

WORKSHOP on VIRTUAL LABS

at

IIT BHILAI

IIT Bhilai hosted a two-day workshop on virtual lab on **26th and 27th March 2019**. The core idea of this workshop was to involve faculty members and students from the engineering colleges around Raipur in the Virtual labs program. In the workshop around 300 students and 200 faculty members participated from different engineering institutes of Chhattisgarh namely, NIT Raipur, IIIT Raipur, GEC Raipur and Bilaspur, Rungta Group of Institutions, BIT Durg and Raipur, Shri Shankaracharya Group of Institutions etc.

The workshop was graced by eminent invited dignitaries including hon'ble Mrs. Renu G. Pillai, Principal Secretary, Technical Education, Chhattisgarh Government, Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Raipur, Prof. Ranjan Bose, IIT Delhi (National Coordinator, Virtual Labs), Prof. Venkatesh Choppalla, VLead Virtual Labs, IIIT Hyderabad and Dr. M. K. Verma, Vice Chancellor, CSVTU.

Prof. Ranjan Bose explained in detail the background and advantages of virtual labs for engineering students. Prof. Venkatesh Choppalla discussed the use of indigenous cloud "Badal" to host virtual labs which has made it scalable and 24x7 accessible. Prof. Bhasker explained the enormous possibilities of virtual labs as an augmentation to traditional labs, using real life examples. Mrs. Renu G. Pillai expressed the advantages that the concept of virtual labs can bring to the engineering education in Chhattisgarh. Finally, Dr. Verma explained a possible roadmap for inculcating virtual experiments in the institutes under CSVTU.

In the workshop, demonstration and hands-on session were held for virtual laboratories involving all branches of engineering and basic sciences. Finally, how virtual reality can help in courses even related to humanities were demonstrated. The faculty members of IIT Bhilai played pioneering role in imparting the demonstration and hands-on sessions. The participants were deeply impressed by the concept of virtual labs and students quoted that "The Virtual Labs project addresses this issue of lack of good lab facilities, as well as trained teachers, by making remote experimentation possible". The faculty members, participants mentioned that they would use virtual labs in their regular courses as add-on to the physical labs and requested dedicated workshops to be organized in their institutes. Further, they expressed their willingness to host nodal centers in their institutes to promote usage and development of virtual labs.



