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Report on Presentation of PM-USP Scheme During the "Digital Technological Solutions" Workshop

Event Overview

On the occasion of a three-day workshop titled "Digital Technological Solutions," a pivotal presentation on the Special Scholarship Scheme for Students of J&K and Ladakh (SSS J&K and Ladakh) was delivered. This workshop, organized by the Department of Information Technology and Computer Science of Government Degree College (GDC) Sopore, aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and skills in modern technology, encompassing sessions on various digital tools and their applications. The workshop underscored the critical role of technology in education and career development, creating a conducive environment for students to enhance their capabilities.

Presentation Objectives and Content

The primary focus of the presentation, which took place on the first day of the workshop, was to inform and educate students about the Special Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2024-2025. This scheme, part of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana, is designed to provide substantial financial support for higher education to students from the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The presentation began by providing an overview of the scholarship scheme's background, emphasizing its origins in the recommendations of an expert group. This group aimed to enhance employment opportunities for the youth in J&K and Ladakh through increased access to higher education. The scheme's comprehensive scope includes the provision of 5000 fresh scholarships annually, categorized into general, professional/engineering, and medical streams. Detailed financial support for each category was discussed, with specific amounts allocated for academic fees and maintenance allowances.

Eligibility criteria were a central focus of the presentation, highlighting the necessity for applicants to be domiciles of J&K or Ladakh, have completed their 12th grade from recognized educational boards, and come from families with an annual income below ₹8 lakh. Exclusion criteria were also clearly outlined, ensuring that students understood the boundaries of the scheme and the specific conditions that might render them ineligible.

The presentation further elaborated on the institutions participating in the scheme, emphasizing the importance of accredited and reputable institutions where scholarships could be utilized. It also detailed the admission process for elite institutes such as IITs, NITs, and Central Universities, including the requisite entrance tests and procedures. The duration of scholarships and conditions for their renewal were discussed, including the necessity for good conduct and academic promotion. Additionally, the online admission process was explained, guiding students through the steps of registration, document verification, and choice filling.

Workshop Context and Presentation Delivery

The presentation was a crucial part of the workshop and was delivered by Dr. Anees Fatima, the Convener of the Financial Aid Committee and an Associate Professor in the Department of Botany. Dr. Fatima emphasized the significance of the scholarship scheme in providing educational opportunities and supporting the academic and career aspirations of the youth in J&K and Ladakh. Her delivery highlighted the broader goals of the PM-USP scheme, aligning with the workshop's objective to provide practical knowledge and skills in digital technologies.

Interactive Session and Feedback

Following the presentation, an interactive Q&A session allowed students to ask questions about the application process, eligibility criteria, and participating institutions. Dr. Fatima's responses were thorough and encouraging, offering valuable insights and urging students to utilize available resources for further assistance. The interaction underscored the students' keen interest and eagerness to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities, demonstrating their proactive approach to securing educational and career advancements.

Acknowledgments

Special acknowledgment is extended to the Department of Information Technology and Computer Science for organizing this informative workshop. Appreciation is also due to the faculty and students of Government Degree College, Sopore, for their enthusiastic participation and engagement throughout the event. The collective effort contributed to the workshop's success, providing a platform for informing and motivating students about the Special Scholarship Scheme and its potential to positively impact their educational futures.

Convener
Financial Aid Committee