An Abridged Report

Workshop on Writing ATF Sub-Project Proposal

IQAC

Date: January 2025

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1. Introduction

On January 16, 2025, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, hosted an insightful and vibrant "Workshop on Writing ATF Sub-Project Proposal." The event aimed to enhance the university's capacity for research and development through the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project, a significant initiative in advancing higher education institutions. The workshop featured distinguished guests, including Prof. Dr. Md. Showkat Ali, Vice Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, as the Chief Guest; Prof. Dr. Md. Mozahar Ali, ATF Management Specialist, as the Keynote Speaker; and Prof. Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, Director of the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), as the Chairperson. The event saw active participation from more than sixty faculty members across various departments.

2. Welcome Address

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, Director of IQAC. He introduced the HEAT Project, emphasizing its roots in its predecessor programs, the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) and Academic Innovation Fund (AIF). He highlighted how the current ATF initiative focuses on fostering innovation and quality improvements in higher education. By explaining the continuity and evolution of these projects, the Director underscored the strategic importance of ATF in building the university's research and development potential.

3. Chief Guest's Address

Prof. Dr. Md. Showkat Ali delivered a compelling address on the critical role of the HEAT Project in strengthening higher education and research at Begum Rokeya University. He emphasized how this valuable project could transform the university's academic landscape by providing much-needed funding and infrastructure support. Key points from his speech included:

✓ Departmental Benefits: He explained how departments can utilize project funds to improve their research capabilities, teaching facilities, and overall competitiveness with leading universities globally.
✓ Research and Innovation: The Vice Chancellor encouraged the faculty to prioritize research and innovation, urging collaboration across departments to prevent any one unit from lagging behind. He stressed the importance of fostering interdisciplinary relationships and integrating global perspectives.
✓ Capacity Building: He highlighted the necessity of addressing academic gaps, implementing the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) system, and initiating M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs to advance departmental capacities.
✓ Inspiring the Next Generation: Prof. Dr. Showkat Ali urged faculty to inspire students and younger colleagues by utilizing the HEAT project's resources effectively. He concluded by commending the faculty members for their active participation in the workshop and encouraged them to ensure project proposal submissions by the given deadlines.

4. Keynote Presentation

The keynote address by Prof. Dr. Md. Mozahar Ali provided a detailed overview of the HEAT Project and its framework for development. His presentation was methodical and highly informative, covering the following key aspects:

✓ Project Overview and Background: He explained the goals of the HEAT Project, its history, and its alignment with national and international higher education standards.

- ✓ Project Types and Eligibility: The speaker clarified the types of projects eligible for funding, the criteria for researchers and departments, and the overall objectives of the initiative.
- ✓ Budget and Implementation: Prof. Dr. Mozahar Ali outlined the financial planning required for successful project implementation, including budget allocation, team formation, and sustainable project execution.
- ✓ Long-Term Benefits: He elaborated on how HEAT-funded projects can have a lasting impact on institutional growth, faculty development, and student outcomes.
- ✓ Proposal Development: A significant portion of his presentation focused on the steps to prepare a strong project proposal, adhering to HEAT guidelines. He shared insights into effective writing, planning, and submission strategies, emphasizing the importance of meeting deadlines.

The keynote speaker concluded his session by expressing his hope for timely and successful proposal submissions from the university's departments, ensuring their acceptance and effective implementation.

5. Interactive Discussions

The workshop featured a lively question-and-answer session where participants actively engaged with the keynote speaker. Faculty members sought clarifications on eligibility, proposal structuring, and project implementation strategies. The discussions reflected the participants' enthusiasm and commitment to leveraging the HEAT Project's opportunities for departmental and institutional growth.

The interactive segment highlighted the following:

- ✓ Specific questions about budget allocations and team formations.
- ✓ Clarifications on how project outcomes could be sustained over the long term.
- ✓ Discussions about integrating the OBE system and launching advanced degree programs.
- ✓ Concerns about addressing department-specific challenges while aligning with HEAT's guidelines.

Prof. Dr. Mozahar Ali responded to these queries with detailed explanations, fostering confidence among participants to proceed with proposal submissions.

6. Workshop Outcomes

The workshop's Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Md. Tajul Islam, concluded the event with a motivational speech. He commended the faculty's active participation and reiterated the importance of submitting proposals from every department within the stipulated timeframe. His closing remarks emphasized:

- ✓ The urgency of utilizing the HEAT Project to bridge existing gaps in research and infrastructure.
- ✓ Encouraging collaborative efforts and prioritizing innovation and global relevance in project proposals.
- ✓ Ensuring the successful implementation of the projects to benefit both faculty and students, ultimately elevating the university's academic reputation.

7. Significance of HEAT Projects

The workshop underscored the transformative potential of the HEAT Project in the context of research and development at Begum Rokeya University. The initiative provides a unique opportunity to:

- ✓ Enhance research infrastructure and resources.
- ✓ Foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.
- ✓ Address global challenges by developing locally relevant solutions.
- ✓ Strengthen the university's academic reputation both nationally and internationally.
- ✓ Build capacity among faculty and students to meet emerging educational and research demands.

By encouraging every department to participate and utilize the available resources effectively, the HEAT Project promises to drive sustainable growth and development within the university.

8. Concluding Remarks

The "Workshop on Writing ATF Sub-Project Proposal" concluded successfully, leaving participants inspired and equipped with the knowledge and tools to develop impactful project proposals. The event demonstrated the university's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration, setting a strong foundation for academic excellence through the HEAT Project. Faculty members left the workshop with a renewed sense of purpose and the determination to contribute to the university's research and development goals.

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