Public Relations Office Jamia Millia Islamia

February 7, 2025

Press Release

JMI hosts Dr. Salamatullah Memorial Lecture on 'Sufism and the Development of Society Through Education'

New Delhi. Prof. S. M. Azizuddin Hussain, Advisor, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, MoE, Government of India, yesterday delivered the Dr. Salamatullah Memorial lecture on the topic, "Sufism and the Development of Society Through Education - A Case Study of Deccan." The memorial lecture was organised by the Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI).

The programme was presided over by Prof. Mazhar Asif, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JMI. The programme started with the *qirat* by a B.Ed. student, Md. Matloob Raza, followed by a presentation of the *Tarana-e- Jamia* by Mr. Zishan Ahmad Zameer and team and welcoming of the dignitaries by Dr. Aerum Khan. Dr. Salamatullah's family members and the guest speaker, Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Hussain were honoured with *Angavastram*, saplings and mirror paintings made by faculty members and students of the department. Prof. Jessy Abraham, Head, Dept of TT and NFE welcomed the dignitaries, former faculty members, and colleagues of the department along with the scholars and students. She briefed the audience about the significance of the Dr. Salamatullah Memorial Lecture which has been conducted since 2003. The memorial lecture served to highlight the works of academicians in the Indian educational system, including women's education and Sufism.

Prof. Jasim Ahmad, the organising secretary of the programme spoke about the contributions of Late Dr. Salamatullah in the educational prospects in India. Moreover, his contribution to Jamia Millia Islamia as a teacher, Principal of the Teacher's College and then as officiating Vice Chancellor was highlighted. His achievements at the international level were also discussed by Prof. Ahmad. Furthermore, the innovations and experiments in the Department of Teacher Training and Non-Formal Education initiated by him which had over the years taken the department to newer heights, were recalled and emphasised.

In her address, Prof. Sara Begum, Dean Faculty of Education fondly remembered Dr. Salamatullah and his passion for education which has inspired generations of students. She further shed light on the topic of the lecture and highlighted the

enormous impact of Sufism on education and the legacy of Sufism in the development of societies. Prof. Veera Gupta, the organising secretary of the lecture, formally introduced the guest speaker, Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Hussain. His academic journey and achievements since 1976 were underscored. His contributions to national and international forums through lectures, research work in medieval history, administrative roles in Jamia Millia Islamia and his distinguished career of 41 years in the field of education were discussed by Prof. Gupta.

Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain, the guest speaker on the occasion spoke about the empowerment of women in the tenets of Islam. He further discussed the thematic of the ignorance of women's education in monarchical setup in history. He pointed out that when Sufism started spreading to the Deccan in the medieval period, importance began to be given to the education of women. Around eighty eight books were written during that period for the guidance and promotion of education of women. He further discussed the contributions of Universities in the Deccan to admit female candidates to promote higher education of women in the country. He concluded his lecture by highlighting the names of female scholars in India from different fields who reached great heights in their academic pursuits.

Prof. Azizuddin's lecture was followed by the presidential remarks by VC-JMI, Prof. Mazhar Asif. In his illuminating address he mentioned the role of Sufism in discovering the 'self' and establishing one's relation with God. Prof Asif said, "as students give meaning to a teacher's role, our faith gives meaning to God's existence". He explained how Sufis consider God as their beloved. He concluded by deliberating on what it is to be a Sufi in a real sense.

The memorial lecture was delivered to a packed and engaged audience of faculty members, research scholars, postgraduate and undergraduate students of the department. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Roohi Fatima, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

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