

DE‘LIBERATE’: CURRENT ISSUES IN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

A half-day event under the broad theme of ‘*Current Issues in Indian Education System*’ was held by the Association of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows (ACSF) on 18th March 2017 at New Delhi. The event was organized by British Council, New Delhi on behalf of Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) and ACSF.

Launched in the year 2015, this was the first event held by ACSF and about 60 scholars and fellows from Delhi and neighbouring cities participated in the event. The welcome address was given by Mr. Richard Everitt, Director, Education & Society, British Council India followed by an address by Dr. Dhruva Chaudhary, President, ACSF on the vision of the Association. He also informed that next event by ACSF is planned in the month of July, 2017.

Prof. Krishna Kumar, Former Director of NCERT gave the keynote address on the subject of ‘*Higher Education and its Role in Society*’, outlining four key roles of higher education in a country like India and the present challenges in achieving these roles. Ms. Durba Ghose, Vice President, ACSF anchored the main activity in the form of a round-table discussion on the subject of ‘Current Issues in Indian Education System’. The discussion was held under following five sub-themes across the participants:

1. Role of the Teacher in a transitioning society – instructor or mentor?
2. Experiential Learning – Is there a need to integrate it into education?
3. The need for expansion of arts in education.
4. The role of technology in education – gaps and opportunities
5. Education for what – livelihoods or living?

Round-table culminated with each team reporting the highlights of the discussions and key recommendations under particular sub-theme to all the people present in the event. It is proposed that a white paper based on the discussions will be produced by ACSF.

Sharing of ACSF background story, discussion outcomes and plan of action was presented by Mr. Manu Mahajan, Secretary, ACSF.

Dr. Adarsh Kumar requested Commonwealth alumni to join and strengthen the Association and proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the event.