Special Lecture Report

Academy for Professional Development of Urdu Medium Teachers (APDUMT), JMI organised online lecture on Challenges, Opportunities, and Road Map for Reforms in Urdu Medium Schools

On the occasion of 104th Foundation Day of Jamia Millia Islamia, Academy for Professional Development of Urdu Medium Teachers (APDUMT) organized an online special lecture on "Challenges, Opportunities, and Road Map for Reforms in Urdu Medium Schools" on 28 October, 2024 at 03:00pm. The esteemed speaker of the special lecture was Prof. Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood, OSD, Former Dean, School of Education, MANUU & Former Registrar, MANUU.

The lecture commenced with a warm welcome of participants by organizing secretary, Dr. Naushad Alam from APDUMT. The formal beginning of the programme commenced with Qirat by Mohd Akhtar Hussain. This was followed by a brief introduction of the esteemed speaker by Prof. Jasim Ahmad, Hony. Director, APDUMT. He welcomed Prof. Mahmood, by introducing him as an expert of Urdu and teaching in Urdu medium schools. He further acknowledged that this special lecture will be a great learning opportunity for everyone.

The online meeting proceeded with an address from coordinator Dr. Abdul Wahid, Asst. Professor, APDUMT. He said that this lecture will open the doors of insights and opportunities in promotion of Urdu medium schools. Further, the academy will benefit from this online lecture as it may act as a catalyst in promotion of Urdu language. He presented in brief the aims and objectives of the academy.

Prof. Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood, the guest speaker was then invited to address the participants. In his lecture he started off by mentioning the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Maulana Mohd. Ali Jauhar and their contribution to the community and India. He mentioned a spectrum of challenges and opportunities that Urdu medium schools have been facing. Some of the challenges that Prof. Mahmood highlighted were lack of resources, scarce funding, poor maintenance of the school buildings, absence of labs to use ICT tools and poor functioning of libraries. The opportunities mentioned in lecture revolved around the introduction of Urdu as a mainstream language along with Hindi and English. The states like West Bengal and Maharashtra give importance to regional languages, similarly along with regional languages Urdu can also be promoted. The notion of multilingualism is to be supported by the mainstreaming of Urdu language, this may also enhance the understanding of concepts of subject content in one's mother tongue. Further, Prof. Mahmood provided a road map for reforms in Urdu medium schools. He emphasised on the importance of quality education in Urdu medium school and the parents' involvement in sending their children to Urdu medium schools. The quality of these schools can be improved with the help of the government and by fighting the stereotypes and negative perception about the Urdu medium schools among the community. He stressed upon the need of passion among teachers in specific and other stakeholders in general towards qualitative

improvement of Urdu medium schools. There must be promotion of Urdu language to protect its legacy. This can be done by an ideal teacher who will shape the future of students and make them ideal students to excel in the fields of engineering, law, medical etc., while being from Urdu medium schools.

The special lecture then proceeded towards the question answer session. Mr. Shakeel Ahmad from Meerut, UP, and Taufique Reza, began the discussion with Prof. Mahmood to understand the role of government in promoting Urdu medium schools. Prof. Mahmood also pointed out the involvement of NGOs in channeling the promotion of Urdu language and that teachers along with these NGOs can make an impact on the government to secure the future of Urdu medium schools. The suggestions from Prof. Mahmood were enlightening and insightful. Around 75 participants joined the interactive online lecture including Urdu medium teachers from different parts of the country. The special lecture concluded with a vote of thanks by coordinator of the lecture Dr. Hina Afreen, Asst. Professor, APDUMT.













