

## A Report

A Two Day **Workshop on Soft Skills** organised by ELT@I Aligarh Chapter in collaboration with Cultural Education Centre, Aligarh Muslim University, held on 28-29 April 2018.

A Two Day Workshop on Soft Skills was organised at CEC, Aligarh Muslim University, under the aegis of ELT@I, Aligarh Chapter, in collaboration with University Hobbies Workshop, Cultural Education Centre, from 28 to 29 April 2018.

Focussing on skill based language learning methodologies, the workshop had four different sessions on Oral Communication, Public Speaking, Academic Writing and Career skills. The workshop was addressed to the needs of the undergraduate English language learners of the university. The workshop was attended by a total of 50 students from all disciplines. Apart from bachelor's degree students, the workshop was witness to enthusiastic participation of foreign students (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran) of the university who learn English as a foreign language.

Focussing on the needs of soon-to-graduate students, Dr. Zainab Sarwat, (Assistant Professor, Department of English) conducted the first session on career skills. She began with the technicalities of writing a CV. She spoke extensively on the differences between bio data, CV and Resume often erroneously considered to be the same. She also talked about different types CVs and Resumes by showcasing different approaches and models by engaging students in activities. She also spoke at length about the significance of cover letter in applying for a job.

Dr. Nazia Hasan, (Associate Professor, Women's College, AMU) conducted a session on oral communication skills. Speaking about the supra-segmental features of language, she reiterated the importance of correct pronunciation. She brought in a variety of examples (like homonyms, homophones, etc.) to help the students understand phonemes and their pronunciation better.

Alisha Ibrar (Assistant Professor, Department of English) in her class on public speaking conducted activity based session on Group discussion and debate. Students were given topics for mock discussions and debates in which they participated with enthusiasm. The workshop also had a session on academic writing. Beginning with plagiarism, the session looked into process of writing a research paper and styles of citation (MLA, APA, Chicago Style).

The valedictory function began with an interactive session where the participants gave their valuable feedbacks. Some participants expressed the desire to have more workshops along similar lines addressing specific needs in the near future. The workshop ended with votes of thanks by Basil Hanafi, Secretary, University Hobbies Workshop, CEC, AMU and Ms. Alisha Ibrar, President, ELT@I Aligarh Chapter.

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