

DST-INSPIRE – Camp

Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India sponsored DST-INSPIRE – Camp was inaugurated at the Sangamam Seminar Hall at Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research (VFSTR), (Deemed to be University) Vadlamudi, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The convener, Prof. Dr. Vijay Ramu Dirisala, Dean, Academics of VFSTR welcomed the Chief Guest Prof. Shashi Bala Singh (Director, NIPER, Hyderabad), Guest of Honour, Prof. Dilip Dhawale, University of Pune, Prof. MV Basaveswara Rao, Secretary Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences, Registrar-VFSTR, MS Raghunathan, Prof. K. Satya Prasad (Rector, VFSTR) and Chairman of VIGNAN's group, Dr. Lavu Rathaiah presented their views about the need of this INSPIRE-Camps.

DST-INSPIRE Camp is organized for the selected students of 11th standard all over Andhra Pradesh who have scored top 1 % in 10th standard board exam in state of Andhra Pradesh.

This was followed by the opening remarks by Convenor, Prof. Vijay Ramu Dirisala. He mentioned that the DST-Inspire science camp is meant to inspire students towards innovation. VIGNAN applied for DST-camp one year ago, and requested mentors from different National Institute and reputed Universities. The main purpose of the CAMP is to direct interaction of these experienced mentors with 30 to 40 year of successful experience with the students. The Rector VFSTR (Deemed to be University), Prof. K. Satya Prasad, mentioned the need of DST-INSPIRE program as it allows the direct interaction of eminent experienced mentors with students, which motivates students towards the innovation and continued hard work with ingenuity to use available resources and generate new resources to address the challenges in Energy, Health and agriculture.

Honourable Chairman, Dr. Lavu Rathaiah Sir greeted all the guest and mentors.

He heartfully welcomed Prof. Shashi Bala Singh, chief guest Prof. Dilip Dhawale and Secretary, AP academy science and all the students and thanked DST for the support. He thanked the mentor for their presence and lecture and elaborated on how their presence is going to INSPIRE young minds. He emphasized the objective of the program, which is funded by Government of India and why it is being conducted. He mentioned that because it is found that that Indian young people are knowledgeable but they are not innovate and creative enough. And therefore, such programs are Very Much Essential in the life of young students. He gave the example of software revolution: wherein Software and hardware's were created somewhere in America and Europe, and operated by Indians and thus they get the 80% of the fruit and we get only 20 %, by working for them as an employee. He said that he thinks this has roots in our school and higher education, it is understood that our Education is stopping Ingenuity and exploratory nature. He gave an example of a child, that all the children are very happy till 5th or 7th, as he/she happy and inquisitive and freely asking numerous questions to parents and teacher and finding and knowing answers, however later Students are told how to behave or think and that is somehow stopping Our Innovation and Creativity.

He warmly mentioned the role of Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (AP) academy of sciences, and his work throughout AP, and thankful for their role in supporting VIGNAN at occasions. He is sure that this program will surely initiate a thought process in student's mind which will eventually help them to generate good ideas, may be not now but later in life.

Further, Prof. M.V. Basaveswara Rao, Secretary AP academy of sciences, was invited to share his views and remarks. He heartily welcomed the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor and all the mentors and thanked DST for supporting the CAMP. He elegantly put how VIGNAN Education had started a Technology-Education revolution in Andhra Pradesh, and made a great Impact throughout the State and how this DST-Camp is in perspective of the VISION to create professionally ready students with improved innovative quotient. Following which he ended

his remark by presenting a book, "Chemical Engineering Reactions", to Mentors and Guest of honour and Chief Guest.

Later, The Guest of honour Prof. Dilip Dhawale emphasised the need of keeping up to date with the increasing knowledge and technology to meet the future challenges in the sector of Energy, Health and Agriculture. He gave an example of the burst of growth in information technology and other science in last decade and alarmed the need of ever increasing innovation required to be exhibited by science and technology students and scientist. He ended his Welcome with a note from Swami Vivekananda, which meant that, "Study and observe Nature, it has all the information and the answers to our problem and it is for us only to know and understand this information", therefore he urged students to Study Nature and Spend time With Nature which is nothing but Science leading to the future technologies.

The Chief guest Prof. Shashi Bala Singh, was very happy to be here, a hall filled with young people to interact. And she is very hopeful looking at the students in the program and on campus. She mentioned that the main aim of science and engineering program is to improve the quality of human life, and this is the task that students will be taking on in future. And she is very hopeful that India has 50 cores - plus young population, and we all shall be an asset to the Nation building rather than "the liability", if we want India to be empowered, and therefore we must have to focus on Science and technology. She emphasized quoting a chinees proverb which suggests to invest in the education of our children if we have to plan a long term future. She motivated students to focus in their life with short term and long term goals. She quoted Ben Karson, who stated that "Anyone who is Normal is a Super human being", this is because normal people can focus on one task and are able to focus, transform the thoughts into action, which will eventually transform nation and humankind. She mentioned one event from her childhood, when she was in class five, her father showed how magnifying glass can burn the paper by harnessing the power of sun so far away: The message was clear, "To Focus", "Focus, on the short and long term goals". She inspired the students to treat every day as important, write every day, what you want to be in One year, in next 5 year and next 10 years and so on and so forth. She emphasized that this will help them to find the problem to focus and how to focus to achieve the success, Focus can be brought by understanding three things: a) what is the purpose of your presence today? b) What is purpose of the course that you have chosen now? c) What is the purpose of your life? And to inculcate passion which would eventually help in gaining focus and purpose. "Have a purpose in your life, and it will automatically drive you through life, and you need to take advice, mentors, parents, seniors, talk to them and focus what is required to achieve your Purpose".

The last and most important message that she delivered is "To Play which involved physical activity". Today, all the children are suffering from Mobile/ Screen addiction; this makes people in the long run for physical weakness and depression. Therefore, she suggested students to sweat for four times a day, as it improves physiology and automatically will improve mental health and this will in turn allow to focus.

The last message as, "Give Back to Society", as AP is providing you all these facilities and VIGNAN is giving many opportunities and facilities, which were not present a decade ago, so use these facilities and grow into better human being and then give back to society and give back to VIGNAN. Jai-Hind.

Registrar, VFSTR, Retired Commodore MS Raghunathan mentioned that DST-INSPIRE are a unique camp, and he is thankful to DST's support. He presented that VIGNAN-being only a 10 year young Deemed to be University has a VISION for training in Science and Technology and is ready to spend 10% of its budget for science and research, further he emphasized that VFSTR is ready to spend more if any project has a promise to bring leaps and bounds to society.He reiterated Prof. Singh's' remark of "giving back to society" and mentioned that he is very happy to see that how her science in high altitude has helped the Defence forces of this Country and asked student to get an inspiration from her life.

Following which Prof. Shashi Bala Singh, released the INSPIRE Booklet.

Prof. Vijay Ramu D briefed the nature of the program, which includes morning session with talks by the mentors and afternoon sessions consisted of practical session which allows students to individually perform experiments and tasks.

He thanked, Registrar, Rector and Convenor for getting involved in this camp. He wishes and thanked all for their inspiring presence.

Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr. Abhinav Parashar:He extended his sincere thanks to DST Govt. of India, and management of VFSTR, Chairman Dr. Lavu Rathaiah sir, Vice-Chairman, Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Rector, Registrar, deans, HODs, and all staff members for their help and support to organize this Camp. He welcomed and thanked all and opened the camp for next program.

This was followed by a lecture on Chemistry and how to find your interest in science by studying through methods of chemistry.