

On the 17th of May 2024, the IQAC of Snagap Syiem College in collaboration with RUSA Cell SSC, Mawkyrwat, organized a one-day workshop on the much-needed reforms in undergraduate Education in Meghalaya. The objective was to discuss the pressing issues and challenges faced by this sector. The workshop placed special emphasis on three crucial aspects - ABCS, MOOCS, and SWAYAM - which are integral to the development of higher education. The esteemed resource persons for this event were Prof S.Umdor, Controller of Examination at NEHU (North-Eastern Hill University) in Shillong, and Dr. Q. Khabuli, Coordinator of SWAYAM at NEHU, Shillong.

The first technical session consisted of a stimulating lecture by Prof S. Umdor that specifically targeted students pursuing their First Year Undergraduate Program (FYUP). He passionately delved into the essence of higher education and highlighted the significance of taking the CUET-UG, as a means to gauge one's knowledge against national standards. He urged students to embrace change and broaden their minds to prepare for an uncertain future. Emphasizing on cultivating a habit of reading, he stressed that books are a gateway to expanding our minds.

Prof S. Umdor also shed light on how traditional education has been overshadowed by modern education that is market-oriented, focusing solely on developing skills, competencies, and enhancing productivity. As Meghalaya struggles with an imbalance between various streams and courses offered in higher education, it is imperative to introduce new skill-based courses to bring about equilibrium.

The concept of MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses) was also introduced during this session where anyone can pursue short duration courses and earn a degree without being physically present in a traditional classroom setup. In his powerful rhetoric, Prof S. Umdor motivated students to adopt the habit of reading books and newspapers as a means to develop an open mind and break free from narrow-mindedness and biases.

He concluded his thought-provoking lecture with a poignant quote by Jack Ma - "Today is hard, tomorrow will be worse, but the day after tomorrow will be sunshine." "Never give up." "Sadly, most of us die on the eve of that beautiful day. This statement serves as a reminder for students to rise up to the challenges that lie ahead and strive towards a brighter tomorrow.

Resource person of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session Dr. Q. Kharbuli, Associate Prof. NEHU Shillong talked on Massive Open Online Courses/ Study Webs of active-Learning For Young aspiring Minds (MOOCs/ SWAYAM). Both are online Learning Courses under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Through MOOCs and SWAYAM students can opt for Elective courses under NEP 2020. SWAYAM online courses at the UG level to be offered to the students of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester in lieu of Elective Courses Only. This SWAYAM Courses is offered to the Students twice a year. Notification of List of Courses is notified on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November for January Semester & 1<sup>st</sup> June for July Semester Any Faculty enrolling in SWAYAM/ MOOCs can be beneficial for his/her Career Advancement Scheme and Faculty Development Programme. She also spoke on SWAYAM Prabha, e-PG Patshala and Karma Yoga..

