

Newspaper Clips

July 31-Aug. 1, 2013

July 31

IIT-M faculty may play truant, officially

Arun Janardanan, TNN Jul 31, 2013, 06.44AM IST

Tags: IIT-Madras

CHENNAI: Faculty members at IIT-Madras focusing on research projects may soon be able to forego classroom duties.

Teachers at the institution, proposing various solutions to promote research and deal with increasing workload on faculty members, suggested that researchers be spared from spending long hours in classrooms if they are working on intensive projects.



Hindu ND 31/07/2013 P-22

A project to map exclusion in higher education

Massachusetts and Pune universities to find out how disadvantaged students fare

INDEX OF DIVERSITY

Amruta Byatnal & Divya Trivedi

PUNE: What makes a low-income student from a migrant community suffer alienation in classrooms in centres of higher education in India and the U.S.? What can be done to correct processes that discriminate against students from marginalised communities in and outside the classroom?

These and many more such questions will be taken up in a new partnership between the University of

Massachusetts, Amherst, and the University of Pune. The research is aimed at mapping experiences of exclusion in higher education through different methodologies to arrive at a richer narrative of disadvantaged students on campuses in the two countries.

'Inclusive Universities: Linking Diversity, Equity and Excellence for the 21st Century' is the project proposal selected under the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative and will receive \$2,50,000 over three years.

Pune University Vice-Chancellor Wasudeo Namdeo Gade says this is the only project to be approved in

social sciences under the partnership.

As new people and new classes (of people) enter education, how should we turn it into an asset? What are the issues and challenges of, for example, a Dalit studying in India's university, asks Sangeeta Kamat, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Policy, Research and Administration of the University of Massachusetts. "Many students from diverse backgrounds beginning the process of learning is great news. It is unfortunately associated with the deterioration of quality. The study will look at dispelling some of those myths."

"Both the U.S. and India have been dealing with an influx of a new demographic entering into higher education. While in the U.S., this includes migrants and minorities, in India this can mean people from rural areas, tribals, first-generation English language learners, and even women. The study will go into the overlapping of similarities and differences and starting a positive dialogue."

As for expected outputs from the study, Ms. Kamat adds: "One of the key outputs expected is an inclusive universities report, which will also include a diversity index. It will be released at a national seminar, and we

hope we will be able to suggest policy changes." All through the project, training for faculty and students, and focus group discussions, called social justice dialogues, will form the basis of the comprehensive research.

The study will also invite participation from other universities in India and the U.S. and will seek to dispel the presumed conflict between equity and excellence in higher education and make a compelling case for how diversity and excellence reinforce each other and are essential to innovation and progress in multicultural democratic societies.

Hindustan Times ND 31/07/2013

P-1 HT Education

Is that a NEET idea?

The government is likely to retain NEET for government colleges and exempt private colleges from participating, say experts

Gauri Kohli

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The Supreme Court's verdict quashing the National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET), that was introduced as a single entrance test for admission to undergraduate and post-graduate courses in medical and dental colleges across the country, has left the major stakeholders disappointed. Students, their parents and teachers are confused and apprehensive.

'Not the right move'

The move will reverse all attempts of the Medical Council of India (MCI) and health ministry to rationalise undergraduate and post-graduate medical admissions in the country.

NEET was aimed at easing the pressure off candidates taking multiple entrance exams. It's understood that the government is likely to think of requesting for a review of the order.

According to Dr Arun Agarwal, former dean, Maulana Azad Medical College, "To bring NEET into existence was a joint effort of the health ministry and the MCI. The latter worked in tandem with the National Board of Examinations and the Central Board of Secondary Education to conduct NEET PG and NEET UG, respectively. As a medical educationist, I am very surprised and disappointed with this decision. Students will again have to travel from one city to another, spend time, money and energy on

getting a seat in the 381 medical colleges for about 47,500 seats, leading to a waste of resources. It will take away hope for a merit-based medical education."

Aakash Chaudhary, director, Aakash Education Services Ltd, agrees.

"Cancellation of NEET is unfortunate. It was an excellent step to standardise admissions to medical and dental colleges in India. Students are disheartened after the verdict. They are confused on what would be the eventual format for medical entrance now. This has majorly impacted students who have been preparing hard since the last one-and-a-half year on the new pattern."

Students too, are unhappy. "It has come as quite a surprise to me and my classmates who are preparing for the medical entrance examinations to be held in 2014. NEET was formulated and implemented with the noble intention to streamline the examination process. A single test would not only reduce the burden of appearing for different examinations, it would also standardise the basis of admissions to medical colleges in any part of India, reducing corruption by restricting private colleges from accepting high fees for seats which are not allotted on the basis of merit," says Aditya Chaubey, an aspirant. He feels that candidates from remote areas will be particularly affected as they don't have proper means to apply for and to travel to different centres to appear for many exams.

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Is that a NEET idea?

The way ahead

“The old AIPMT and state-level PMT entrance format is likely to be restored now. Alternatively, the government may decide to retain NEET for government colleges and exempt private colleges from participating,” says Chaudhary.

Students say that the scrapping of

NEET will change their preparation strategies for next year. “Our study pattern for the next academic year is likely to be altered. There are chances of AIPMT being implemented again. This will give us respite as far as the syllabus is concerned. Both NEET and AIPMT are based on the CBSE textbooks and a good rank in AIPMT too can get you admission to any good medical college. It won't be as easy as NEET though, owing to fewer seats,” says Shreya Sharma, another aspirant.

Ignou VC interview | M Aslam

'We need to mainstream the disadvantaged sections'

What is distance learning?

Distance education is a modality which provides immense benefit, not only to the learner's population but also to the society as a whole. When a student goes to a university, he/she gets a regular degree, here it goes beyond that. The degree becomes more relevant to the society along with being relevant to the learner. Distance learning offers programmes in unconventional areas, so it is incorrect to say that it is a leftover university for students who do not get admission in Delhi University.

What makes distance education different from learning in other universities?

There are three components that make distance education differ from any other learning, i.e. self-learning print material - there is a teacher inside the book. This is further supported by audio-video packages (done through teleconferencing, compact disks) and counselling.

What does Ignou have to offer and to whom?

Ignou aims to promote educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education for all segments of the society, thus helping achieve democratisation of higher education. Ignou gives hope to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfill their potential. We have school-leavers, teenagers who are forced into the labour market, new learners who want education training for horizontal

and vertical mobility, retired officers from the army, navy and air force who want a degree in skill development to serve the society and benefit themselves and digital students who do not believe in the four wall regime and prefer distance mobility.

New plans for the institute?

I am planning to introduce bridge courses to bring people, particularly the disadvantaged sections of the society into mainstream education. These are skill-based courses which will help students do certificate programmes in areas like motor cycle mechanic, organic farming, bee keeping, sericulture, diabetics care, correctional social work - to name a few. It is only about playing with various courses and making an appropriate combination. Paradigm shift is taking place in education. The focus has now changed to employability, adding this component is the only way to move forward. These days a student doesn't ask whether he/she will become a scholar after taking a particular degree. They are more worried about whether they will get a job or not. We need an education that fulfills contemporary requirements of the society.

The University of Grants Commission has taken over the Distance Education Council. Any comments?

Ever since the University of Grants Commission has taken

over the Distance Education Council, I am concentrating more on making Ignou a formidable institution. It was a part and parcel of me, but there are other problems like unemployment, education, increasing number of dropouts that need to be taken care off. We need to mainstream the disadvantaged sections and I think education is the best tool to do this."

Interviewed by Aanchal Bedi



SAY YES TO DISTANCE LEARNING

This system gives you the flexibility and choice to join a course, irrespective of who you are or where you are based, writes Gauri Kohli

The open and distance learning (ODL) mode of study gives you a bouquet of choices

- from a pottery course, a vocational and entrepreneurial programme in bookkeeping, to a qualification in sericulture and a diploma in fish processing.

Whether you are a student wanting to take up a job along with an undergraduate degree, a lawyer wishing to pursue a qualification in history, a teacher with a love for plantation, an engineer aiming for an MBA, or a homemaker planning to study economics, you can follow your ambition through the ODL mode. This system gives you the flexibility and choice to join a course irrespective of who you are or where you are based.

ODL scenario

Globally, the major types of institutions/universities offering education through the ODL mode include dedicated open universities that offer programmes only through distance mode and dual mode universities set up to provide correspondence courses. Another category is



that of institutions offering conventional classroom-based programmes, distance education qualifications and online education.

According to RK Gupta, former member of the Distance Education Council, "Distance learning offers education at an affordable cost. There are many meritorious students who cannot afford to pursue higher education. Not everyone can study in cities like Delhi and Mumbai... a large number of students belong to remote and rural areas and cannot go to a regular college. The ODL system offers hope and opportunities to these aspirants."

Gupta says that majority, there are three types of students who prefer to join the ODL mode. These include those who don't get into regular colleges, those

who are working and want to pursue conventional or professional courses, and those who are otherwise eligible but cannot afford regular education.

As per the NR Madhava Menon Committee report on ODL, ODL constitutes about 21.9% of total enrolment in the conventional system. However, enrolment in technical and professional courses in the ODL system is less than 10%.

The enrolment in open universities and distance education institutions in 2009-10 was more than 36 lakh. The share of distance education increased from 2.6% in 1975-76 to 8.9% in 1985-86 and

was improved to 10.7% in 1990-91 and to 20.56% in 2008-09.

Student support

When it comes to the methods and tools used to impart education, the ODL system has come a long way. From a correspondence degree based on

print material to self-instructional study packages with an integrated multi-media approach, virtual learning has got a boost.

The application of

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide flexible and cost-effective programmes has also made this system popular.

Challenges ahead

The ODL system is now growing faster compared to the conventional system. "One of the major challenges that need to be addressed is quality assurance and use of an innovative approach to impart education. Steps like providing access to video lectures by top faculty of the top institutions will solve the problem of giving access to higher education to each student. Students should also check the recognition of the institution, course material and quality of the programme before enrolling," says Sudhanshu Bhusan,

professor, higher and professional education, National University of Education Planning and Administration, who specialises in policy analysis and planning of higher education.

"The growth and access to ICT will revolutionise higher education. E-learning modules, multimedia case studies, video tutorials need to be given a push," he adds.

SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

With unconventional subjects like sericulture, poultry farming and special education, IGNOU gives you a variety of options to choose from

PAGE 02

SCHOOL OF OPEN LEARNING

It offers distance education in dual mode and has a strong focus on reaching out to students online

PAGE 03

NON-COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S EDUCATION BOARD

With more than 12,000 students on its rolls, the board helps many students who cannot join regular college to pursue higher studies

PAGE 05

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

Tutor-marked assignments for each theory programme, counselling sessions and an SMS alert service are a part of the JMI experience

PAGE 08

IIT Bhubaneswar yet to take a 'concrete' shape

Ashok Pradhan, TNN Jul 30, 2013, 02:25PM IST

Tags: vacant seats | permanent campus | IIT Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: Inordinate delay in construction of its permanent campus, vacant seats and shortage of faculty members has reduced IITBhubaneswar (IITBBS) to just another engineering college. Institute director Madhusudan Chakraborty, however, asserted that the city IIT is on the right track to meet the mandate for which it was created.

Though IITBBS was the first among the eight new IITs to start functioning and got 518 acre (of the total over 900 acre) in February 2009, the construction work is still in its initial stages. A visit to the campus site at Arugul village, on the outskirts of the city, reveals only some internal roads and an 800-seat hostel building are under construction. Only 50% of the work on the boundary wall, which started in March 2009, is complete. National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), whose construction was started alongside that of IITBBS in 2008, is nearing completion at Jatni.

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Tweet Recommend

August 1

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

IIT-Gandhinagar plans radical biomedical research

TNN | Aug 1, 2013, 03:11 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) is poised to take up groundbreaking research on global and public health, frugal engineering and robot-assisted surgery.

After the recently held workshop on biomedical engineering, IIT-Gn researchers discussed proposals to study social factors that impact health, find new drugs for cancer, robot-assisted surgical techniques, designing systems for electronic health records of patients at public hospitals, developing diagnostic tools for clinical breath analysis and early detection of Alzheimer's disease among others.

Speaking about her research on the impact of social factors on undernutrition, obesity, insulin resistance, [diabetes](#) and malaria, IIT-Gn's Prof Malavika Subramanyam said, "As a social epidemiologist, the aim of my research is to identify social factors that impact health. The ultimate goal is to design interventions to modify the social determinant of health identified in our research."

Among the main objectives of the Center of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering at IIT-Gn is to develop low-cost technologies to deliver healthcare to rural areas. Professor Arup Lal Chakraborty's research aims to develop diagnostic tools for clinical breath analysis.

Prof Chakraborty said, "The area of clinical breath analysis has emerged as a strong candidate for early and non-invasive diagnosis of various conditions such as lung inflammation, fatigue and cardiac malfunctions. Such a portable diagnostic tool in conjunction with wireless communication is a strong candidate for deployment in mobile units in rural areas."

Participants at the workshop also explored potential collaborations with Indian and overseas partners in areas such as rehabilitation robotics, neuro-engineering, and diagnostic testing.

Prof Nitish Thakor of [National University of Singapore](#) (NUS) said, "The Biomedical Engineering Centre at IIT-Gn is a fresh bold start and has the potential to have a national impact. At the moment, our challenge is to do it quickly and achieve high impact - scientifically and socially (healthwise) for India."

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'Different' JNU loses sheen

Cases Of Ragging, MMS Scandals, Clashes Haunt Campus

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: It always prided itself on being 'different' but recent cases of ragging, alleged rape, MMS scandals and clashes with cops have dented Jawaharlal Nehru University's image. Wednesday's incident has shocked everyone associated with the university, and many see it as a low point that calls for introspection and action.

Teachers say the attack is not an aberration but a progression of the recent crime trend. Blaming it on a shift in values among students and the overall campus, professor Kamal Mitra Chenoy, who has been associated with JNU since the mid-70s, called for an immediate crackdown on the consumption of charas and alcohol. "We at the teachers' association think there should be a full-time psychiatrist as some of the cases are not simple. Consumption of liquor and ganja has gone up. Incidents of pornography have already being reported. This cannot be called an isolated incident, but a particular shift in values among students."



School of Languages in JNU campus

Head of the Centre for Linguistics, Anvita Abbi, who was the first woman proctor of the campus and has been part of JNU since 1976, said the policies need to be reviewed. "This is nothing but a reflection of what is happening outside the campus. There is a general deterioration of human values and atmosphere, and JNU cannot be isolated. It comes out as a stark example as JNU had a very comfortable life. We have to review the policies and how to reach out to young minds. We need counselling in the campus. The number of students has increased over the years and, perhaps, one-on-one interaction has not

been possible lately. Students are not coming forward with their problems, but I don't know the reason. When I was the proctor, I suggested the need for counselling of undergraduate students as they are a disillusioned lot undergoing emotional upheavals."

Aparajit Chattopadhyay, chairperson of the Centre for Spanish Studies, has witnessed the changes at JNU closely. He was a student of JNU's first batch in 1971 and has taught there for 32 years. He says the present JNU system is flawed and undergraduate students need hand-holding.

"This is the saddest day in the campus for me after

spending 40 years here. This boy's father is a cancer patient and he did not manage to pay the hostel dues and fared poorly in academics, too. He was probably under tremendous stress. The fault is in the JNU system as we are admitting undergraduate students but we don't have a counsellor for them."

Vice chancellor of Doon University, VK Jain, who studied and taught at JNU, said, "This is absolutely shocking and not what we know JNU for. The entire student community and faculty should do some soul searching. In my 28 years at JNU, I never heard of anything so ghastly. What moral decay".

PREVIOUS CASES

- ▶ **Jun 3, 2013:** An alumna held on allegation of rape of a student in Narmada hostel
- ▶ **Jun 3, 2012:** MMS scandal
- ▶ **Feb 11, 2011:** Porn CD scandal; 2 students expelled
- ▶ **Nov 23, 2009:** Students clash with cops after a student was allegedly molested by outsiders
- ▶ **Aug 13:** First incident of ragging where an MCA student lodged a complaint and university officials caught seniors red-handed

Times of India ND 01-Aug-13 P-9

Acrimony over 4-yr UG course mars UGC meet

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Wednesday's meeting of the University Grants Commission (UGC) witnessed intense debate, peppered with acrimony, on the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP).

Many members objected to the trend of UGC not recording dissent and in one case — related to the entry of foreign educational institutions — not even recording what was decided in the meeting.

As the meeting began, a few members requested that FYUP — especially the formation of an oversight committee by the UGC — be taken up

Many members objected to the trend of UGC not recording dissent and in one case not even recording what was decided in the meet

immediately. A senior member said UGC is indulging in over-regulation as well as under-regulation. He pointed out that the Delhi University (DU) should have informed the UGC about change in courses at least six months in advance. At the same time, he said UGC cannot be a super boss of DU vice-chancellor. He said in case of FYUP, UGC erred on

the side of regulation — for instance issues like requirement of teachers and infrastructure should have been discussed. He said the UGC committee on FYUP should be strengthened, its powers be better defined and another panel should see if FYUP can be implemented in other varsities. It was pointed out that in the last meeting the chairman of the committee himself was not there.

Another member M M Ansari protested UGC's takeover of Distance Education Council last year. He said such a takeover should have followed proper procedure.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Deccan Herald ND P-4
1 August 2013 P-4

UGC considers outsourcing its NET exam

NEW DELHI, PTI: Outsource of the UGC-NET exam came up for exhaustive deliberation on Wednesday at the full meeting of University Grants Commission against the backdrop of increased complaints every year about mismanagement in conducting the test.

Sources said some members were for partial outsourcing of the prestigious test while the rest were of the view that entire exercise should be outsourced as UGC was "not competent" enough in conducting it.

The development assumes significance in light of the fact that the HRD Ministry has constituted a task force on developing a national testing scheme holding entrance tests for professional and academic courses such as engineering, management or any other national-level test.

According to ministry officials, UGC-NET exam could be conducted through this scheme.

The newly launched four-year undergraduate programme by Delhi University figured in the meeting with one of the members raising the issue and underscoring the fact that the varsity should have sought UGC approval to run the programme.

Though some members felt it was already a dead subject given that the programme is already underway, others felt that DU should have respected the UGC regulatory authority.

According to sources, difference among the members continued to persist on the issue, even as UGC chairman Ved Prakash reminded of setting up of an advisory committee to monitor the progress of the implementation of the undergraduate programme.