Date: 08.08.2020

Message from Principal, JNNCE

Dear JNNCE Students,

I write to you today with the full understanding that we stand on two of the most challenging situations in the history of our nation: the ongoing tragedies of the COVID-19 pandemic and impact of COVID-19 on many aspects of our life.

With the entire country was under lockdown, effective from 25\textsuperscript{th} March, 2020 following the COVI-19 pandemic, the education sector, like other segments of public & private lives, has also been severely affected. All academic activities had come to a stand-still across University & college campuses, through several phases of Lockdown, adding to the students’ and parents’ anguish and apprehensions.

JNNCE, at the forefront of pioneering academic initiatives is one of the very few institutions in the State (and the country), to have rolled out an “Academic Continuity Plan” – that offered online classes from 23\textsuperscript{rd} March, covering all the branches of BE, MBA, MCA & M.Tech. programs, covering about 3,750 students and involving about 200 teaching & about 100 non-teaching staff.

The objectives of this initiatives are:

1. to continue the academic activities and sustain connectivity between student & teaching fraternity
2. to ensure students are occupied in constructive academic activities even while at home
3. to make the best use of free time of both the students & staff to cover as much portions as possible and to make good the loss of academic term
4. to reduce idling and redundancy of physical & intellectual resources of the institute to the extent feasible.
5. to relieve the stress and apprehensions of students & parents following disruption of academic activities
6. to leverage technology for scaling up teaching-learning processes in future
Under this arrangement:

- Online Classes were conducted by the faculty (from the College or their homes) using a Online Platforms, as per the schedule. Each session was set for 30-40 minutes and four such sessions were scheduled daily for each section.

- Extensive e-contents were developed by the faculty for various courses of the semester.

- Through these classes - lectures have been delivered; course materials like PPTs screen-shared; attendance marked; queries taken & answered; sessional tests conducted; students’ seminars presented; viva-voce exams also arranged using both video & audio platforms as well as chat window.

- Practical classes conducted through virtual labs/shared Recorded video of Lab experiments.

- Besides conventional lecture sessions, other inputs like e-library resources, lesson plans, lab instructions, quizzes, assignments, white-board demos, instructional videos, group discussion, project guidance and submission of project reports etc were also delivered/conducted/made available to students using various online utilities.

- Each session has been recorded and also uploaded on to YouTube for reference by the students.

- Examination Preparedness Classes are being conducted online from 1\textsuperscript{st} August to 14\textsuperscript{th} August for the benefit of final semester students as per VTU directives.

- The online class sessions were regularly reviewed by me every afternoon, using the same online meeting platform, discussing about teachers' experiences, student feedback, technical glitches, if any faced, updates about new/revised instructional tools & methods, student attendance & participation data, suggestions & ideas for improvement of the process, explore new/additional deliverables, etc.

Besides direct academic activities as above:

- Scholarships and educational loans received from several agencies and disbursed to students amounting to help them tide over their financial difficulties.

- Cash awards to the tune of Rs. 4 lakhs for meritorious students are being disbursed.

- the College has also been conducting various skill-development activities for the benefit of its students, like online quizzes, paper presentations, webinars etc;
- Health and safety protocols and guidelines issued by the authorities are being promptly shared with students;
- Online counseling & mentoring of students has also been continued;
- Innovative project exhibition by final year students was held in virtual mode and top 3 projects are awarded cash prizes.
- 33 innovative project proposals submitted by the students have been screened and 15 projects are selected for funding by JNNCE-NewGen IEDC to a tune of Rs.2.5 lakhs per project.
- Internship to pre-final year students is being facilitated in online/virtual mode.
- Training and placement details/uploads/opportunities are being regularly communicated to the students; webinars and student development programmes on various technical issues in different domains are being conducted where student participation is encouraged and facilitated;
- Placements too have been made and companies are being regularly followed up for placements through virtual mode.
- Cleaning and sanitation of buildings, classes, and public spaces is being done frequently and according to strict protocols and health and safety guidelines.

All these initiatives have been taken by the institution to address the interests and concerns of students & parents in these times of uncertainty and disruption of normal & academic life and to fill them with necessary courage and confidence to tide over the current impasse.

Considering the background and the evolving situation, the Institution had taken upon itself the task of planning and executing a comprehensive solution for this unprecedented challenge. Every day, there had been new issues to tackle, new problems to work on; everything had been uncertain and unfamiliar. Journey through this stormy situation has been a challenging job. There have been several directives and instructions issued by the statutory and regulatory authorities to be complied with; extensive planning of classes with attendant logistic and technological support systems and involvement of teaching & non-teaching staff; monitoring & review of progress of teaching-learning activities; general administrative, financial, establishment, campus safety & maintenance issues, queries/concerns of students & parents to address; maintaining connectivity with and updating all employees as well as students (some of whom had moved to remote places); compliance with
UGC/AICTE/VTU regulations, Inspection & Approval process; Revaluation process of 2019-20 Odd Sem. Exam; campus placement issues, decision regarding cancellation of lower semester exams and conducting of final semester exams and so on.

It is heartening to note that, with the support and involvement of all the internal and external stakeholders, Institution has been able to face all these challenges confidently and effectively and to emerge stronger from the experiences. The institution has been able to develop its resilience, agility, flexibility to scale up and in the process, to acquire the requisite insights & capabilities to face the new challenges of Higher Education.

At this juncture, we encourage you all to take responsibility for your own learning & evaluation over the coming weeks. Amongst other things, you can:

- devise and follow a personal study programme
- make use of online resources
- engage with your peers about examination topics
- contact individual teachers/mentors/counselors if encountering any difficulty regarding studies, feedback, examination, personal issues etc.
- not to risk travelling to College campus unnecessarily till the official intimation from the College authorities

Rest assured that the University and the College authorities and the staff (teaching and non-teaching) have made plans to conduct the Final year/Semester Examinations, without causing any sort of inconvenience and to ensure that the results of the final year students are declared without delay.

Each department is on the task to prepare for next academic year and following are being done:
1. Creating facilities suiting to Digital Transformation in education
2. All the Faculty are preparing the course content for next semester suiting to conduct online and offline classes
3. To improve upon teaching learning process, all departments are organizing Faculty Development programs (FDP), Workshops, Webinars for the benefit of our faculty and also other colleges faculty.
4. In order to improve upon research, applying for research projects under various schemes of Govt of India, Karnataka, companies etc
5. Arranging International Conferences to promote research
6. Redefining Hostel and Transportation facilities suiting to COVID 19 situation
7. To assist students in managing finance to pay their fee, preparing various schemes available under Govt and others to get scholarships
8. Placement department is working on arranging training programs for all the students both virtual and offline mode, contacting companies for campus placement for 2020-21 batch

It is understandable that our students are worried about their friends, their family, and their futures in these exceptionally uncertain times of a worldwide pandemic. I would like you to reassure you that the College and its staff will support you, as best as we can, using the arrangements we currently have in place. We advise you to maintain your morale, motivation and confidence; the present difficult phase will soon pass-off and you will all be able to navigate through this situation and emerge unscathed.

Please visiting college website for further updates on:
1. Guidelines to be followed during Aug/Sept VTU examination
2. Transport/Hostel facilities during VTU examination
3. Visit VTU website for detailed information on exam time table, instructions etc
4. Various scholarship available for students, guidelines to apply
5. Updates on plan for next semester 2020-21

While seeking students & parents to fully observe current lockdown regulations and stay safe & healthy, and to understand and appreciate the efforts being made by the College towards protecting and promoting your well-being and prospects, I seek your continued interest and wholehearted participation to help sustain the success of this pioneering and unique effort being made by the institute. We hope to see you all back on the campus as per VTU Calendar of Events and revive a bustling & robust campus life very soon!

(Dr.H.R.Mahadevaswamy)
Principal