

Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
(Former Vice Chancellor, BPS Women University, Haryana)
Secretary General

डॉ. (श्रीमती) पंकज मित्रल
(पूर्व कुलपति, बीपीएस महिला विश्वविद्यालय, हरियाणा)
महासचिव



Association of Indian Universities

AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg),
New Delhi-110 002

भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय संघ

ए०आई०यू० हाउस, 16, कॉमरेड इंद्रजीत गुप्ता मार्ग
(कोटला मार्ग), नई दिल्ली-110 002

D.O.No.F. AIU/SG/2020

March 24, 2020

Subject: Protecting the academic interests of the students and the universities in the wake of Corona (Covid-19) Pandemic.

Dear Vice Chancellor/Director,

Healthy greetings from Association of Indian Universities!

One of the main objectives of the Association of Indian Universities is to bring together all the universities in India on a common platform to protect the interest of the students as well as the universities by way of sharing information and increasing co-operation.

As you are aware, the Corona Pandemic has brought the world to a halt and many of the nations have announced complete lockdown. Even in India, all the universities and colleges have been closed and students have been sent back to their homes. The semester was midway and the teaching was in full swing, and the sudden unexpected closure may lead to huge loss to the students. In this hour of crisis, we all need to come together to minimize the academic losses to our stakeholders.

AIU is mindful of India's young demography and the task of benchmarking Indian Higher education with the best of global peers. The role of Guru in direct contact or like the remote impact of Dronacharya is very significant in shaping the destiny and lives of our young students. Young students in such times tend to digress and tend to apply their digital prowess to recreational use rather than to keep learning going. They need reminders and engaging communication, for completing the half-done classes or assessments or self-study.

Such a danger of disruption or challenge has inspired and prompted many institutes and universities to respond to the challenge in a big way by using technology to prevent any lockdown or slowdown in their digital classroom spaces. These include online teaching by universities, whatsapp courses, using existing e-content available on various sites and mapping them with their own courses, using Moodle to create their own courses, reworking on pedagogy, process, assessment, interaction and in leveraging on the digital India and tech-savvy millennials. Each approach or solution has a lesson or wisdom to offer. We at AIU, want that the good practices adopted by these universities in combating the impact of Corona by adopting various strategies by using technology to deliver the content online is shared amongst our member universities.

Contd...2

AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110 002

Phone: +91 11 2323 6105 Fax: +91 11 2323 2131 E-mail: sgoffice@aiu.ac.in, pankajugc@gmail.com; Website: www.aiu.ac.in

We have, therefore, created a Blog with URL <https://aiubloggroup.wordpress.com/> to enable universities to share their experiences, best practices adopted in this hour of crisis, open sourcing of e-content, mapping of courses with the content already available on various sites as well as the difficulties and concerns so that we can learn from the experiences of each other.

You all are requested to contribute to the blog to enrich our own academic community and to help each other in this unprecedented situation. Your contributions will go a long way in helping our 3.75 crore students in our universities and colleges who are presently drawing a blank due to unavailability of proper guidelines in this area.

Based on the suggestions received in the blog, we at AIU can also issue common advisory to our universities on use of technology to keep our students engaged to ensure that the lockdown does not adversely impact the academic space.

AIU has also issued a notification about a one-day Online workshop by QASPIR (available on AIU website) on 31st March on "*Online Learning for Faculty: what you need to know and prepare for a successful transaction of your curriculum*" which you may consider for suggesting to your faculty.

Your cooperation is valuable. Your flexibility and motivation in taking up this task will help us to fulfill our mission. Your health and safety along with the interest of the students are of paramount importance to us.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Pankaj Mittal)

The Vice Chancellor / Director of all Member Universities.