

**Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI)**  
**Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur (MNIT)**  
**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**  
**Report on the ‘Regional Orientation cum Review Workshop’**

**November 28, 2022 (Monday)**

A ‘**Regional Orientation cum Review workshop**’ was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 between 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. at Malaviya Sabhaghar, Prabha Bhawan, MNIT Jaipur. The workshop entailed five sessions with different eminent speakers from various organizations. The ‘Special Guest of Honor’ was **Prof. V.K. Vijay** (National Coordinator, UBA, IIT Delhi). The ‘Guest of honor was **Prof. Priyanka Kaushal** (Associate Professor, IIT Delhi) and **Prof. Vivek Kumar** (IIT Delhi). Shri Jairam, Sarpanch, and Viratnagar were also invited as guest speakers. **Shri S.R. Meena** (Joint Secretary, Plan, Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan) and his associate Akshat Jain also attended the workshop. The event was organized under the guidance of **Dr. Namita Mittal**, Coordinator, RCI, MNIT Jaipur, and faculty coordinator **Dr. Nidhi Bansal** (Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences) and **Dr. Yash Kumar Mittal** (Assistant Professor, Architecture).

The workshop was attended by more than 45 members including the faculty coordinator of ‘Participating Institutes’ (PIs) and prospective institutes from across the 11 districts of Central Rajasthan. The PIs included prominent colleges such as St. Xaviers Colleges, Jaipur, Central University of Rajasthan, NIIT University (Neemrana), Amity University (Jaipur), SKIT Jaipur, etc. The prospective PIs included S.S. Jain Subodh PG College, ICFAI Law School and ICFAI University Jaipur, Kanoria PG Mahavidyalaya Jaipur, etc.

**Registration** for the workshop started at 9:30 a.m.

The workshop began with the lightening of the lamp by **Prof. Priyanka Kaushal** along with the RCI UBA MNIT Team. **Dr. Yash Mittal** welcomed the Participating Institutes (PIs) coordinators and shared a little information about the activities scheduled for the workshop. Then he invited **Dr. Namita Mittal** for her speech on the podium. Dr. Namita Mittal welcomed the audience and gave an overview of the UBA by sharing deep insights on the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with the audience. She shared how her journey with UBA began back in 2019. She mentioned the achievements of MNIT as an RCI such as how the team added 62 Participating Institutes by far. She inspired all the PIs and prospective institutes to contribute to rural development through UBA. She was presented with a thank you note by Dr. Yash Mittal.

Then, Dr. Yash Mittal invited **Prof. V.K. Vijay** for his online session ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan for transforming Higher Education. Prof. Vijay mentioned how the UBA began in 2014. He mentioned that it was an idea by the IIT Delhi faculty members which transformed into a flagship program by the Government of India. He inspired all the PIs and prospective PIs to contribute to rural development through UBA. He stated how educational institutions can become change makers for society through UBA. He said, “Education and knowledge are the pillars for development”. He reiterated the age-old traditional Indian ideology of ‘Vasudev Kutumbkam’ and ‘Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaya’ to inspire the audience. He stated that artisans are true engineers and we can learn massively from them. He mentioned that community engagement is integral to rural development. He stated how we can empower villages through UBA so that the poor do not become poorer. He was thanked by Dr. Yash Mittal for his encouraging speech.

The event was then attended by the Hon'ble Director; Prof. N.P. Padhy gave a motivating speech to the audience and encouraged the participating institutes to contribute to India's rural development. He shared his life journey with the participants. He mentioned instances where he taught the students of government schools during his early days. He also suggested the idea of having '**PI champions**'. His speech was truly inspirational to all. He was presented with a thank you note by Dr. Nidhi Bansal.

**Dr. Nidhi Bansal** presented a vote of thanks to all. A **group photograph** was taken for remembrance. It was followed by a tea break.

Dr. Yash Mittal invited Prof. Priyanka Kaushal on stage for her session. A sapling was presented to her by Dr. Namita Mittal. She educated the audience about Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. She spoke about the contribution of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan towards rural development. She inspired the audience to associate more and more with villages and learn from the people of the village. She mentioned an example of a tribe in South India who have a cure for the fatal disease like cancer. She mentioned that while dealing with villages we must not feel as if we are above them. Her speech reiterated the idea that we must learn from the villages. She was felicitated with a memento by Dr. Namita Mittal.

Her session was followed by Prof. Vivek Kumar's session. **Prof. Vivek Kumar** gave a speech on community engagement and PRA tools- How can the UBA coordinators break the ice with villagers and how to develop a connection with the villages. He mentioned various PRA and PLA tools. He stated that we as PIs must not feel that villages are the receivers and we are the givers. He suggested that in the initial stage the PIs must not disclose their identity to the villages as it may draw away the villagers from them. He also advised not to pre-decide that villages lack the facilities of sanitation, cleanliness, elementary education, etc. In conclusion, he advised the audience to not be prejudiced while dealing with the villagers and to have an open mindset. Dr. Nidhi Bansal thanked him for his inspiring session.

The session was then followed by another session by **Prof. Priyanka Kaushal** wherein she shared the success stories of other PIs such as IIT Kanpur with the audience. She also mentioned that our Indian villages have a vast knowledge that is hidden from us and we need to learn from the villages. She stated that the villages are an archive of traditional knowledge. She inspired the PIs to do research through modern research tools in villages and present the solutions to our problems. She stated that the institutes can get a lot of experiential learning from the villages. She also interacted with the PI coordinators and solved their queries. One of the PI coordinators, **Prof. Shilpi Khandelwal from Jagannath University** asked her about the kind of projects that can be done in her institute to ensure more student participation. Dr. Priyanka Kaushal was then presented with a memento by Dr. Namita Mittal.

Her session was followed by another session with **Mr. Akshat Jain**. He educated the audience regarding the newly launched e-gramswaraj portal. He also shared insights regarding the 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan. It was followed by a session from Shri Jairam, Sarpanch, Jawanpura (Viratnagar). He shared his journey as a Sarpanch of Jawanpura, Viratnagar. He mentioned how a massive cleanliness drive runs in his village. He also mentioned the importance of growing trees to combat environmental pollution. He mentioned how his village became an ideal village. He inspired the PIs and new Institutes to get solar panels installed in villages. He also answered questions asked by PIs regarding the problems faced by them in villages. He truly encouraged the participants to contribute to rural development. It was followed by an interactive session with the audience. He was felicitated with a memento by Dr. Yash Kumar Mittal.

**Dr. Yash Kumar Mittal** presented the formal vote of thanks to the speakers for engaging the audience in such an insightful manner. He also thanked the RCI UBA Team for organizing the event. The session ended with **felicitations** to the members of all the participating institutes and prospective participating Institutes.

**A group photograph.**



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