

APJAK-TU is holding a 1-day workshop for discussing the university's efforts to inculcate Universal Human Values in its teachers and students

The university conducted a 1-day workshop on 20th September 2015 at the premises of the JSS Academy of Technical Education, Noida (an affiliated college). In addition to the vice chancellor and all university deans, over 170 managing committee members, directors, teachers, staff and students from over 73 affiliated colleges participated. From the affiliated colleges 3 chairpersons, 5 directors, 2 deans, 80 faculty members and 58 students were present.

The principal JSSATEN, Dr. K. Kamal, welcomed the participants.



Despite the tremendous advances in science & technology and despite increased literacy in society, we seem to be having an increase in crime, in broken marriages, in a breakdown of the family structure as a social unit, in instability in society, global warming and climate change.

Where are we going wrong?

Education prepares the mindset for the future generations. Do we want to continue having a society we have today with each one for himself/herself or do we want to build a better tomorrow for ourselves as well as for our children? Do we want tomorrow's

society where one feels safe, has a feeling of care for every other person on the planet – care even towards plants and animals, all units in nature. Our resources are not unlimited – the way we are going about exploiting nature and misusing resources, the time is not far when we will find ourselves trapped.

The need for inculcating human values has been voiced by every framer of education policy.

The Supreme Court of India has also noted that while literacy has gone up tremendously from 12% in 1947 to 74% in 2011, there has been a steady decline in the human values. The educational establishment needs to work on a way out.

The vice chancellor, Prof. Vinay Pathak, expressed his unequivocal support for human values. He noted that this university had realised the need for including human values in higher education quite early on. In 2009, the then vice chancellor, Prof. Prem Vrat, had taken the initiative to introduce the foundation course "Human Values & Professional Ethics". The university had followed the MHRD guidelines (universal, rational, verifiable & leading to harmony) for selecting the course. The course selected was based on universal human values and put into the form of an academic course by Prof. R. R. Gaur (NRCVEE, IIT Delhi), Prof. Rajeev Sangal (Director IIT (BHU), Varanasi) and Shri Ganesh Bagaria (Ex. Faculty of HBTI, Kanpur). Today this foundation course is a part of the core curriculum of 33 universities in 7 states of India (UP, AP, TS, MP, Gujarat, Punjab & HP) as well as both universities of Bhutan.



Universal human values is based on the natural laws, on reality, as it is – in a way that anyone can understand on their own right, through self-exploration. Living accordingly enables one to live an informed, purposeful, happy

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and responsible life – as an individual, as a member of family, as a member of society and as an unit in nature/existence. In education, this input provides a universal basis for human values that supplements and provides direction to the current educational system. With a strong teaching methodology of self-exploration, the foundation course provides the essential guidelines for a human society and helps develop commitment for it.

The teaching methodology is student focused: a set of proposals are placed for the student to verify on her / his own right, on the basis of their natural acceptance. For instance one can verify what is valuable – “relationship or opposition” or “in relationship, the feeling of trust & respect of mistrust & disrespect” or “food for taste alone or food for nurturing the body” and so on. This process of self-exploration, once started, leads to self-evolution. The purpose of the foundation course is to initiate this process of self-exploration.

Prof. Sampath of JSSATEN, Noida proposed a vote of thanks at the inaugural ceremony.

RVIT, Bijnor, MPEC, Kanpur, Galgotias, Greater Noida, ABES, Gaziabad, AKG, Noida, Accurate, Bulandshahar, IPEC, Sahibabad, BIET, Jhansi, PSIT Kanpur and Hindustan, Agra shared their efforts, the outcomes, the future opportunities. These ten colleges, out of several others, have made significant effort in this important area. More than 30 individuals, including managing directors, directors / principals, faculty and students shared their feedback about the course, its impact in their life and made suggestions for the future. The typical feedback was:

1. Significant realization of the value of relationship – with family, colleagues, teachers & students
2. Attention on Mutual Prosperity versus Accumulation
3. Clarity of Human Purpose and Purpose of Education
4. Clarity of Human Purpose and Purpose of Life
5. Teachers & students share an increased commitment toward teaching, a deeper sense of responsibility toward society and clearer responsibility toward nature



After due deliberation, the four university deans, Prof. C. B. Tripathi (Dean, R&D and Industrial Consultancy), Prof. Kuldeep Sahai (Dean, Student Welfare), Prof. A. K. Katiyar (Dean, UG Studies and Entrepreneurship) and Prof. H. K. Paliwal (Dean, PG Studies and Research) summarized the sharing. They made specific recommendations to the vice chancellor.

At the closing ceremony, the vice chancellor, Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak said that this effort is not about just about a course or just an academic subject, but it is the initiation contributing to the much needed foundational change for a whole generation.

For this a sustained effort is required, and for that preparation is essential. He announced that:

1. The university will make the course AUC001 "Human Values & Professional Ethics" as a compulsory credit course from the next academic year
2. The university will make sure that only well trained faculty will teach the course
3. The university will promote research and preparation of resource persons for universal human values. The university aspires to prepare resource persons for universal human values in the next 3 years
4. The university will identify the best students and prepare them to be assets for the society
5. The university will launch an interactive web-site to facilitate access to human values material for more students & teachers
6. The value education cell of the university will be significantly strengthened for facilitating the above efforts. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh of MPEC has been given this responsibility

The vice chancellor profusely thanked JSSATEN, Noida for hosting this landmark event.

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The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Manishi Mishra of IPEC, Sahibabad.