

AIFUCTO

404, Devkunj Apartment, Road No.-06, North Patel Nagar
(Near Baba Chowk), P.O.- Keshri Nagar, Patna-800024
Mobile: +91-9431617320 / +91-9525622524, Email: akancphy@gmail.com/
aifucto.generalsecretary@gmail.com; Website: www.aifucto.org

अखिल भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय एवम
महाविद्यालय शिक्षक महासंघ
ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY
&
COLLEGE TEACHERS' ORGANISATIONS
(Regd. Under Act XXI of 1860)

Ref.....

Date.....

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Dear Friends,

WARM GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES.

The XXXIst Academic conference of AIFUCTO ended with aplomb at the southernmost tip of India in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu. A well-attended conference like every year, the coming together of teachers from all over India, voicing their hopes, aspirations, concerns and fears about higher Indian education in general was a testimony of their unflinching support to AIFUCTO and teachers' movements in such hours when gloom and decadence characterise over all Indian socio-economic and political experiences.

XXXI Academic Conference : 23rd Nov. – 25th Nov. 2018- KanyaKumari ,TN

The XXXI Academic Conference of AIFUCTO was held with much pomp and grandeur in the historic city of KanyaKumari, Tamil Nadu from 23rd Nov- 25th Nov 2018. It was a memorable occasion knightly organized by Joint Council of College Teachers (JACTO) comprising of TNGCTA, MUTA & AUT. Near around fifteen hundred University and College Teachers across the country participated in the conference. The inaugural function was heart touching. After a brief welcome address of Prof. S. Subbaraju, National Secretary AIFUCTO and President organizing committee, Prof. K. Murugan, Vice-Chancellor, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore, released the souvenir and addressed the conference. He gave a very brief picture of present scenario in the field of higher education and appreciated the efforts of AIFUCTO to bring about reforms in this field. Prof. Rajiv Ray, President FEDCUTA & DUTA, Prof.

Kesab Bhattacharya, President AIFUCTO and Prof. Dinesh Vershaney of DUTA addressed on the occasion. The distinguished speakers spoke on impending crisis in the field of education, neoliberal assault on education and attack on democratic ethos of our system. They all appealed for united struggle of all likeminded democratic and progressive forces to "save education, save campus, save nation". Prof. Arun Kumar, General Secretary AIFUCTO introduced the theme of the conference "**Towards Scientific and Equitable education for all**" and put the details of the three days programme. Prof. Rajiv Ray, President FEDCUTA & DUTA was given a rousing felicitation by the organizers. Sri T.K. Rangarajan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) in his inaugural address vividly presented the detail picture of the deep crisis in the field of education in India threatening the dreams of founding fathers of Indian constitution. He elaborately explained the disastrous impact of neoliberal economic policies pursued by Central Govt. since 1991 in all walks of life. He also called for a united programme of resistance by all democratic forces. Prof. R. Dhamotharan, General Secretary TNGCTA and Secretary organizing committee extended a cordial vote of thanks.

The business session started with the presentation of the General Secretary's report covering all aspects of education policy and present national and international situations ,with AIFUCTO's organizational activities, future programme of action and task ahead. The members of AIFUCTO in large number actively took part in the discussions on General Secretary's report with their support and valuable suggestions. The first day programme ended with a Gala cultural programme entertaining profusely to the delegates after a daylong hectic intellectual exercise.

National Seminar:

On the occasion of 31st Academic Conference a national seminar on **“Education in India at cross roads: A critical review”** was held on 24th Nov 2018. Prof. J. Gandhiraj, President AUT and Vice President AIFUCTO welcomed the distinguished panelists. Prof. M. Nagarajan, General Secretary MUTA introduced the theme of the seminar. Prof. A. James Williams, former President of AIFUCTO presided over the meeting and in his thought provoking address presented the serious crisis engulfing the present educational system and suggested a pro-people alternative. Prof. Surajit Mazumdar of JNU in his inaugural address hinted at the dynamics of negative economic development in India and explained its horrible impact on education. He said, as a consequence, the democratic space in our system is being seriously marginalized and threatened. Prof. Sudhansu Bhushan, Professor & HOD of Higher & Professional Education NUEPA, in his key-note address deliberated on some recent challenges of higher education and suggested a pragmatic approach towards reform. He also discussed on different implication of market based financing reform, technology best education policy and challenges of governance. Prof. A. Gopalkrishnan, Treasurer TNGCTA extended a vote of thanks.

In the first technical session Prof. T. Veeramani, President TNGCTA presided over the meeting. Prof. Anil Sadgopal, Chairman of All India Forum for Right to Education, Prof. Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Convener JFME, Prof. Hargopal of AIFRTE and Prof. P. Jayagandhi, Former National Secretary of AIFUCTO gave special address. All distinguished speakers stressed on a democratic, secular and scientific education as an alternative to the present neoliberal assault on education. They also championed the cause of upholding the educational values enshrined in the constitution and supported common school system. Prof. V. Ravi, Vice President of AIFUCTO gave the vote of thanks.

A good number scholarly papers on this themes on the seminar were presented by delegates. Prof. V. Swaminatham, former vice president AIFUCTO presided over the technical session and put forward his enlightened views.

Business Session:

Members of AIFUCTO in the business session on 24th and 25th Nov. 2018 discussed at length the general secretary report. While broadly pressing the general secretary for a comprehensive report, they also suggested certain addition and alternation in the report. More than sixty members participated in the deliberation. General Secretary AIFUCTO clarified all the doubts raised by the members in course of discussion. The reply of General Secretary was clarificative, explanatory as well as informative. In the absence of treasurer, who was on election duty, General Secretary presented the audited accounts statement. After exhaustive discussion, general secretary report, audited account statement, movement resolution and other resolutions were adopted. The business session also discussed the draft report submitted by the committee for the formation of women cell and decided to refer the matter to the AIFUCTO secretariat.

Valedictory Session:

The memorable academic conference came to a happy end in the heart touching valedictory function. Prof. C. Radhakrishnan, conference treasurer gave a the welcome address, Prof. Keshab Bhattacharya, and Prof. Arun Kumar, General Secretary of AIFUCTO in their concluding observations expressed gratitude to the organizers for the success of the conference. They also extended their gratitude to fraternal delegates for inspirational presence. They also appealed to all members to carry forward the massage of the conference to the grass root level and the prepared for a united struggle in the

coming days. Prof. R. Dhamothoram, General Secretary TNGCTA and Secretary organizing committee extended a cordial vote of thanks to the delegates and expressed gratitude to all who have contributed to the grand success of the conference. The academic conference came to an end with spirited slogan by the members and singing of national anthem.

Life Members Meeting:

On 24th Nov, life members AIFUCTO under the presidentship of Prof. Ram Singh make and discussed on various issues. Prof. Kshab Bhattachray President AIFUCTO, Prof. Arun Kumar, General Secretary AIFUCTO, Prof. Partha Sarathy, General Secretary AIFRUCTO, Prof. Amiya Kumar Mohanty of FISE, Prof. Sadanand Bhattacharya and others participated in the discussion. Prof. Arun Kumar in his speech assured the life members to have closer coordination with them as well as with the leadership of AIFRUCTO on all matters including united struggle. He also assured them to cover the views of life member and activities of AIFRUCTO in the Teachers Movement. Prof. Sadananda Bhattacharya extended a vote of thanks and appealed for concerted effort to strengthen AIFUCTO and AIFRUCTO.

Gratitude:

On behalf of AIFUCTO, extend my sincere thanks to the JAC of TNGCTA, MUTA & AUT for their united effort to make the academic conference memorable. My special gratitude are due to Prof. S. Suba Raju, Prof. R. Dhomatharam, Prof. M. Nagarajan, Prof. A. James Williams, Prof. Partha Sarathy, Prof. A. Gopal Krishnan, Prof. T. Veeramani, Prof. V. Ravi, Prof. P. Jayagandhi, Prof. C. Radhankrishnan, Prof. A James William, Prof. V Swaminathan and their committee a fire brand members for unique exhibition of solidarity and hard work for the success of the conference.

I am also grateful to fraternal guest namely Prof. Rajiv Ray, President FEDCUTA & DUTA, Prof. Partha Sarathy General Secretary AIFRUCTO, Dr. Bholu Paswan, General Secretary AIFETO, Prof. Amiya Kumar Mohanty Convener, JFME for their gracious presence and enlightened speech on the occasion as a mark of solidarity and fraternity.

RESOLUTION

MOVEMENT RESOLUTION

Prof. Madhu Paranajeppe former National Secretary AIFCUTO moved the movement resolution which was unanimously adopted.

This XXXI academic conference of AIEUCTO was held at Kanyakumari on November 23 to 25, 2018, notes with deep concern the:

- i. Aggressive pursuit of reforms dictated by Neo-liberal policies of the central government across all sectors including education in general, and Higher Education in particular;
- ii. Deepening of privatization and commercialization starting with self financing Institutions, autonomous colleges, private Universities and special education zones, most recent being regulations on Graded Autonomy and the Institutions of Eminence;
- iii. Adverse impact of "Performance Based" funding by RUSA instead of

need-based funding by UGC on the right to higher education of weaker sections - girl students, SC, ST and OBC, rural persons, jeopardizing principle of equity and inclusive education. Expansion of education is also curbed due to stipulation that only universities with A+ grade can offer education by Distance Mode;

- iv. Public funded Institutions, especially colleges, are deprived of crucial infrastructure funds from RUSA, as NAAC accreditation is mandatory - only Rs.2233 crores (43% of sanctioned Central share) was distributed by RUSA, at the end of 12th plan;

- v. Serious attempt to shift from "Grants" to 'Loans' is seen in the establishment of HEFA – effort to give the final blow by dismantling UGC and replacing with HECI was thwarted by the intervention of democratic forces;
- vi. Cutting down the central assistance to 50% for 39 months instead of 80% for 60 months has adversely affected uniform and simultaneous implementation of 7th Pay revision in all the states;
- vii. Slashing of funding is also affecting quality education due to non recruitment of regular teachers - nearly 50% of the posts in the higher education Institutions (HEIs) are vacant;
- viii. The vacant posts are mostly filled with Adhoc teachers working as contractual / part-time / guest teachers on hourly basis, with very meagre remuneration - in fact below minimum wages;
- ix. Working condition of teachers in self financing institutions is equally deplorable due to violation of all service conditions and non-payment of regular salary;

- x. Teaching-learning process in HEIs is scuttled due to thrusting of semester pattern and CBCS;
- xi. Various regulations introduced hurriedly are adversely affecting research in multiple ways - also violating the spirit of concurrent status of Higher Education and violating the autonomy of state universities and state legislatures;
- xii. Democratic, secular, egalitarian and scientific education is under attack. This is manifestation of wider design under WTO-GATS to convert education, a public good, into

In the light of the above, this conference resolves to build a strong democratic movement of teachers for demanding the following:

- a. 10% of the GDP should be allocated for education in view of the expansion of Higher Education in the country and for strengthening the public funded education system. That should not be any kind of cut in the budgetary allocation for education.
- b. The centre must provide 100% assistance to the states for uniform and the simultaneous implementation of 7th UGC pay scales across the country.
- c. The Ad-hoc / part time / contractual / block grant teachers should be given pay scales on regular basis with service conditions on the basis of the principle of equal pay for equal work as per the judgements of the apex court.
- d. The new pension scheme should be rejected and the old pension scheme should be implemented to provide social security to the Employees after retirement.

- e. All the vacant posts should be filled on regular basis. The contractualization of Higher Education must stop.
- f. Governments at the Centre and states should introduce strict regulations for Regular payment of salary in self-financing institutions.
- g. HEFA and Graded Autonomy must be withdrawn as it will lead to privatization and commercialization of Higher Education."1
- h. Government should start dialogue with all stakeholders for developing a new education policy based on the principles of democracy, secularism, equity and scientific temper.

PEOPLES MARCH PROGRAMME- 19TH FEBRUARY 2019

Programme of Action of Joint Forum for Movement on Education (JFME)

The conference resolves to widen and strengthen the joint forum for movement on education (JFME) to:

- i. Strengthen public funded education system of the country
- ii. Promote scientific rational and constitutional values at all levels of education
- iii. Reverse communalization in education by promoting secular values at all levels of education
- iv. Defeat the design of neo-liberal policy in the field of education.

The conference further resolves to mobilize all stakeholders from kg to PG to participate in a huge "Peoples March" on 19th February, 2019 at New Delhi.

Support to Trade Union Movement:

The Conference also resolves to offer moral and active support to the nationwide strike called by the All India Trade Unions Joint Action Committee (TUJAC) on January 8-9, 2019 throughout the country.

OTHER RESOLUTION

Organizational Matters:

- a. Increase of subscription (membership)
Resolved to increase subscription (membership) Rs. 20/- per member per year with effect from 2019-20.
- b. Resolved to digitalize the publication of Teachers Movement and to have a new website of AIFUCTO. The task is entrusted to Prof. Kesab Bhattacharya President and Prof. Binayak Bhattacharya National Secretary AIFUCTO.
- c. Women Cell:
For effective functioning of AIFUCTO with a larger participation of women in organizational activities, it has been resolved to discuss in details the report of the drafting committee for constitutional provision. The drafting committee suggested:
 - i. Constitutional provision in AIFUCTO should be made for women cell.
 - ii. All members of women cell should be nominated in NEC of AIFUCTO.
 - iii. Representation of women cell in the AIFUCTO Secretariate.The above suggestion will be discussed in the secretariat and NEC of AIFUCTO in future.

Independent Teachers Movement:

AIFUCTO will observed **one day All India cease work program** on the issues of **“Equal Pay for Equal Work”**. Details including the date will be decided by the AIFUCTO secretariat and communicated to the affiliates.

Support to Teachers Movement of States:

1. Tamil Nadu:

Resolved to extend support to the proposed strike from 4th December 2018 by JACTTO- JEO for restoration of old pension scheme for all.

2. Odisha:

Resolved to extend support and intervene in the agitation of 60,000/- employees and teachers of Odisha on the question of service conditions for block grant teachers. Further resolved to support the demand of all Odisha Non- Govt. College Teachers Association for extension for UGC scales of pay and the demands of Joint Council of Action of university and college teachers of the state for the implementation of 7th UGC pay revision.

Resolution on Kerala:

There has been serious abortive attempt in Kerala to scuttle democratic temper as well as cohesive social progress. Teachers and activist are being threatened and attack for their rational and scientific views. It is a matter of deep regret and AIFUCTO condemns the heinous attack on Prof. Sunil. P ilayadiam, a teacher and well known scholar of Sankaracharya Sanskrit University for his progressive views and demands stringent action against the culprit.

Resolution on Engineering Colleges:

1. Resolved to urge AICTE to bring out its gazette on 7th pay scale as per UGC notification.

2. Resolved that attempt to push model syllabus to all technical institution and universities without considering regional requirements and autonomy is highly condemnable. Further attempt of AICTE to introduce unscientific approach under the name of induction programe for the students and making it compulsory from coming academic year is not appreciated by AIFUCTO and request the govt. to reconsider the matter.
3. It is also resolved that wider discussion and inputs are required to give common credit system rather than giving rigid structure and model not suitable for CBCS.

Resolution on Conduct of SLET / NET:

Resolved that UGC must conduct SLET / NET examination in the subjects of Botany, Zoology, Micro Biology and Bio Technology separately, not a common subject of life science.

GREETINGS FOR NEW YEAR 2019

On my behalf and on behalf of AIFUCTO I extend you the best wishes and warm greetings for the New year 2019. Let the new year bring among us more unity, solidarity and fraternity to face the challenges of coming days. Let us all hope that new year 2019 will fulfill our dream of a scientific, secular and democratic education system and a new environment in our country.

With warm regards,

(Prof.Kesab Bhattacharya)

President



(Prof.Arun Kumar)

General Secretary