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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Students and Faculty,

Time and again we have spoken about developing multiple perspectives to understand problems with a view to coming up with the so-called 'right' solution. The question that logically arises is that how do we develop these perspectives? The answer to this lies in 'research' and 'critical thinking'. Both the processes are intricately linked and I shall proceed to examine the centrality of these in academic life.

For a student, it is imperative to understand the research process, the instruments involved and apply the same to work on projects. The research process cannot be delinked from collating and analyzing information from different sources irrespective of the disciplines/domains. Frameworks of understanding problems can be developed from these and are helpful in developing sound research designs. Similarly, critical thinking involves a constant questioning with the famous 'W's – Why, What, When, Where, and How? Along with this, it is about seeking answers that are embedded in 'evidence'. Any statement without the latter in the form of statistics, factual or any documented information is an assumption.

As faculty, there is a huge task on our delicate shoulders – to teach these skills, look out for opportunities to undertake research and most importantly, to bring the same to the classroom. This implies looking out for areas where they can show their related research contributions and also engaging in multi-level discussions across departments.

I would like to conclude by saying that these core competencies are essential in liberal arts programs, especially when institutions attempt to design programs and articulate their expectations from the outgoing graduates. Moreover, these are globally recognized as being vital in employment, higher education, and related spheres. Signing off, I would like to encourage you'll to 'internalize' these as they need to be enshrined in the academic culture.

Best Wishes

Dr. Sonam Mansukhani

Associate Dean and Professor

Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication

Karnavati University

Ahmedabad

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Glimpses of how the faculties train and prepare themselves for teaching the students. The faculties attended Faculty Development Program organized by the university in summer to enrich and inculcate current and best teaching styles in the classroom. A few sessions and photographs are as follows

1). Dr Tapas Kumar Dalapati discussed nuances of research and academic writing On one of the 10 day FDP being conducted at Karnavati University, Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication (USLM), invited Dr. Tapas Kumar Dalapati, Professor and Chairperson, Center for Studies in Society and Development (CSSD) and School of Social Sciences (SSS), Central University of Gujarat. The day was divided into three sessions.

First Session - Foundation of Social Research: Dr. Tapas Dalpati started with the issues of the foundations of social scientific research and explained how it is different from natural science research. Dr. Dalpati in his talk focused on the challenges of social science research and highlighted the difference between methods and methodology. He stressed on the research formulation and said that the focus should be on understanding the theoretical framework and not on data collection and interpretation to maintain the research rigor.

Second Session - Critical Reading for Literature Review: Dr Dalpati in the second session began with explaining the meaning, concept and importance of Literature review. He discussed various aspects including identifying research gaps, finding methodological inconsistencies, and justification of new research understanding of historical background. He explained various aspects in detail and demonstrated these principles. Dr. Tapas also described in detail the process to do literature review.

Third Session - Research Proposal Writing: In the third and last session of the day, Dr. Dalpati explained in detail the process of writing a research proposal. He further explained the issue of budget and grants in detail. Dr. Dalpati, who has worked in a pure research organization, also described the way to defend the proposal. He gave a list of different social science research organizations from which one should seek grants and funds. Lastly, the faculty discussed with the guest about the challenges and the logic of research at early stages of academia. Faculty also discussed the challenges of the research with undergraduate students in fields of performing art. The session was informative and interactive where almost all the vital areas of research in social media were discussed at length.

2). Dr Mamta Brahmbhatt shed light on Quantitative Research and nuances of SPSS The ten-day faculty development programme, scheduled from 27 June – 7 July 2022. Sessions from 27 June to 29 June 2022 were conducted at University level while sessions from 30 June to 7 July were conducted at respective school level. On 30 June 2022, Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication (USLM), invited Dr Mamta Brahmbhatt, Associate Professor - Quantitative Analysis and Research Methodology B.K. School of Professional & Management Studies, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, to discuss research and its various aspects. The day was divided into three sessions, in the first session, Dr Brahmbhatt discussed Introduction to research, in the second session of the day she discussed SPSS and its functions, in the final session she talked about Inferential data analysis using SPSS.

First Session - Introduction to Research: The session was insightful as Dr Brahmbhatt gave insights on the basics of research, research planning and methodology. She discussed the nuances related to selecting the database and highlighted how research articles should be read effectively to build upon a research problem. She also elaborated on reaching the title from the broader interest area of the researcher. Dr Brahmbhatt also discussed scales and introduced Orange, the software for Qualitative Research and Word Mapping.

Second Session - Handshake with SPSS: Dr Brahmbhatt in the second session demonstrated the use of SPSS. She elaborated on how to prepare SPSS ready files from Google Forms and other survey tools. She further explained how to properly present data in terms of graphs, tables and presentation. Faculty members practiced on SPSS with her. Using 2 files she discussed statistical tools like Chi Square and demonstrated the same on SPSS.

Third Session - Inferential data analysis using SPSS: In the third session of the day, the discussion started with definition and understanding of inferential statistics and difference between descriptive and inferential analysis. She further defined parameters and Null Hypothesis and discussed the new trends about writing hypotheses. Dr Brahmbhatt further talked about T-test and T-test family giving various examples. She also defined ANOVA and emphasized the difference and use of T-test and ANOVA. Dr Brahmbhatt, demonstrated how to get a P-P Graph and working with Outliers. She also discussed that Skewness when divided by Kurtosis if we get 1.96 the data is normal. Dr Brahmbhatt explained that a level of significance less than 0.05 is rejected. Functions of inferential analysis were also discussed with respect to paired or related data. Dr Brahmbhatt emphasized that if we have to be very careful with what we give in as input because the quality of the data we input will reflect on the quality of output. Major Outcome of the Workshop:

- Selecting online database
- References and finding the right Bibliography to read
- Coming up at the title from the wide subject area
- Limitations of Research areas (and not Researcher) so that gaps can be identified
- Network with researchers to gain on expertise
- Demonstration of SPSS
- Investigation whether the data is Normal
- Inferential Statistics is checked upon level of significance

The FDP provided faculty with valuable insights and nuances of Quantitative Research and SPSS were discussed, demonstrated and practiced.

3). Dr Susmita Halder discussed the impact of the COVID Pandemic on Students On Day 5 of the 10 day FDP being conducted at Karnavati University, 01 July 2022, Unitedworld School of Liberal Arts and Mass Communication (USLM), invited Dr Susmita Halder, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Psychology; St. Xavier's University, Kolkata to discuss Post covid effects in students: A challenge for academicians. The day was divided into three sessions. Dr Halder discussed the impact of COVID on students and the general population.

First Session: The session was insightful as Dr Halder gave insights on the impact of the pandemic on mental health and the surge in clients that the mental health sector witnessed. She also emphasized that the impact of COVID was not homogenous rather than heterogenous and in relation to individual psychological characteristics. Reflecting on the impact she discussed how guilt manifested itself in the life and mind of people leading to distress and stress reaction and majorly people were able to cope with the same. Dr Halder also discussed common changes during the time of pandemic in the Indian population, as she highlighted that the population adopted a different lifestyle adapting to the pandemic.

Second Session: The second session began with a general discussion about psychology and their perceptions of the subject. Talking about the topic Dr Halder highlighted that students faced impacts in terms of Physical Health, Social Closure, Poor Nutrition and Stress and Anxiety. Focusing on academics she discussed the knowledge gap, digital dependence, cognition and mental health faced by students. She further talked about mental health and discussed issues like depression, anxiety, health anxiety, substance use, binge eating, career anxiety and irritability amongst other issues.

Third Session: In the third and last session of the day, discussion moved towards Digital Addiction that students are facing post pandemic. Dr Halder highlighted that digital addiction affects academic functions, cognitive, personal and emotional health, social health and legal aspects. Faculty discussed various contemporary issues in the light of the topic. Dr Halder further discussed student testimony at the end to bring in more specific and practical aspects of the impact of pandemic in student life.

The FDP provided faculty an opportunity to understand the impact of COVID lockdown in the life of students and on their physical, social and mental health. In conclusion Dr Halder emphasized that teachers should identify behavioral patterns of students so that we can work towards the wellbeing of the students.

Report Submitted by : Ms. Mudita Raj, Assistant Professor, USLM, KU



NAZM

कौन-सी ग़ज़ल सुनोगी, प्रियतम?

कौन-सी ग़ज़ल सुनोगी, प्रियतम?

मुझे ऐसी ग़ज़ल सुनाना तुम

जिसमें भूख से बच्चें बिलखते ना हो
और दर्द से माँ सिसकती ना हो
जिसमें मुफ़लिस शाद रहे
माँओं की गोद आबाद रहे।

सुनाओ तो ऐसी ग़ज़ल सुनाना तुम

जिसमें ख़िज़ा का मौसम ना हो
जिसमें कोई दर्द-औ-ग़म ना हो
जिसमें फ़ज़ा-ए-नौ बहार चले
जिसमें मोहब्बत-औ-प्यार पले।

तुम्हें ऐसी ग़ज़ल सुनाऊ मैं कैसे?

यहाँ भूख से बच्चे बिलखते हैं
दर्द-औ-ग़म की आँखें भरते हैं
यहाँ मुफ़लिस ही तो मरते हैं

यहाँ हर-सू ख़िज़ा का आलम है
मोहब्बत केहाँ, दर्द-औ-ग़म है
ख़ुशी केहाँ, आँखें नम है।

चलो, ऐसी ग़ज़ल बनाये हम
जहाँ, जो तुम चाहती थी वैसा हो।

-हिमांशु पारचा
सहायक प्राध्यापक, दर्शनशास्त्र

THE PERILS OF REFORM

Reform is always a controversial and contested notion, more so in politics. The recently announced 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment into the armed forces is the latest such instance. Numerous protests raged in several parts of India, with protesters going on a rampage and destroying public property in order to compel the government to rescind the move. Earlier, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the farm bills proposed for agricultural reform too saw vociferous agitations by several sections of society, forcing the government to withdraw these proposals.

In a nation so wedded to the status quo, reforms are a bitter pill to swallow. Cut back to 1991, when the Indian government finally bit the bullet and ushered in the era of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). Apprehensions over the rationale and implementation of the LPG strategy had resulted in vehement opposition to the reform programme. In hindsight, few would dispute the assertion that LPG has benefited the Indian economy tremendously. Reforms essentially signify short term pain for long term gain. However, reforms within democratic systems are subject to the number game, and politicians in general are loathe to undertake bold measures for fear of electoral losses. This is the quandary India finds itself in- how to ensure political and economic reform without upsetting the electoral apple cart.

Prof. Arjun Siddharth
Political Science
USLM, KU

A NEW JOURNEY TOWARDS THE LIBERAL EDUCATION

Background

“Change is the key structure of life”- with this quote, we have observed the changes in our cognitive, social, behavioral, and cultural aspects over the last few decades. Most significantly, there has been a radical transformation in the education sector. Education refers to acquiring skills, knowledge, values, beliefs, and habits. In earlier days, people transmitted knowledge by writing and reading from one generation to another generation. But the new education system is more focused on blended, experiential learning and online learning. From civilization, education has played an integral part in everyone's lives. However, education serves the function of the development of society in all aspects. The most recent concept of liberal education refers to a multidisciplinary approach that allows students to explore what drives them most.

Shift from textbook classes to online classes and evidence-based practices

Due to technological advancement and to make students better able to connect theories with practical approaches, new learning practices have become the preferred teaching style for all levels. The primary objectives of the present education system are to promote skill-based education, which is possible by enhancing the students' practical skills. Moreover, to progress in the global system, one should develop more innovative and creative skills in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary aspects. Hence, recent evidence-based online education programs prepare more promising and pragmatic technocrats.

The Liberal Education Model

The liberal education system fosters a specific environment that is participatory and provides a transformational experience to aid in personal and professional journeys. It helps to grow critical thinking abilities and to lead a meaningful life. In today's world, jobs of the 21st century will require the potential to think creatively and critically to impact one's actions on the environment. We have seen how arts and humanities were long considered impractical models in earlier days, but the recent phenomenon of liberal education has highlighted the skills from every discipline to create tangible changes for the greater social good. Students' cumulative progress is paramount as an essential outcome of liberal education. Additionally, it offers some support in developing social obligation-related feelings.

Scope of Liberal Education Model

Liberal education is a method that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with difficulty, diversity, and transformation. It includes the knowledge of human culture and the natural world, practical skills with intelligence, personal and social responsibility, and integration with application-based knowledge. However, the following are the significant scopes of a liberal education:

- To expand new career opportunities
- Develop an analytical, cultural, and imaginative understanding
- Develop emotional intelligence, which facilitates the development of a peaceful society
- To deal with career-related uncertainties

Conclusion

As educators, we all have experienced the need for experiential learning, specifically during the Covid pandemic. Hence, academic institutions can require holistic development after structural and functional redesigning. Furthermore, finding competent instructors or teachers is another challenge in imbibing liberal education. However, despite some drawbacks, strengths are more related to shifting towards liberal education.

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ARKITA PAL

Arkita.pal91@gmail.com

Ph. No. 9830907353

STUDENTS SPEAK



1. Aqib Pathan

"USLM has been a great experience being a part of such an institution which not only provided me with quality education but also helped me to groom my overall personality. The institute has provided me with the best possible platform to excel in my career interests. During my time at the department, I was introduced to various courses which have broadened my spectrum of thinking. Even during the pandemic, I was able to find a job in my area of interest due to the skills and knowledge acquired during my course."

Aqib Pathan BA(H) Media Studies (2017-2020)
Currently working with Scroll



2. Yashita Chawla

"My Journey at Karnavati university as a student of USLM was more like a roller coaster ride, every day a new challenge, new learning, and lots of fun. To be very honest, all this won't be possible without the support and involvement of our faculties who stood as a pillar for us through thick and thin. They were more like a friend than just a teacher who comes to class to deliver lectures. I have changed a lot within these four years from an introvert to an extrovert and this was possible as I was provided with an environment that made me feel safe to express myself, my opinions openly without being judged. I have a lot to share but don't have enough words to express the connection which was shared by this university and ofc the faculties. I can't thank them enough. At last, best wishes to all my juniors."

Yashita Chawla BA(H) Media Studies (2017-2020)
Currently working with Byjus as an associate social media accountant.



3. Ayushi Rami

I joined USLM because I was unsure about my career and now I am proud to say that I have found my path. Being the first batch of the department was very risky but soon that doubt vanished. Four years felt like yesterday at USLM, it has helped me to grow under its vast umbrella of opportunities. Faculties have put immense efforts to guide us in theoretical, practical and technical skills which helps us in the corporate world. I have grown a lot in this journey, they have provided us with a platform to build character by enhancing leadership and negotiation skills through various activities.

Ayushi Rami BA(H) Liberal Arts (2017-2020)
Gold Medalist



USLM

Karnavati University

A/907, Uvarsad-Vavol Road, Uvarsad,
Gandhinagar – 382422, Gujarat

Tel: 079 3053 5083, 3053 5084
www.karnavatiuniversity.edu.in/uslm

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