

A Working Academic Model that includes Value Based / Non-Technical Courses in Technical Academic Programs – Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar

The eight year Flexible Academic Program (FAP), proposed by Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad (IIIT-A), Prayagraj, is an extremely innovative initiative, that encompasses almost all the aspects of academic training, that is needed for a student, wishing to pursue a career in the field of Information Technology.

The mandatory inclusion of Non-Technical / Miscellaneous / Value Based courses, in every semester of the FAP, is definitely a very welcome step. Besides providing knowledge about Non-Technical fields (humanities, business, etc.), these courses will also give an opportunity to the students to explore various life management tools and techniques, which will be useful in ascertaining their all-round development, and transforming them into worthy global citizens.

We are really thankful to IIIT-A for inviting us to be a Participating Institute (PI) in the FAP, and for providing us an opportunity to share our views on the inclusion of Non-Technical courses in the FAP. In this regard, we would like to share the example of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar (DSVV) (www.dsvv.ac.in), as a working academic model, that includes value based / non-technical courses in technical academic programs, ever since its establishment in 2002, i.e. for the past 19 years.

Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar (DSVV), is an outcome of the divine vision of noted saint-scholar-philosopher Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya ji, the founder of All World Gayatri Pariwar (www.awgp.org). Acharyaji had great expectations from the youth. He used to say with extreme confidence that if the consciousness of the youth could be enlightened, we would readily usher in the new era of peace and harmony. He used to be filled with joy when he visualized the future based on the potential and capabilities of the youth. He had envisioned a University where truthful, great and divine human beings could be created, who would be devoted to uplifting the humanity. DSVV was established with this noble vision, which is aptly reflected in the first two lines of its कुलगीत –
मानवी उत्थान का जो, अनवरत आधार है।
देव संस्कृति विश्वविद्यालय सृजन का द्वार है।।

The Vision of DSVV states: “unite contemporary education with spiritual training to cultivate well-rounded, competent and personally uplifted graduates, who possess a scientifically grounded understanding and experience of spiritual transformation, and a powerful drive to use their gifts to promote the greater good of society”

The Mission of the University is as follows:

1. Confluence of traditional education with science and spirituality
2. Creation of devoted, righteous and learned students
3. Infusion of scientific spirituality into life style
4. Creation of citizens well-endowed with nationalistic ideals
5. Guiding future leaders by developing human values and oneness towards all
6. Conducting conventional research in non-conventional disciplines

In addition to offering undergraduate, post-graduate, doctoral programs in wide array of subjects such as Yogic Science and Human Consciousness, Psychology, History and Indian Culture, Theology, Computer Science and Application, Animation, Ayurveda and Holistic

Health, Tourism Management, Mathematics, Rural Entrepreneurship and Development, Environmental Science, Life Management, Scientific Spirituality, Languages, Education, Journalism and Mass Communication, etc., the University specializes in the character development of its students through fostering an uplifted lifestyle based on spiritual practices. The result is well-rounded and dynamic graduates who wish to channelize their skills towards serving the needs of the society.

The academic structure of the University is divided into four Schools.

1. School of Indology includes the Departments of Yogic Science and Human Consciousness, Ayurveda and Holistic Health, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Vedic Studies and Sanskrit, Hindi, History and Indian Culture, Indian Classical Music
2. School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Foundation Courses includes the Departments of English, Education, Psychology, Life Management, Scientific Spirituality, Theology and Divinity
3. School of Technology, Communication and Management includes the Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, Tourism Management, Journalism and Mass Communication, Animation and Visual Effects
4. School of Biological Sciences and Sustainability includes the Departments of Medicinal Plants, Environmental Science, Rural Studies and Sustainability

Undergraduate students, pursuing technical academic programs, have to select Generic Electives (GE) and Skill Enhancement Courses (SEC) from pre-decided pool of courses, that also include Miscellaneous / Non-Technical / Value Based courses, available at DSVV. This is similar to the format proposed in the FAP.

A course on “Life Management” is a compulsory 2 Credit course (including both theoretical and activity based sections), in every semester of every academic program of DSVV. Well structured syllabi are available for each semester of certificate, diploma, graduation, post-graduate diploma, and masters programs; it is also a compulsory course in the course-work for Ph.D. students.

A one month Social Internship, having duly assigned Credits, is also a compulsory part of every academic program.

Besides this, DSVV is a completely residential University, having a pristine Spiritual Environment, with a daily routine that includes Prayer, Meditation, Yagya, Japa, Yoga, etc. in the morning, playing of inspirational songs and Naad Yoga (music meditation) in the evening, and a healthy and satvik diet.

All these things together lead to the character development of the students, and result is well-rounded and dynamic graduates.

DSVV would be readily willing to share this experience in the development of the FAP, and contribute as much as possible as a Participating Institute.