Subramaniam etc.

A resolution expressing concerns of members and assembled delegates on the proposed New Education Policy was also passed today. It’s been sent to the Secretariat of the Drafting Committee in New Delhi.

Valedictory Address (read in absentia) was given by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, former teacher of History and Director, Education Records Research Unit, at JNU. He was also Chairman, Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) and Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Professor Bhattacharya expressed the views that “Education is one way to ensure justice and equality. It is being eagerly sought by lower classes, women and dis-privileged castes. The socio-political movements, public policy and moral exhortations have all played a role in the increase in literacy and school enrolment for these sections.”
“There’s no unilinear model to ensure full literacy or universal good quality schooling for the disprivileged. Women’s education has mainly spread due to moral exhortations instead of political calculations, due to political emotions and sympathies rather than partisan mobilizations. On the other hand, educational growth and social cooptation of the lower castes has mainly resulted due to the social and political mobilization, inspired by identity consciousness. “added Professor Bhattacharya.

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