


NIRMA
UNIVERSITY

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE



'SETU'

NIRMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FORUM
Newsletter

University Ranking

Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2019

Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2019 ranks Nirma University at fourth position among the Top 50 private state universities of India. Nirma University ranks as the best private university at the state level.

GSIRF 2020

Nirma University is awarded a 4-star status with an overall CGPA of 3.91 in Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2020 by Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat. Thus, making the university the best private university in Gujarat. Nirma University is the only university to receive a 5-star rating in three out of the four evaluation parameters.

Institute Rankings

Competition Success Review Rankings 2019

Institute of Management, Nirma University is ranked at the third position among the 'Top Leading B Schools of Super Excellence' in the CSR-GHRDC B-Schools Survey released in Dec 2019.

According to CSR – GHRDC Engineering Colleges Survey 2019, Institute of Technology, Nirma University has been ranked first in the state of Gujarat and eighth at the national level in 'Top Leading Engineering Colleges of Super Excellence'.

Outlook-ICARE India MBA Rankings 2020

Outlook-ICARE India MBA Rankings 2020 ranks Nirma University's MBA programme at the 13th position among the Top 50 private MBA institutions of India. The MBA programme of the university ranks eighth among the Top 50 MBA institutions in the west zone of India.

GSIRF also awarded Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, with a 5-star status and an overall CGPA of 4.51 making it the best Pharmacy institute in Gujarat. The institute received 5-star in all the four evaluation parameters.

NBA Accreditation

Institute of Technology, Nirma University, got accreditation from National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for all its undergraduate programmes in Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Instrumentation & Control Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics & Communications Engineering and Chemical Engineering. These programmes are accredited under the Tier-I (Washington Accord) category. The purpose of the accreditation by the NBA is to promote and recognise excellence in technical education in colleges and universities. It is important to note that the Institute of Technology, Nirma University is the only private institute in Gujarat to receive accreditation in Tier – I category for all its undergraduate programmes.

Likewise, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, also received the NBA accreditation for its BPharm Programme.

Institute of Management, Nirma University, also received the NBA accreditation for its postgraduate programme in Master of Business Administration.

University News

Convocation 2019

Nirma University held its 28th Convocation on Oct 16, 2019 wherein 1,644 students from Institute of Technology, Institute of Management, Institute of Law, Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Science, Institute of Architecture and Planning, and Institute of Commerce received their graduation, postgraduation and PhD degree. Chief Guest Mr Guenter Butschek, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Tata Motors Ltd, in his inspiring speech, asked the students to evolve as a person, as a professional and as a leader. He further advised the students to, "Compete within, than others to get the best out of you. That is the new reality, to lead the change you need to put yourself out there and prove yourself. Managers would be plenty, leaders are seldom. So, differentiate yourself."



Alumni ReConnect



Mr Pranav Mistry
(Batch 1999-2003)

*BTech: Computer Science
and Engineering*

Mr Pranav Mistry hailing from a small town Palanpur in Gujarat, is a computer scientist and inventor. He is Director of Research at Samsung Research America. He received his masters in Media Arts and Sciences from MIT and Master of Design from IIT Bombay. He completed his BTech in Computer Science and Engineering from Nirma University.

He joined Samsung as the Director of Research in 2012, and currently serves as the Global Vice President of it. Before joining MIT, he worked as a UX Researcher with Microsoft. In the past, he has also worked with Google, CMU, NASA, UNESCO, Japan Science & Technology Agency. He was the Global Senior Vice President of search at Samsung and the head of Think Tank Team. Since October 2019, he is serving as the President and CEO of Samsung STAR Labs.

Mr Mistry is best known for his work on Sixth Sense, Samsung Galaxy Gear and Project Beyond. Among some of his other works, he has invented Mouseless – an invisible computer mouse; Sparsh – a novel way to copy-paste data between digital devices; Quickies – intelligent sticky notes that can be searched, located and can send reminders and messages; Blinkbot - a gaze and blink controlled robot; a pen that can draw in 3D; and a public map that can act as Google of physical world. NEON, the artificial human prototype which is conceptualised by Pranav Mistry.

Mr Pranav Mistry was honored as the 'Young Global Leader 2013' by the World Economic Forum. His research on Sixth Sense was awarded by Popular Science in 2009. He was also honored as Young Global Leader 2013 by World Economic Forum.

Interview of alumni



Dr Bhavin Dhabhi
(Batch 1996-2000)

*BTech: Mechanical
Engineering*

- When did you realise that you wanted to pursue Mechanical Engineering?

Up to 12th Standard I was just aiming to do something innovative that can improve the lives of people. I had a keen interest on finding the real life application of maths and science. Perhaps, this could be the reason that brought me into this field. During my studies at Nirma University, I was inspired by the faculties and the engineering atmosphere. I was designing my final year project on Octagonal shaped solar concentrator during which I realised that I had a passion for Mechanical Engineering Design. The solar concentrator was the first project in Mechanical Engineering Department that was manufactured in the workshop in the year 1999 - 2000.

- Was Nirma University instrumental in helping you achieve your career goals?

The attitude and approach that Nirma University built in me has helped me progress at a faster rate in my first job as a lecturer at VVP Engineering College. The basic application knowledge I gained helped me a lot to design and develop award-winning products.

- **What is the mission/vision of your company?**

Universal Designovation Lab LLP (UDLAB) wants to be a pioneer in Design and Research in India. We are creating a team of young innovative minds from every corner of the country that could take up the challenge of making brand following the ideologies of Design in India and Make in India. Indian Industry has a great potential of manufacturing but we have only a few brand product manufacturers. We need to have a vast majority of brand product manufacturers to create Brand India at a global level. Ultimately, a good design is all about user experience and brand creation. So, UDLAB exists to make lives easier and happier.

- **What is the problem your start-up is trying to solve?**

Many Indian MSMEs have a very good manufacturing ability but they are not brand product manufacturers. They are not doing research-based innovation and have a belief that Design R & D is a costly affair but the fact is that a good design can generate multi-fold returns. They are not applying product design for brand design kind of strategy to improve business at local and global market. With product design for brand design strategy, UDLAB is designing and developing world-class award-winning products and improving the quality of life of the user. We are helping MSMEs to improve their products export potential.

- **Which major market driven problems are solved by UDLAB?**

For Rajkot based local MSME, we've designed and developed the PMP Dual Station Wax Injection Press. It is a winner of one international award (A Design Award from Italy-2016) and two National Awards (India Design Mark-2016 and I Mark Design Award). This machine is designed by applying total care system in design with the parent-child relation and giving maximum productivity per sq.- meter-area. We have applied for patent for vertical nozzle with ejector system for wax injection press for this machine. This machine runs 365 days a year and 24x7 with Dual Station arrangement so one operator can effectively do the work of four operators.

- **What are the achievements of UDLAB and what is the vision looking forward?**

Our developed products are presented at International trade fairs and exported to a developed country (Like UK). A good design can improve the quality of life and the export potential of the product. Some of our success stories are as follows. (1) Shlok Neonatal Phototherapy Unit winner of CII Design Excellence Award is a cost-effective solution for Indian market and can be given on rent to rural health clinics with 24x7 maintenance-free-availability of neonatal phototherapy up to 500 km. More than 300 phototherapies sold, approximately 5000 children treated successfully, (2) Magnalenz Induction Furnace has been presented at GIFA Germany and exported to UK, with good sales in the national market. This Furnace is I Mark Design Award winner and with Integrated capacitor bank with crucible has eliminated water-cool cable required to transfer 1300Amp, current reducing the losses by greater amount. (3) The PMP Dual Station Wax Injection Press, which is patented technology and winner of A' Design Award from Italy and India Design Mark-2016 and I Mark Design Award has a potential to earn double when compared to old product and also has very good export potential. Press is giving maximum productivity per sq. meter area and has eliminated three wax tanks from old design. These wax tanks need to be kept at 65 degrees and the entire machine need to be kept in an Air- Conditioned room. So, we have effectively reduced heating and cooling load required for such a huge machine. (4) Vertex Mammography Machine is winner of iF Design Award from Germany-2016 and European Design Award-2017. It is a world-class cost-effective solution and is a flagship earning product for the client. Vertex Mammography is providing world class results at highly cost-effective ways compared to International Brands. (5) PUVA Phototherapy is a winner of A' Design Award Italy, India Design Mark-2016 & presented at Rastrapatibhavan, India. PUVA whole body phototherapy having unique octagonal shape design with effective UV-Radiation, reducing the dosage time of UVA and UVB-exposer on patients. (6) Mitti Cool Fridge is Gold Award winner of American Product Design Award-2017. It is a fridge made of clay, require no electricity and can effectively work with natural evaporation cooling.

Universal Designovation Lab LLP is the winner of 25 Awards, 10 International and 15 National Awards with 1 patent and 5 design registration. Product Design for Brand Design is the mantra of UDLAB.

- **Any tips you would like to give to the current batch of students on what should they focus on to achieve such success?**

Always have 'learning by doing' attitude. There is difference of 5 hours between the state you don't know and the state you know. Always be ready to give those 5 hours for learning. It is never important what you know, but what you can learn and apply to improve the life.

- **Any mantra that you follow in your daily routine/life which played a role in you reaching such great heights?**
Always dream big and try to implement futuristic ideas in today's world by creative thinking and innovative approach. Continuously learning new things and trying to apply design thinking approach. Everyone always wants to improve their life and it is duty of Design Engineer to make that happen faster and with a sustainable approach.
- **What hardships you faced to attain the success you have achieved till date?**
First of all, it is common thinking that design and development is costly and time consuming and International R&D cannot be done at a local level. We have to work very hard to change this mentality. We are applying product design with brand design strategy and trying to convert OEM to Brand Product Manufacturer. But we need to work hard to make people understand the power of design and innovation to create branding.

When we started with Universal Designation Lab LLP in 2012-2013 there was no start-up atmosphere in India. UDLAB has been started without any investment from outside. We have received an advance of Rs 2,30,000 for our first project before having the bank account of UDLAB. We have faced many difficulties to get finance from banks as there is no bank finance policy for software purchase. But we have managed that without bank finance.

Even we have faced difficulty in opening an account in banks like SBI as UDLAB is LLP and many banks were reluctant to open an account for LLP in 2012-13.

Institute News

Activities done by Alumni level associations at Institute level Pratidhwani – The Alumni Conclave

Kaizen – The Alumni Relations Committee of the Institute of Management, Nirma University, organised **Pratidhwani 2020** – The 7th Alumni Conclave celebrating the contributions of its alumni in various fields across industries.

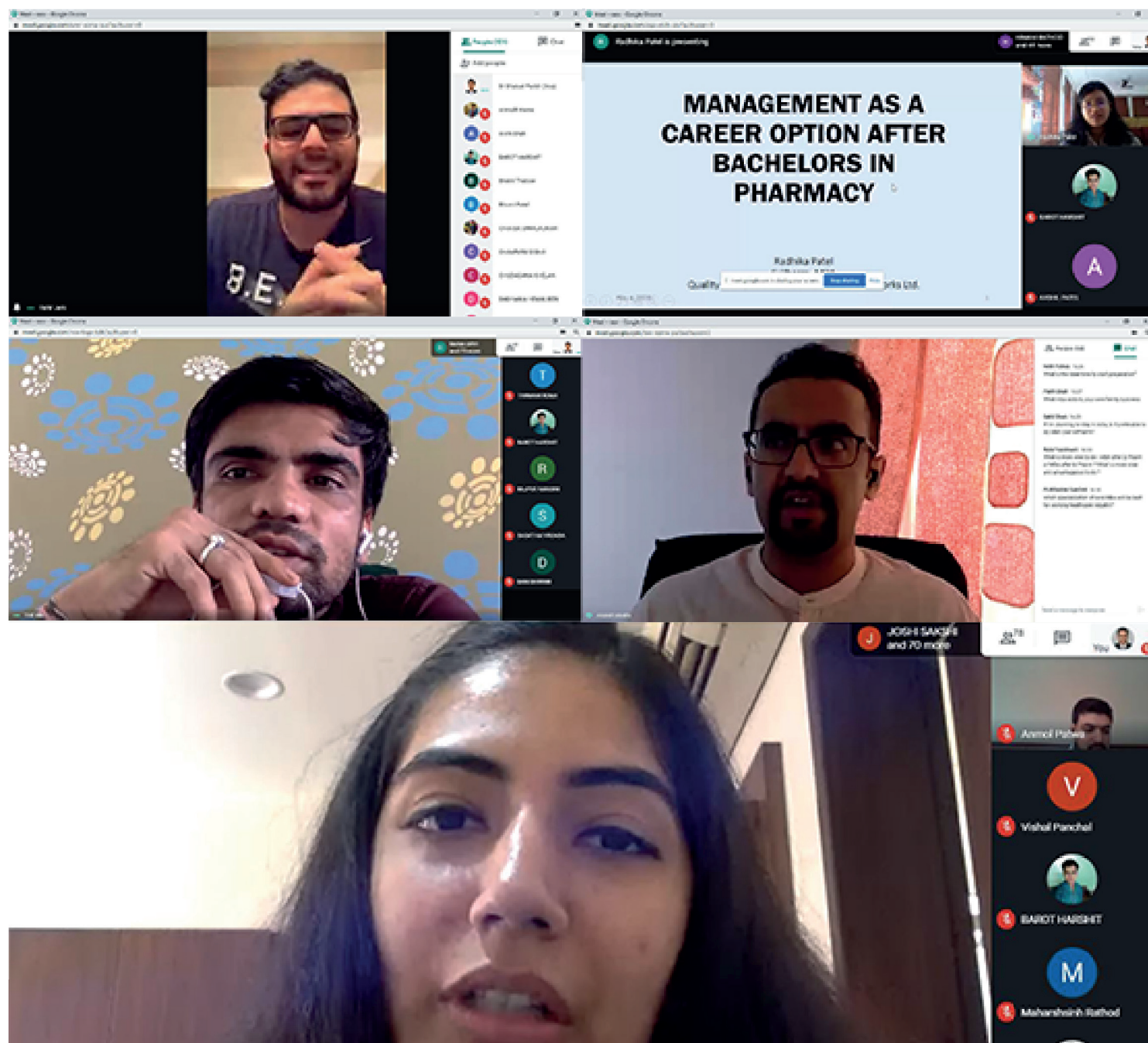


Pratidhwani – The Alumni Conclave of Institute of Management was held on February 1, 2020. The theme for the year was “The Road Not Taken” encompassing how one is always faced with choices, to decide upon something that will make a difference in one’s life. The conclave witnessed eminent alumni from various industrial domains who shared their learnings and experiences with the current students. The invited speakers for the conclave included Mr Abbey Thomas (Associate Director, Kellogg), Mr Anubhav Sood (Client Relationship Manager, Amazon), Ms Aastha Tatia (Life Coach), Mr Thomas Mampilly (HR business partner, Wells Fargo), Ms Priyatna Basu (Ex Vice President, Yes Bank), Ms Akanksha Bumb (Co-founder & COO , F5 escapes), Mr Anurag Kabra (Co-founder, Pegasus), Mr Dhruvil Patel (Director, BPC projects and Infrastructure), Mr Parth Das (Associate Director, SAP), Mr Manupratap Solanki (Innovation Manager, HUL) , Ms Charul Mohta (Lead business analyst, CGI), and Mr Rajesh Hudda (Vice President, Syntex).

MARGADARSHAN - Career Guidance Sessions by Alumni of Institute of Pharmacy

The following webinars were conducted by alumni of Institute of Pharmacy for the current students:

- Mr Rahil Jani, Registered Pharmacist, Canada, delivered a talk on “Scope of Pharmacy in Canada” on May 3, 2020.
- Ms Radhika Patel, Quality Head, Westcost Pharma, Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on “Management as a career option after BPharm” on May 4, 2020.
- Mr Hitesh Katariya, President, and Founder of PharmaGupshup Academy and Gujarat Forum of Pharmacy Student (GFPS), Ahmedabad delivered a talk on “Preparing for GPAT Exam 2021” on May 5, 2020.
- Mr Anand Odedra, Director of Business Development, DOCPLEXUS, Mumbai, delivered a talk on “MBA as a career option after BPharm” on May 6, 2020.
- Ms Panvi Patel and Mr Anmol Patwa, Acme Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on “Getting into Pharma Business after BPharm” on May 9, 2020.



Alumni Meets

As a part of Silver Jubilee Year Celebration of Institute of Technology, Nirma University, an alumni meet was planned in Bangalore, on October 18, 2019. Close to 28 alumni across the city attended the meet. The city meet consisted of discussion on ways to strengthen alumni-institute relations.



In-line with the Silver Jubilee Celebration of NITAA, an alumni get-together was organised at Hyderabad on February 16, 2020. More than 25 alumni attended the get-together with their family and it was a grand success in many aspects. The get-together function was graced by Dr NP Gajjar and Dr Sachin Gajjar, on behalf of NITAA and also by Dr HK Patel on behalf of Nirma University Alumni Forum.

On December 14, 2019, alumni city meets were organised in four cities viz. Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai and Pune for the Institute of Management. Close to 111 alumni across the four cities attended the meet. The city meets consisted of discussion on ways to strengthen the alumni-institute relations. Other topics included, to implement CHRO lecture series, to organise a Batch Meet for the batch of 1998-2000, and implement the Revamp Mentorship Programme effectively.



Alma Utsav

Kaizen, the Alumni Relations Committee of Institute of Management, Nirma University organised “Alma Utsav” on October 5, 2019. Around 150 alumni along with their family members attended the event.

A host of activities were planned for the day which included, campus visit, Nirma merchandise stall, a stall of craft items prepared by the children of Nirmaan Foundation, photo booth, faculty interaction session, followed by curriculum review and general body meeting.

Adding to the charm of the day were the performances by Nirmaan Foundation, Chehre and Fiesta Clubs. The day concluded with dinner and dancing on the tunes of garba as "Rangeelo Raas -The Garba Night".



The annual alumni meet of IPNUAA (Institute of Pharmacy Nirma University Alumni Association) held on January 26, 2020 was attended by more than 95 alumni members. Dr Manjunath Ghate, Director, Institute of Pharmacy and President, IPNUAA welcomed the alumni members and shared the new initiatives at the institute. Dr Dhaivat C Parikh, Vice President, IPNUAA shared updates on Alumni Association activities at Institute level, as well as encouraged alumni members for active participation and to enhance the alumni networking. Alumni members in turn shared their experiences and revived their college days. Entertaining One-Minute Games and Photo booths were arranged as a part of interaction during tea time.



As part of the institute's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA) organised an annual get-together and a general meeting of its alumni on January 4, 2020. Over 1500 alumni and their family members, faculty, staff and the students were present at the event. Engaging games and cultural activities were enjoyed by all. There was also a cricket match between the Alumni team and the Faculty team where the Nirma University faculty team emerged as the winners.



Institute of Science held its annual alumni meet on February 29, 2020. Dr Sarat Dalai, Director, Institute of Science addressed the alumni and updated them regarding the progress of the institute. An interactive session for faculty, current students and alumni was also arranged followed by a cultural programme. The General Body Meeting of the alumni association was held to discuss scope of strengthening the alumni activities at the institute. Around 35 alumni members attended the meet.



Alumni Achievements

Women Entrepreneur and Scientist Award

Dr Purvi Zaveri, an alumna of Institute of Science, Nirma University received recognition for her efforts in developing innovative teaching-learning material for Microbiology learning.

She was felicitated at “India International Science Festival” held during November 5-8, 2019 at Kolkata by Ms Roopa Ganguly, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Dr Zaveri received the award in the category of “Women Entrepreneur & Scientist” for her creative construction of 3D printed *Aspergillus niger* model, circuit-based kingdom classification and innovative wastewater solutions as a product of her venture called “Microcity”.



Mr Bhavin Dabhi, alumni of BE (Mechanical Engineering, batch of 2000), Institute of Technology, owner of Universal Designovation Lab LLP (UDLAB) has designed and developed a fully automatic Walk Through Mass Disinfectant machine. The machine is installed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Hospital-Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Rajkot Collector Office, Rajkot Municipal Commissioner Office, Rajkot Police Commissioner Office, etc. He has also installed one such machine at Nirma University campus in the month of May 2020.

One article from the Presidents of Alumni Associations



Dr Nagendra P Gajjar

*Professor, EC Engineering,
Institute of Technology,
Nirma University*

Steps towards Spiritual Living

Spiritual living is a life lived by Grace, not by might, not by power, a life in which we find all things appearing to us in the order in which we need them, sometimes before we ourselves are aware of that need. This is living by Grace and it is attained only when things, thoughts, and desires have been overcome. We have not overcome the world while we are trying to improve or increase our material sense of the world.

Spiritual life is that state of being in which we live by Grace, in which we know that, whatever the need is, the answer will appear. Everything that comes, comes as a gift of God. As a matter of fact it comes just a little bit before we need it, even before we know we are going to need it. A path of indescribable beauty, joy and peace opens before us when we live spiritual life.

Situation to Solution

Sometimes a critical situation may offer an opportunity to demonstrate to us the value of being resilient in the face of adversity or of having a more accepting attitude toward human frailty and insecurity. Some personal strength only becomes apparent in challenging times and that growth comes from adversity. So what? If your fears are true, is this fact truly important for your future? Don't magnify their significance..

So what action are you going to take to resolve this problem? What can you do to stop the feared event from happening? What is the solution? Solution focused thinking is far more helpful than rumination. What are your choices? Brainstorm and come up with different courses of action directed toward solution.

Feel Secure towards future

The future is unknowable; there are no guarantees. Feeling secure and less anxious requires us to accept ambiguity and our inability to predict the future. True security comes from within, not from without. It comes from perceiving ourselves as having personal efficacy or a sense of confidence in our ability to manage important events in our lives. When you feel anxious or worried, it's essential to recognize that you can control how you steer your thoughts and perceptions; you are always the one in the driver's seat of your life.

Be good student throughout life

We must remain good students throughout our life. Getting updated helps our knowledge, viewpoints, instincts, vision and work practice. Learning shows us the way out of many pitfalls that we may encounter as we go along. Whether it is books, or internet, develop a regular habit to carry on the infinite learning forever. Make learning a joyous and continuous process to chug along.

Be a happy person

To be a happy person, the formula for happiness is quite simple. Regardless of what happened just now or last year, or what may happen later, now is where happiness lies. Happy people understand that life is really nothing more than a series of present moments to experience one after another. They understand and appreciate the past for what it taught them about living more in the now, and they see the future as more present moments to experience. Mostly, they understand that right now, this very moment, where life is truly lived. When you focus your attention in this moment, instead of moments that are over or yet to be, you will maximize your productivity, creativity, and ability to accomplish your goals.

Be in Present moment

The more present moment oriented you become, the easier it will be to stay on track, get focused, concentrate, and achieve your goals. In short, an undistracted mind is able to make wise, appropriate decisions.

I found the following affirmation just now during my morning routine. I share it with you. Enjoy.

- My mind is full of peace, poise, balance and equilibrium. The infinite power is in smiling repose within me.
- I am not afraid of anything in the past, the present, or the future. God leads, guides and directs me in all ways.
- I now meet every situation with faith, poise, calmness and confidence. My mind is full of inner peace, freedom and joy. Peace, sobriety, and confidence reign supreme in my mind and life.

Increase Positivity

We shall always experience negative events in our lives. We shall never be able to eliminate them. What we can do is be mindful of the difficulties we are facing and try simply to focus more on those events and situations that are likely to engender positive emotions, if not maximise their occurrence as well. Try to reduce the number of negative events and experiences in your life. Try increase the number of positive events and experiences in your life. Change the way you look at or think about negative events so they don't seem quite so bad or negative.

Change the way you think about life generally so that you are more aware of, and more grateful for all the positive things in your life. Don't take things for granted.

Our brains are amazingly complex organs---far more complex than any supercomputers. Discovering the subtleties of how our brains function can be a subject, to which psychologists devote their entire careers. Simply by appreciating brain's complexity we can gain power over millions of thoughts we have each day.

Positive psychology allows us to take back some of the power our intellects have over our everyday lives by altering the way we arrive at conclusions. It is also a potent tool for maximising the happiness that we do experience. We do not need to be born an optimist to think like one.

Inviting Inspirational articles from HoIs/ Faculty



Dr R N Patel

Director (i/c) - Institute of Technology

COVID-19 and Higher Education

COVID-19 event and subsequent lock down threw challenge to all the educators across the world. The events like armed conflicts, forced displacement, climate change induced disasters and protracted crises have disrupted the education substantially. This number is growing in an unparalleled way with the spread of COVID-19. Education has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it has not been able to diminish the essence of learning, which continues undiminished in the virtual world supported by the technology.

Educational institutions being one of the main areas of mass gathering, closure of them is compulsory for ceasing the spread of COVID-19. While we are fighting against the novel corona virus, education is the most vulnerable area. Talking about higher education, more than 34 million students are affected as per the data from The World Bank. The bright tomorrow of any country is totally dependent on today's youth and empowering youth with skills and knowledge is crucial at this point of time. Almost every organisation has come up with alternative solutions of classroom studies in the form of online classes. This way, knowledge can surely be imparted to the students but skills and practical experience shall lack in them if this continues for longer time.

While the trials of distance learning are being implemented rapidly in an unprecedented way, uncertainties of student's attendance and over all student assessment are the major concerns faced by institutions. On the other side, students not being very used to with self-assessment of their learnings from online classes, they find it difficult to feel good about their achievements and stay motivated. Faculties are finding it challenging to stay connected with students in person. It is a considerable loss in terms of lack of expression and appreciation which used to happen effortlessly in classrooms till now.

In higher education, students are very ambitious about their career. They might be having a constant sense of their own timeline that they had set for achieving their goals. This sudden brake on the entire educational system has led to mental stress for many people. Most of the examinations have been postponed, students are found at stress due to the uncertainty of clearing current stage and moving on the next one. Unexpected changes in lifestyle are tough for so many of us, which may lead to effects on mental health in a longer run. Loneliness, frustration and depression are increasing day by day.

Taking an optimistic approach, this situation can be dealt with an altogether different perspective. While the world was moving at a great pace, this break has surely given people time to introspect. Students, who were confused about their career, have got time to think and redefine their goals based on the learning's till now. Faculties found space for self-evaluation and expansion of knowledge in the field of their expertise. Researchers, who are at the initial stage of their research, have got opportunity to define their problems and work plan in a detailed manner. Those who are at the verge of completion of their current work, can work on their weaker areas, and come out of this situation as complete achievers.

It is rightly said by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, "This is my belief: that through difficulties and problems God gives us the opportunity to grow. So when your hopes and dreams and goals are dashed, search among the wreckage, you may find a golden opportunity hidden in the ruins." Let us introspect, let us all find the ray of hope within us, and let us start converting our difficulties into opportunities. In spite of all the challenges that education system is facing right now, it is constantly trying to make it better in every situation. And it is through the efforts of everyone who are connected directly and indirectly to the educational institutions, that the newer approaches are set and better world is being formed!