

# हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय

(NAAC 'A' Accredited University)

समरहिल, शिमला-171005

## INSTITUTIONAL TWO BEST PRACTICES 2019-20

### 1. Digitization of examination

Himachal Pradesh University had a strong understanding that radical improvement can be brought in the slow, time-consuming, and laborious paper-based examination system with digitization and with so much of collective efforts and visionary leadership we have achieved this goal successfully during this academic session. The examination branch of the university was first well equipped with computers followed by internet LAN connections earlier and that too was replaced later with Wi- Fi. In the next phase we provided extensive training to the employees of this branch so they can nicely understand the technicalities and deal with it in routine.

The computerization of branches which are dealing with under graduate classes and post graduate classes have already been done and the filling of the examination forms, processing of the results is totally on ERP system now. This facility is serving the students with the best of their expectations as it was extremely appreciated when we conducted students' survey.

The branches inside the examination wing, which are dealing with BA- 1 (Bachelor of Arts), BA 11 and BA- III, have been provided more commuturs and printers to increase efficiency of these branches.

For holding the examination, the conduct branch was to supply stamp impression of each and every day of both the sessions. This work was done manually and took lot of efforts. Now the same has been taken on the ERP system and this opens half an hour before the commencement if examinations.

The work of digitization of old records of the university is in progress and once it is complete, more swiftly the students will be served in other areas too. Digitization is of crucial importance to data processing, storage and transmission, because it "allows information of all kinds in all formats to be carried with the same efficiency and also intermingled".

#### **The achievements during pandemic: -**

Following the directions of University Grant Commission, the examination of outgoing classes of Under Graduate programs were conducted in the month of August strictly following the guidelines issued by the government.

The results of these examinations were declared within a month. Similarly, the examinations of post graduate programs were also conducted strictly following the SOPs issued by ministry of HRD.

Himachal Pradesh University is the state University and it has affiliated colleges in entire state, the geographical conditions of the state make the movements difficult being a mountain state so earlier it was realized that students from all the districts used to visit Shimla, where the University is situated to fill up their forms, deposit fees, collect certain documents and check their results sometimes, especially the results of reevaluated papers. This used to be a time consuming and expensive affair especially for the poor families and female students but with the digitization we have reduced their efforts to the maximum. Now they hardly need to visit

20/12/2020  
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H.P. UNIVERSITY  
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Shimla for any kind of examination related works and sitting at their places they can have access to all the information. The major benefits of digitizing exams include saving cost, time, and efforts involved in preparing and printing question papers, assigning invigilators, arranging examination centers and classrooms, securing answer scripts, conducting bias-free evaluation, and on-time result publication. With digitized online examination systems, all these tasks are simplified, and their efficiency is improved.

An Onscreen Evaluation of university answer sheets is to be adopted soon for early declaration of Result. Answer Sheets will be scanned and sent to Evaluators online and after evaluation marks will be automatically uploaded online, which will help in early declaration of University Result.

## **2. Online education during COVID-19**

The COVID-19 has resulted in educational institutions shut all across the world. As a result, education has changed dramatically with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. Research suggests that online learning has been shown to increase retention of information, and take less time, meaning the changes corona virus have caused might be here to stay. Understanding this fact, Himachal Pradesh University has extensively planned to develop our online classes for which we strengthened our faculty members just after the lockdown by providing 134 desktop computers fitted with web cameras. Himachal Pradesh University reopened after the lockdown on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020 and since then we are continuously functioning. On the second phase of developing the understanding of online teaching, a team under the supervision of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has scheduled a weeklong visit to all the departments and during this course of time, meeting all the faculty members was ensured. This visit was an open lesson to contain this virus in itself where all the precautions were taken both by the visiting team and the places/ departments visited. The weeklong journey remained very fruitful and off course safe in all manners and during this interaction and discussions, we not only conveyed the necessity of online classes but also developed mechanism to further adopt this system and involve the students. In next phase, a WhatsApp group of faculty members was made and majority of them started sharing their online teaching experiences with others. At the same time, webinars and online lectures engulfed the whole country and faculty members have started participating in these activities too. This whole process once again remained extremely interesting and full of learning, the sharing of new ideas and new experiences through our dedicated WhatsApp group remained continue which resulted into new experiences in online teaching.

On next phase, we have allotted funds for all the departments where smart class rooms were either of older configurations or damaged or not installed. This was we have connected almost every classroom and every teacher cabin with best available infrastructure to deliver classes online. Already the whole campus was made Wi- Fi during this session so it gave us tremendous advantage.

On the third stage, we developed class wise WhatsApp groups and majority of the departments organized orientation programs including the parents too so they can also understand the changed scenario. Himachal Pradesh is a state of faraway villages so there were certain limitations too that initially we have faced. A student at home is considered a student on holidays and he is expected to work in the fields and get engaged in other household requirements, so we decided to invite parents for the orientation which turned into great benefit in coming days.

On fourth stage, we requested the entire teaching faculty to convert their conventional lectures and notes into power point presentations. Ministry of Human Resource Development had already suggested the names of online platforms which could be used for taking online classes

and on the final stage we moved to the prescribed online platforms and converted our online mode of teaching into its most post form and format.

As per the guidelines, research scholars were visiting their different departments and the faculty members continued guiding these research scholars in to their respective areas of research. Because of pandemic, field visits and interviews were avoided so maximum emphasis were given to understanding research methodology and library work.

There are some undergraduate programs too which university is running and these research scholars have supported the main faculty to teach online and this sharing experience and information remained absolutely fruitful. During the online classes, several departments have organized stress buster sessions too in which students have performed cultural programs and other activities to entertain each other. After few days it has been realized that students have started waiting for the online classes to commence every day and now, we are conducting a survey to understand how far online classes decreased the stress and monotony in individual student's life. In the month of November, we successfully completed examinations and simultaneously in the same month we completed process of admissions for the new session and once again started online classes with more experiences and interest.

  
**Hon'ble Vice Chancellor**

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