

Inaugural Speech of Hon’l Governor, Uttar Pradesh in the International Webinar on “COVID-19: A New Normal in Higher & Technical Education”

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All Vice Chancellors, Chairmen, Directors, Deans and distinguished attendees

As the Chancellor of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow, I welcome all the dignitaries present in the webinar organized by the University.

The theme of this webinar 'COVID-19: A New Normal in Higher and Technical Education' organized by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University is very relevant in the current global situation. I am confident that your valuable ideas will prove useful to overcome new challenges and define a "new dimension" in dealing with the situations arising out of COVID-19.

The outbreak of the corona virus has caused problems in the functioning of all countries of the world. Health, medicine, education, business, economy, etc. are all affected badly.

The governments of all countries, institutions, doctors, experts and academicians are working together on the construction of a new path for the future in accordance with the present scenario. The disruption in continuity of education has presented, among teachers and prospective torch bearers, a very natural concern for the future. Certainly this is the right time to vindicate the four pillars of education: Learning to Know (Jyanyog), Learning to Do (Karmayog), Learning to Live Together (Sahayog) and Learning to Be (Atmayog).

At present, every aspect of local and global education suffers from the crisis of COVID-19. It has influenced every aspect of life. In the coming times, this horrific crisis will result in a huge change in the outlook of living life. We have to change our lifestyle for our survival and also be ready to face the present and future perspective of COVID-19.

As governments are trying to revitalize society and resume business, educational institutions and universities will also gradually reopen their campuses to begin the normal teaching-learning process. The rules of the social distancing will continue in accordance with the standard operating practices issued by the Central and State Governments from time to time, which will affect the process of teaching and learning in academic campuses.

In the present day teaching process, online learning system was brought up in a very short period of time. It has given impetus to new formats of pedagogy. A

tremendous initiative has been taken by academicians and institutes to promote online education. In the last few weeks, higher & technical education institutions have made significant efforts to keep pace with the situation arising out of the present crisis with flexibility. We will certainly have to work in this direction to bring institutional flexibility in higher & technical education.

Universities have a great opportunity to prove their credibility in society that they can serve as sources of knowledge and sources of expertise for the society. Corona virus-related disruptions may give teachers time to rethink in the area of education reform.

Technology will certainly play an important role in educating future generations and will play a catalytic role in bridging the digital gap in education. At the present time, knowledge is just a mouse click away because of the Internet. In this context, one has to consider redefining the teacher's role.

Since World War II, it has never happened worldwide that all schools and educational institutions have gone into lockdown at the same time and for the same reason. While we know that the impact of this virus will be far-reaching and what it may mean in the long term in the field of education, there is a great need to reconsider it.

In view of the present crisis, teachers and other people associated with the world of education are emphasizing the need to meditate on how to educate future generations. With regard to all the complications and disruptions that have arisen

as a result of this crisis, we have to educate our younger generation today, ask some questions from the self, and motivate them to find answers to the questions related to the rationality of the training they are taking.

In today's scenario, all the academicians are constantly trying to make contact with the students located in the far-flung areas. If seen in this context, it is not only a good opportunity to assess and analyze this situation, but will also help us in deciding the magnitude and direction of the study of future generations.

COVID-19 is an epidemic, which shows how globally we are connected to each other. Concepts such as isolated issues and tasks have no existence. Successful people need to understand this inter-relationship in the coming decades and work in a collaborative manner globally, freeing themselves from the bondage of boundaries and eliminating mutual differences.

The notion of a teacher as a knowledge-holder who imparts knowledge to his or her students is no longer fit for the purpose of 21st century education, especially in the context of the four pillars of learning. When the student is capable of acquiring knowledge through their phone, tablet or computer and is learning technical skills, there is a need to redefine the role of an academician in the classroom.

Today, widespread use of technology has become necessary for education. Educational institutions are getting compelled to develop digital distance education material for students of all fields by using available technical capability and resources. To make it possible for students to have access to education, academicians from all over the world have to try new methods along with new possibilities and complete them with full patience.

After the end of the pandemic, our higher and technical education system is likely to undergo radical changes in the regular and adult education system.

It is noteworthy that mature learners and students are more interested in the minutest details, which allow them to acquire specific knowledge and skills. Perhaps the COVID-19 epidemic may also be a commercial opportunity for universities to develop new models that have not been widely available until today.

International visiting professors are playing an important role in teaching their courses online and providing international experience at the students' doorsteps, which is commendable.

On this occasion, I would like to appreciate the fact that Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University has developed the use of e-course materials and video lectures and provided them through the ERP to more than 200K students. The University has also collaborated with other medical research institutes and universities to develop novel medical products.

I would like to praise Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, Vice Chancellor of the University for his work on social relevance such as running the Online Ideathon Competition and running the community kitchen in the name of Kalam Annan Kshetra.

I wish the success of this lecture series through this webinar and wish everyone well.

Jai Hind- Jai Bharat !