Higher Education Institutes adopted online teaching methods for academics/research during lockdown due to Covid-19

All the institutions at the very onset of the lockdown adopted the method of online teaching, viva voce-examinations of Ph D thesis, projects & seminars so as to ensure that the curricular interactions with students are not hampered. The Universities took number of initiatives to make optimal use of e-learning tools including creating an exclusive webpage for these tools. In addition, e-learning platform was also used for internal evaluation, student internships, and placement of students. The affiliating universities also guided and mentored colleges affiliated to them to reach out to students through IT enabled platforms of information delivery. The faculty, scholars and students are being engaged in webinars by universities as well as colleges where a series of such events were coordinated during the lockdown period. Experts from various national institutions, industry experts, and the judiciary participated in these sessions in the fields of education, administration, law, business management, humanities, science & technology innovative teaching & research. At this critical juncture, our University and college teachers are continuing with the curriculum delivery through technology enabled teaching and learning process using ICT tools and e-resources. There are several ICT initiatives of MHRD, UGC and its Inter University Centers (IUCs), Information and Library Network (INFILIBNET), Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) in the form of digital platforms which are being accessed by teachers, students and researchers of Universities and Colleges in order to ensure continuity of teaching and learning during this period. The universities have compiled all such e-resources related initiatives in the form of e-Contents, MOOCs, e-learning Software and Applications available on NMEICT website. The information about e-contents availability and various UGC ICT initiatives like CEC (for UG courses), e-pathshala (for PG courses), SWAYAM Online courses, UG/PG MOOCs, NPTEL (for Engineering Courses) have been made available for the benefit of students. It has been informed by many teachers that students are using e-content from CEC, NPTEL, ePG-Pathshala, SWAYAM for gaining extra knowledge and completing their course curriculum. Some universities have also conducted capacity building sessions for two days for the Head of Departments and In charges of different departments in the campus after visiting building to building clustering the departments in that building in order to equip teachers for imparting education through e-learning platform. During capacity building programs various e-learning initiatives were explained.

Higher Education Department adopted online methods for administrative works during lockdown

The Higher education department adopted online methods to run daily routine administrative works during the lockdown and curfew. The administrative work continued without any hindrances through the online system. All the files were being cleared through the online system put in place by the Punjab Government. The governance even in the universities is being practiced through the e-portals and web-enabled systems in the new-normal situation.
HIGH EDUCATION INSTITUTES HELD TELE-PYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING & CARRIED 
OUT SANITIZATION ACTIVITIES

As anxiety levels are running high and people have a feeling of disconnect, MYAS-GNDU Department of Sports Science and Medicine is imparting Tele-Psychological Counseling. The teachers were ever-available to their respective students & scholars for any academic counseling during this period. All institutions across the state have been advised to install thermal scanners and sanitizing equipment. The thermal screenings, behavioral change (like wearing masks, gloves & physical distancing etc.) and the adaptability to sync with the changed situation are being promoted in all the institutions. Clear cut instructions have been issued to all to ensure social distancing and sanitization. The Covid-19 Isolation Centres have been established on the university and college campuses in boys & girls hostels, campus residents are provided with essential health-care. A few students at G N D University have availed this facility in coordination with the District Health Authority and have successfully completed their quarantine period.

The civil administration is also being provided with every possible help in form of man power as well as the Equipment support where ever possible by the universities and colleges of the state. Universities has formed COVID-19 help lines in which a team of experts/counselors/psychologists is available for helping the students and employees regarding various issues like anxiety, stress, depression, interpersonal crisis etc. Experts for Yoga, Diet etc are also available for the help. The detail of committee members along with their mobile numbers have been shared by all institutions with their students through websites and other online platforms and this information has been circulated among all the students and teachers individually as well.

HIGH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED ONLINE PROGRAM FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS

Research Centre for Technology Development for Differently Abled People, Department of Computer Science Punjabi University Patiala, during this lockdown period has conducted two important activities for Divyangjans. On 13-05-2020, this centre in coloration with Samagra Sikhya Abhiyan, Department of School Education, and Government of Punjab has organized National Level Seminar on the theme “Providing Education to Differently Abled Persons during COVID-19 Pandemic” in which 500+ participants joined. After this grand success of this program, Government of Punjab has coordinated with this centre for conducting 8 days Multi Category Disability Online National Training Programme for Special Educators and Volunteers from 18-05-2020 to 25-05-2020. It is a proud moment to share those 1200 special educators and volunteers are participating daily in this programme.