

UPVU

Dr. Shakuntala Misra University, Mohaan Road, Lucknow

Press Note



Need to focus Deaf Studies

"There is an imperative need to focus sign language and deaf studies in India." This was averred by Prof. Ulrike Zeshan, Director, International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies, University of Central Lancashire, U.K. Prof. Zeshan was delivering a special Lecture on 'Higher Education Access' for Deaf people in India organised by UPVU Dr. Shakuntala Misra University, Lucknow. Prof. Zeshan opined that participation of deaf people with skill of sign language is quite low in India. She said that there are only 2 million sign language users in India. Hence, educated deaf adults are needed to solve the problems of educating deaf children. Prof. Zeshan further observed that India is an ideal hub for deaf studies with international focus. Prof. Zeshan also demonstrated International experiences in deaf studies by using videos and lamented that lack of sign language is the biggest hurdle in ensuring access to education for deaf people.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. A. P. Tiwari, Dean (Academics) said that 1.8 per cent India's population is deaf and 4 per cent of world's deaf people live in India. However, their contribution to development of the country can be augmented by ensuring their access to education and deaf studies. This needs strong public support system.

Delivering presidential address, Shri S.K. Srivastava, Registrar said that deaf studies has emerged as a new branch of education and our University is committed to start centre for sign language studies after due approval. He said that the proposed centre will cater to the need of deaf students by preparing sign language interpreters.

Dr. Mrutunjaya Misra, Co-ordinator (Hearing Impairment) outlined the objectives of the lecture and Dr. Arvind Sharma proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Arjun Prasad conducted the proceedings. The lecture was attended by teachers, Assistant Registrar and students of the University.