

Report of the UGC sponsored state Level Workshop on “The Role of Philosophy in contemporary Society”

The Department of Philosophy, Christ College Cuttack organised a UGC sponsored State Level Workshop on 13.01.2017 in the college iconic heritage Hall under the chair personship of our beloved Principal Prof. Manmath Kumar Otta. It was attended by Prof. Bijayanand Kar, Prof. Saroj Kumar Mohanty former Heads, P.G. Dept. of Philosophy, Utkal University BBSR and Dr. Sachindra Roul, former Registrar Utkal University of culture, BBSR as chief guest, chief speaker and guest of honor respectively. Apart from the large number of faculty members and students of our college, colleagues from other colleges have also attended the workshop.

The workshop started with the guest lighting the holy candle followed by an opening song by the students of the department. The chairperson Prof. Otta delivered a welcome address and in the process set the template of the workshop by posing some extremely pertinent questions such as : is Philosophy a discipline which lacks human touch ? Is it purely an abstract enterprise having nothing to do with the real world and in our era of evergrowing science and technology. While discussing all these questions he submitted that philosophy is essential for an integral human development and exhorted that at least a little dosages of philosophical training for all, especially in all levels of our educational sector.

Dr. Mohin Mohammed, head of the department of Philosophy while presenting a brief introduction of the guests highlighted that any discussion on the role of Philosophy in our society must be premised on the fact that philosophy trains human mind to think critically, to reason correctly and rationally. The proper training of the human mind translates to human and societal development.

Prof. Bijayanand Kar, the chief guest asserted that philosophy is not a ‘Way of Life’. Every person does not have his or her own ‘Philosophy’. Philosophy is not a theory about something, Nor is philosophy a belief or wish. Philosophy is an activity of thought, philosophy is a particular unique type of thought, a style of thinking. Philosophy is not to be confused with its product, what a philosopher provides is a body of philosophic thought not a philosophy. A philosopher enacts a philosophy : a quest after wisdom.

Prof. Saroj Kumar Mohanty, the chief speaker held that with the tremendous development of science and technology, it seems unlikely that most of what surround us is actually the result of the ancient practice as philosophy. Everything from the structure of democratic government to due process of law, from a phisicians Hippocratic oath to computer software, has its roots in philosophy. Sadly, philosophy, as a course of study is disappearing from our nations colleges. Yet its focus on analytical thinking and problem solving is more vitally important today than ever.

Dr. Sachindra Roul, the guest of honour highlighted the fact that philosophy as a discipline concerned with questions of how one should live, what sort of things exists and what are their essential natures, what counts as genuine knowledge and what are the correct principles of reasoning. Philosophy as he implored is an attitude that acts as a guiding principle for human behaviour which is indispensable for making our life worthliving.

All the above presentations were followed by a very creative, intense and thought provoking discussion by the participants. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Itishree Prusty, lecturer of the department. The entire business of the workshop was carried out and coordinated by the students of the department under the active and able supervision of prof. Sumon Ray, Senior lecturer of the Department.

**Mohin Mohammed
Head, Dept. of Philosophy**