



No:

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## **Report on One day Seminar on “Socio cultural Heritage:Conservation Practices and Sustainability” at HKM GDC Eidgah**

The Debate and Seminar Committee of the College organized a one day seminar on 23-12-2023 under the banners of ‘Viksit Bharat @2047’ and ‘Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav’. The main aim of the seminar was to explore and discuss strategies for the conservation and sustainability of socio cultural heritage in an ever changing global landscape. The Seminar was held under the able guidance and patronage of worthy principal of the College Prof.(Dr.) Nighat Nasreen. The event was attended by around 100 students of the College and faculty of different colleges affiliated with Cluster University Srinagar. The event began with the opening remarks and introductory speech by program organizer and Host Prof. Sabia Zahra (Convener Debate and Seminar Committee) who highlighted on cultural heritage, its importance and the need for its conservation. This was followed by inaugural address by Worthy Principal of the College who in detail explained what actually is Socio Cultural heritage. Madam principal emphasized that socio cultural heritage encompasses the tangible and intangible elements of a society including its traditions, culture, beliefs, value systems and rituals and how these elements play an unparalleled role in fostering a sense of belongingness and creating a specific identity among individuals in a community. She emphasized that our institution is committed to develop an environment of learning and innovation while realigning with our roots and culture and nurturing academically competent individuals, critical thinkers and problem solvers who can navigate the complexities of modern world. This was followed by lead lecture by 1<sup>st</sup> resource person Dr. Farrukh Faheem Assistant Professor Anthropology, Institute of Kashmir studies, University of Kashmir. Dr. Faheem delivered his talk on the culture of Kashmir, and how Kashmir is linked to other parts of the world. He stressed that the unique geographical position of Kashmir has made it a center of trade for many regions throughout history particularly across Central Asia. The impact of this multi cultural association has resulted in the creation of its special identity in terms of its Cuisine, language, Culture and lifestyle. He explained that culture is basically an advancement in a community over time which began ages ago with the domestication of plants and animals. Conserving social heritage is important because it gives a sense of belongingness. He recounted many examples which emphasise the need for conservation of Socio cultural heritage of a region. He stressed that initiatives need to be taken for preservation of cultural heritage of a region at individual level in various forms so that they may prove as an asset for our future generations as well. This was followed by a detailed talk by 2nd resource

person of the seminar Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef noted Kashmiri poet, writer and environmentalist. Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef in his characteristic style recounted the rich cultural heritage and experiences of past Kashmir including its cuisine, languages, clothing etc. He explained how culture of the region has changed over time which has led to the change in lifestyle of the people here. He explained that how in last 5000 years of Kashmir History, different religions, and linguistic elements have manifested in our culture. He also said that Kashmir has had an illustrious past in terms of its culture which need to be preserved. He emphasized that students particularly college going should study the past history, culture of Kashmir, what we have lost and what needs to be conserved. The lecture was followed by the distribution of Mementos among the guests and light refreshment among students. The program ended with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Nusrat Shafi Associate Professor Chemistry. The seminar proceedings were recorded by Dr. Rehana Rasool Assistant Professor Geography. Overall the event was a resounding success.

