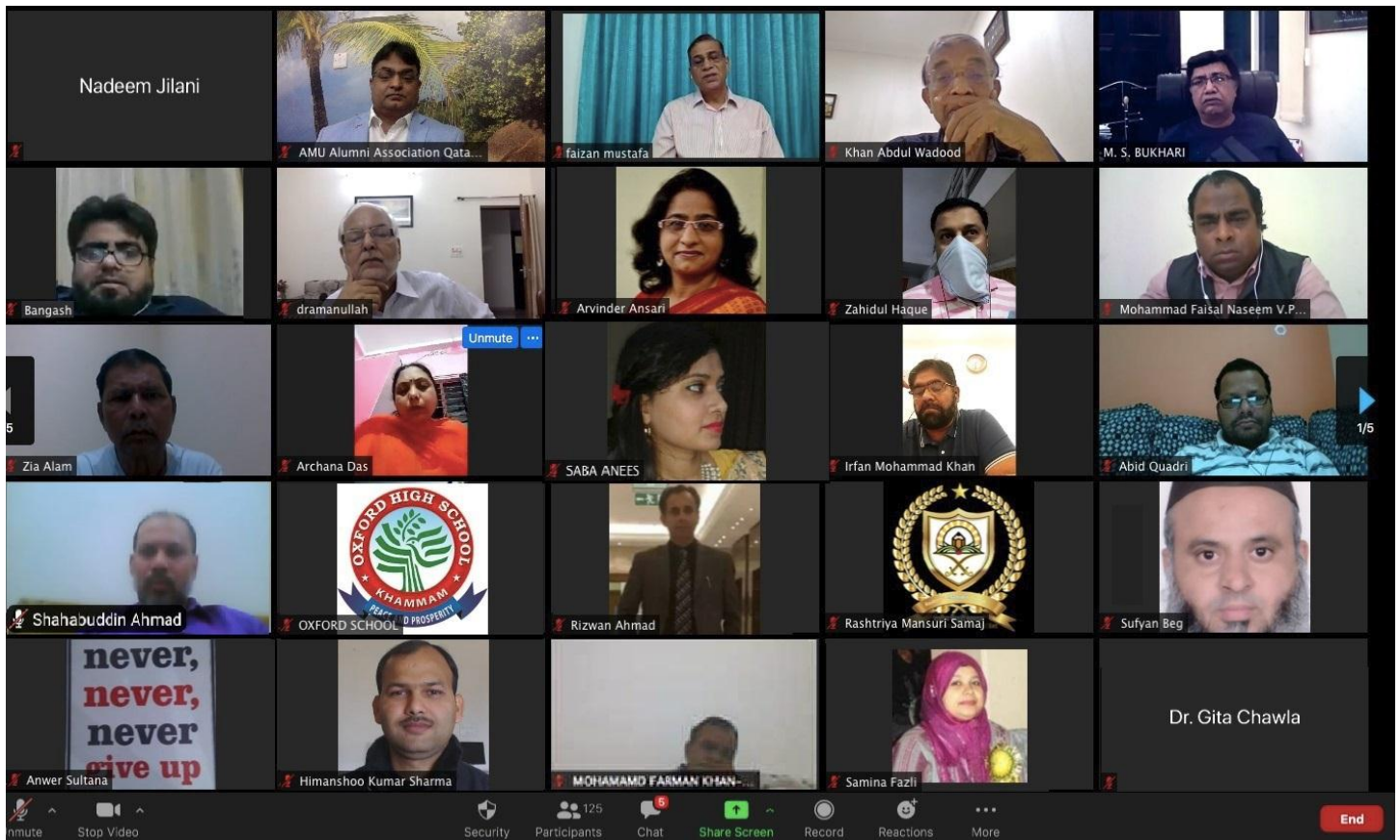


AMU Alumni Association Qatar Conducts Webinar on “New Education Policy 2020”



Doha, August 15: A webinar on the trending topic "New Education Policy 2020" was organized by Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association Qatar (AMUAAQ) an associate organization (AO) of ICBF under the aegis of the Embassy of India-Qatar held on 13th August 2020 (Thursday) from 7:00 pm to 09:00 PM Qatar time on Zoom Meeting Application.

The Chief Guest & Speaker of this webinar Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad while moderator was Dr. Zahidul Haque, Associate Professor, University of Hyderabad along with Dr. M.S. Bukhari, Chief Patron AMUAAQ, Prof. M. M. Sufyan Beg, Principal ZH College of Engineering and Technology and Chairman AMU Alumni Affairs Committee AMU Aligarh graced the webinar.

Attending the online webinar as the Chief Guest & Speaker, Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of law Hyderabad, **Prof. Faizan Mustafa** said that “a new door for liberal education has paved a path and the choice based credit system of UGC will lead to a new era where the students will have a medium to pursue their passion. The liberal education era will be the one to bring a considerable change”

Focus on the Flexibility of subjects with interdisciplinary courses is a good move. Foreign University to be established is a good move also, in fact, this should have been done in 2010 while it was proposed then. Syllabus reduction by 30% is commendable. Policy to be implemented by 2040 is too long a time. Direct admission in Ph.D. is appreciated. Board of Directors system to be revised. Focus on Teacher training is a good move. More Minority Universities needed to be established. Minority or reserved seats should not be exchanged.

In higher education, the National Education Policy 2020's focus on inter-disciplinary learning is a very welcome step. Teaching in mother tongue or regional languages proposed by the NEP, Mr. Mustafa said,

"He agrees that the medium of instruction should be the home language in the initial years so that the foundation is strong, but he believes it should be limited to the foundation years or the pre-primary stage level only.

"The policy is bringing financial liabilities that six per cent of GDP should be implemented. He mentioned that there should be a law mandating the states as well as the central government about a fixed GDP percentage allocation for education, as his concern is that approximately 90% of budget spending on salary and pension and only 10-12% left for development, research and infrastructures.

"By saying that board exams will be easy, we are not moving towards a focus on knowledge application. He welcomes the reduction of the syllabus by 30% & he added that even 50% the reduction will be better but the core topic must remain. In fact, he mentioned that some of the reforms proposed are good and he has been working on them already, but some of them are just part of wishful thinking," he added. Inter-disciplinary higher education demands a cultural shift.

University Grants Commission of India (UGC) has advised creating awareness about the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 amongst teachers, students, officials, and other stakeholders in the higher education system. The Union Cabinet approved the National Education Policy 2020 on July 29, 2020. The NEP will bring a complete overhaul of the school and higher education system in India. The policy, among other things, has proposed extension of Right to Education Act 2009 to cover children of ages 3 to 18 and also seeks to reduce the content load in the school education curriculum.

Dr. M.S. Bukhari (Chief Patron, AMUAAQ) requested all AMU alumni to work towards the benefit of their alma mater. "The COVID 19 outbreak has disrupted regular gatherings and events but people have turned to the digital world to stay connected and these online events have become the new norm till the virus fades away," added the chief patron. He also mentioned that AMU & their Alumni contributing a lot towards education.

Jawed Ahmad, the President of the AMU Alumni Association Qatar welcomed the distinguished guests, media personnel, community leaders, and online audience, delivered briefly about the efforts to support the community in this pandemic COVID -19. Mr. Ahmad said that it is important to use technology for continuing our activities as people may be observing physical distancing but they are virtually together. He thanked his managing committee & well-wishers support for bringing this NEP2020 webinar for the Indian community. He informed that instead of focusing on "what to think" NEP 2020 is pondering upon the "how to think" aspect keenly.

The webinar deftly handled by AMU alumnus **Dr. Zahidul Haque** wonderfully threaded the entire discussion as the moderator. He set the context of the discussion by differentiating the new policy from the previous policies. **Mohammed Farman Khan (GS-AMUAAQ)** started the program with the recitation of Verses from the Holy Quran while Covid-19 awareness precautionary measures briefed by **Dr. Ashna Nusrat**, chief coordinator of AMU alumni association Qatar. **Mohammed Faisal Naseem (VP-AMUAAQ)** extended the vote of thanks.

Almost 650 people attended the online webinar (Via Zoom and Facebook live stream) in which some of the prominent alumni & well-wishers, were Dr. Nadeem Jilani, Shahabuddin Ahmad (Chairman, Bazm-e-Sadaf International), Prof. Atif Iqbal (Qatar University), Dr. Amanullah Khan, Irfan Mohammad Khan, President, AMU Alumni Kuwait Aftab Pathan (President AMU Alumni, Eastern, UP), Tanweer Aalam (President, AMU Alumni Maharashtra), Rizwan Ahmad, Himanshu Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shadab Ansari, Dr. Ashrafuzzaman Chowdhary, Mrs. Archana Das, Dr. Choudhary Mohammed, Najmul Hassan Khan (JMI, President), Samina Fazli, Nigar Akhtar, Dr. Saba Hasan, Dr. Tausif Altamas, Mamnoon Ahmad Bangash, Ahmad Imtiyaz, Irfan Ansari, Ghufuran Ali Khan, Abhay Patil, Dr. Khursheed, Saudan Singh, Anwar Nafees Khan, Dr. Gita Chawla, Mohammed Abuzar, Mrs. Sheeba Khan, Dr. M.S.Hassan, Mrs. Anwer Sultana, Prof. Tahseen Fatma, Jawed Alam, Shagufta Khanum and Saba Anees.