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Report on Workshop on "Effective Research Methodologies"

Organized by Department of ECE – MITS

11 March 2015



Submitted by: Dr. S. A. K. Jilani, Professor, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering

A workshop on "Effective Research Methodologies" was held at Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science, Madanapalle on 11 March 2015, organized by department of Electronics and Communication Engineering in association with IUCEE. The program started with a welcome note by Dr. C. Yuvaraj, Principal, MITS. The research scholars and PhD pursuing faculty members from all the departments of MITS participated in the program.

The Resource Person was Dr. Gaurav Sharma professor at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Rochester. He has a PhD degree in Electrical and Computer engineering from North Carolina State University, Raleigh. From 1993 through 2003, he was with the Xerox Innovation group in Webster, NY, most recently in the position of Principal Scientist and Project Leader.

About the Workshop:

The workshop started with Dr. Gaurav Sharma giving a brief background of his research interests and the University of Rochester. He also gave details about the IUCEE including its history, objectives and functioning and people and institutions involved with it. He then covered two closely related topics spread over two sessions:

Session-1: Initiating Research Effectively

In this session, some promising strategies for graduate students starting out on the path of research were outlined. Topics covered included ingredients of a good thesis, conducting a literature review, how to find a good research problem and mentor, effective time management, and how to strike a balance between reading and doing. Participants were provided several resources for reinforcing and further exploring the topics covered.

Session-2: Publication Etiquette and Ethics

This session, intended for authors unfamiliar with the process of publishing a technical paper, provided a guide to established etiquette and ethics in scholarly publishing. It began with an overview of the typical peer review process for an archival journal, which provided the context and motivation for the ensuing discussion. Next, several of the basic tenets of ethical behavior in scholarly research and publication, which are accepted internationally across a wide range of scientific and engineering disciplines, were outlined. Then, finer points of etiquette, where, established practices often offer differ between disciplines and may not be immediately obvious to first time authors were elaborated upon. Key concepts such as biased/fraudulent reporting of results, plagiarism, reproducibility, duplicate submission, and disclosure expectations were illustrated via a number of case studies.

It offered an excellent opportunity for the participants to attain know-how and skills in conducting effective and ethical research in their chosen areas. The ECE HOD, Dr. A. R. Reddy delivered a vote of thanks and the Principal, Dr. C. Yuvaraj felicitated Dr. Gaurav Sharma who expressed his happiness over the arrangements and the way the event was held, keeping in mind the extremely short notice during which the program was organized.