

Journey of Value Education at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow

The journey of value education in Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) has been quite encouraging. Value Education was introduced in university with as one-day seminar on “Integration of human values in Technical Education” on 10th January, 2009 at UPTU to address the need and role of value education in the holistic development of nation. The seminar was conducted in the presence of Shri Alok Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary of Vocational and Technical Education, Government of UP, Shri Rakesh Mittal, IAS, Social Welfare Commissioner and Chief Coordinator of “Kabir Peace Mission”, Prof. PremVrat the then, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor UPTU, Prof. RR Gaur, a renowned Professor at IIT Delhi and Prof. G. P. Bagaria HBTI, Kanpur. The directors and principles of UPTU affiliated institutes also participated in the seminar to understand the real need and application of the value education.

A meeting of Convener of Board of Studies of the university was held in the chairmanship of then, Vice Chancellor, Prof. PremVrat, on 12 January, 2009 after the seminar to discuss and consider the introduction of the value education as a subject across the courses offered by the university. The committee had taken the significant steps after getting inspired and taking the example from success story of implementation of value education in technical education at IIIT Hyderabad and decided to introduce value education in the form of a subject as an audit course entitled “Human Values and Professional Ethics” in the curriculum of B. Tech., B. Pharm., BHMCT, BFAD, B. Arch, MCA and MBA courses in all its 600 affiliated institutes. The course initially included two hours lecture and two hours practice sessions (in the form of discussion, sharing of experiences and case study) per week. Students could appear for this subject in any year and was supposed to clear this subject in their degree course.

Since value education was introduced as a subject, a book and a teacher’s manual were prepared by Prof. RR Gaur, Prof. Rajeev Sangal and Prof. G.P.Bagaria before offering the subject in the second semester of 2009. It was also decided that teachers should go through the teacher’s orientation program (TOP) before teaching this course. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of the then Vice Chancellor Prof. Prem Vrat for successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the course. Prof. G.P. Bagaria was given the responsibility of convener of TOP.

In order to have proper feel of contents, process and guideline of value education, two one-day workshops were conducted for the directors and chairpersons of the UPTU affiliated institutes, at RKGIT, Ghaziabad and BBDIT Lucknow on 13 May 2009 & 17 May 2009, respectively. This course is based on the self-exploration that’s why the teaching methodology of this course is different. Hence the teachers’ training is important. In order to prepare the teachers for the teaching of this subject, workshops have been conducted since then in the following formats: One-day, two-day and three-day workshops for the awareness of teachers in different cities and eight-day full time residential workshop for faculty members preparing to teach this course.

In 2012, under the stewardship of Prof. S. K. Kak, then Vice Chancellor Mahamaya Technical University Noida (in 2011 UPTU was split into two parts, UPTU and MTU; now they are reunited), two short workshops were held at Noida in which 80 directors, chairpersons and heads of the department of different institutions of Noida and Ghaziabad region had participated.

In 2015 the present VC Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak has taken following steps for the effective implementation of Value Education in University.

1. One-day Sharing And Feedback Session: In October 2015 a one-day sharing and feedback session at JSS Noida was organized under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. V. K. Pathak. All the Deans, Directors/Chairpersons of affiliated institute/college, faculty members and students were present in the programme. Another two-day evaluation and implementation meeting on "Human Value & Professional Ethics" was conducted at Bansal Institute of Engineering & Technology with core members of value education and chairpersons as well as directors of UPTU affiliated institutes located in Lucknow and nearby regions. It was recommended that for effective implementation of HVPE course, it should be added as a credit course and should be implemented in second year of degree course. The university has decided to offer it in the second year of degree programs as a credit course from the next academic year.

2. Establishment of an office for Value Education Cell at University Campus: An office has been established in University campus for the Value Education related work.

3. Increased participation of teacher for training: 493 faculty members have been trained from 2009 to 2014 through 21 FDP/TOP. 563 faculty members have been trained from Dec 2015 to July 2016, through 7 FDP/TOP. Till now total 28 FDPs/TOPs have been conducted and total 1156 Faculty members have been trained through these FDPs/TOPs.

4. Website: The initiative of VC resulted into the launch of a separate website related to Value Education. The website contains video lectures, study material and other information of value education is online for all.

5. Nodal Center: The volume of institutes and students in the university making it difficult for effective management of value education activities from university campus office. Hence, five nodal centers have been established at RVIT Bijnore, ABES Ghaziabad, AKG Ghaziabad, MPEC Kanpur and HCST Mathura. In due course of time, university is planning to establish few more nodal centers, especially in eastern UP.

6. Credit Course: Initially this course was an audit course. The marks of this subject were not added in the percentage of the students. They only need to pass this subject. Due to which, it was found that students, teachers and some colleges were not taking this subject sincerely. Hence, the subject has been made as a credit course.

Refresher Course: It has been observed that only one training program is not enough for teachers to live the value based life and inspire the students by their living. For living, deep understanding is required. In order to give them deep understanding of the subject, refresher courses and higher level courses are required for the teachers. From 2015 onwards these program are being organized. Till now two programs have been organized. The above said program are for the teachers who have already attended the 8 days Teachers Orientation Program (TOP). This workshop share the methodology, how one can live accordingly.

Many institutes are now organizing weekly meetings with those faculty members who have gone through the short and full eight days workshops conducted by the university. Many faculty members re-attended the eight-day teachers' orientation program with their family members and also attended the higher level workshops. Some faculty members are practicing this more rigorously and in continuation of the same they are facilitating the workshop in other institutions and universities as resource persons. Faculty members of some institutes are voluntarily conducting the workshops on their own for the parents of students and for nearby villages.

Almost 80,000 students are graduating every year and hence a large number of students have done this course from the university. Some of them are taking this as a career in their life and pursuing higher education (e.g. M.Tech and one year diploma) at the International Resource Centre for Universal Human Values (Punjab Technical University) Kapurthala, Punjab. Alumni of university working in various fields are in touch with their teachers. They volunteer themselves for workshops, share their experiences and underscore the importance of this course at their work place. Some of them are also conducting the workshop for their colleagues and the community.

Future Plans of University

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University Lucknow, under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, continuing its legacy of imparting value based education to its students and prepares them to face the future challenges and help them to prove to be good citizen of country. The university has the following plans for the coming years.

1. **Enhanced Course induction:** The course induction is a serious concern as in the absence of this no transformation of education seems to be possible in current situation. Hence, the induction programme in the form of workshop/FDP (three-days, eight-days and refresher workshops) in more number for faculty members has been planned. The same will be implemented at the following three different levels:
 - i) **Three-day workshop:** The three-day workshops are planned and proposed for chairpersons and directors of the affiliated institutes. This aims at communicating the need of value education in holistic development and how it can be fulfilled effectively.
 - ii) **Eight-day workshop:** Eight day workshop is designed to prepare faculty members to further share their learning with students in the classroom as part of the curricular input.
 - iii) **Refresher workshop (8-day):** The refresher workshop is also necessary for those faculty members who have already undergone the workshop earlier but with the passage of time they are not in touch with the content or possibly have not taught students in past a couple of years on account of some other important assignments. Hence, regular refresher workshop will be organized.
2. **Workshop for students:** In addition to the above, workshops at different institutes would also be conducted for students by the faculty members who have already attended eight-day workshop and teaching the subject in classroom.
3. **Conversion into credit course:** It is strongly felt that the subject should be taught as credit course as it definitively adds value. The same was recommended by members of the university value education cell during the meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. It is therefore, proposed to change the subject "Human Value & Professional Ethics" into an essential credit course from next academic session of 2017.
4. **Bilingual conduct of subject:** The University has also proposed to teach this subject in *Hindi* and *English* in years to come. Students will have the freedom to take their examination of this subject either in Hindi or English.
5. **Translation of subject book into Hindi:** It has also been decided to provide the study material and book in Hindi language also. Since the subject has been so far taught only in English, study materials and book were also in English language.
6. **Regular meeting of the VE Cell:** The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, who is also the chairman of the VE Cell, is keen to have regular meetings of the VE Cell. This is with view to keep track of the development of plan of actions and implementation of the course throughout the affiliated institutes of the university and to facilitate further progress.
7. **Report publishing:** It has also been decided to publish an annual report of value education activities. The report is to share the impact, challenges and ideas for further improvement, so as to be an encouragement for faculty members and students.

The University has shown its commitment through proposing, structuring and implementing these tasks and activities in formal way. However, these are not all that the university has planned and proposed but have a lot more in its vision to be executed in later stages i.e. introducing research work in this field, developing resource centers and persons, higher level workshops for interested faculty members who have already attended workshop of seven or eight days, etc to name the few.