

Dear Students,

My intention is to give you an overall picture about our immediate response to the situation based on the discussions we had on 18/04/2020.

The big picture

We are all indeed going through an unprecedented period in our life. The young in you have the mental agility to adjust and adapt to epoch changes happening around. In such difficult times, bravery and intelligence are to be almost the same ; those are nothing but the capacity to change internally to be optimistic and move on with resilience . Here the fight is not about swimming against the current but swimming along with it as much as you can or at least try to simply float to conserve yourself. I am sure all of you remember about the “Indus valley” as one of the first human civilizations , which vanished without leaving any trace of reasons for its disappearance. A few anthropologists believe that some unknown disease was the reason and some others believe it was due to an unprecedented drought. At a later period in history , mankind had to experience the terrible and nasty pandemics like Plague and Spanish flu which killed and removed millions of humans en-masse. Humans then took solace in religion and considered all those were God’s wrath. Today we are more fortunate because we know more about biology, mathematics and health science and using these tools we could identify the reason for the pandemic, we could model the virus growth pattern and even could predict where it hits us most. We now have public health regimes in place, we have very sophisticated health facilities and good planning tools to help us to manage and contain the virus attack. WHO has predicted that a proper vaccine may get prepared within two years, and till then we will have to practice appropriate management methods to contain the virus.

So what does it mean to us?

If you can understand the problem you can try to solve it permanently , if not you will have to live with the problem by managing it appropriately.

Being alive is the most important and getting prepared for life after crisis is the next important.

Under the current situation , I think we have no other option than getting ourselves prepared for a long drawn fight against this virus. If so, our life pattern has to undergo a massive tectonic shift. At the same time we are witnessing some other phenomenon too. Nature has started regaining its vitality which means nature can heal itself and can be healthy without humans. If so the self - assigned role of human as nature’s guardian will have no bearing.

Education: How does it affect education?

Covid proves that **education is a “service” not a “ place”**.

According to futurists (the one who studied the rational science of futurology), this pandemic is going to affect our economy and our GDP may be lowered to 1.5 from the current level of 5.5%. We were living together for leveraging the scale of economies. In other words the economy forms the ground for culture. Architecture is said to be one of the by-products of culture, intended to promote the culture of community life through designing appropriate spaces conducive for group living.

When we are physically isolating ourselves against the cultural tendency to group together, our culture itself changes as all forms of connected cultural by-products including education, architecture and design also change .

The stress we find now in our homes is due to the reminiscence of our genetically embedded traces of culture, though we chose to become more isolated by converting into nuclear families.

Restructuring into a three generation joint family system may be a good idea that we may have to consider for future.

CAT Strategy: Not to lose opportunities in a crisis.

The following strategies have been adopted as an immediate response to deal with COVID- 19 lockdown.

Premises considered for making the following recommendations.

- 1: Students are interested in learning and value the need for education
- 2: Students have maturity and self - discipline to follow the time table of classes published before Covid lockdown.
- 3: It is assumed that the college would only get about 20 working days to wrap up the semester after reopening.
- 4: Out of these 20 working days, the student may need about 10 working days to complete the production of design drawings, presentation drawings, models etc for the jury examination.
- 5:About 10 working days are required to wrap up theory papers, tests 2 and 3 and practical lab work courses.

A: Theory subjects: One of the general complaints was that there is difficulty in learning online.

Action recommended: For descriptive subjects teachers will be preparing audio/video or combined medium to complete the course. Each a/v class material will be focused on critical understanding and for exams. Reference and descriptions will be supplied for self learning . Teachers would be

arranging face to face group meetings in the presence of an external senior faculty as auditor. One general complaint is that students are not very serious in attending online courses, especially the f2f meeting according to teachers. Hence you are advised to make use of such opportunities seriously by demonstrating the required discipline and maturity as otherwise you won't be able to get sufficient time and catch up after commencement of classes .

Theory evaluation: Teachers concerned will be prescribing the assignment or questions to answer with a clear cut dead line from the examination point of view. All students are advised to reciprocate such demands within the time frame. This would help to get the necessary feedback for the teacher. Teachers will be evaluating the assignment to give marks as a performance indicator. If any student faces any problem to make the necessary completion of a given exercise on time they may still have some freedom for delayed handing over with the permission of the teacher. All such submissions must reach within the extended margin of time with the permission of the faculty concerned.. **However all students are eligible for improvement if submitted on time as directed.**

(Online learning demands a disciplined learning habit from students) **Submissions can be digital or analog (on paper) or hybrid** to evidence the student learning based on the availability of resources.

B: Architectural & Design studios: Both Creativity and skill developments are the essentials of this course.

1. Teachers / mentors will be helping the student through videos and demonstration, individual discussions and group discussions. All group discussions will be audited by an external faculty along with the mentor. The primary constraint will be lack of time for students to complete the whole thing in the conventional studio settings after the college reopens. **Hence the strategy is to solve the design problem fully including minor details online and take the solution to the studio for preparation of documents ,drawings ,models etc.**

2. Essential progress evaluation will be conducted by the mentor as prescribed in the schedule and curriculum, however late submissions are permitted before the extended last date. **All students are eligible for improvement in design if submitted on scheduled time.** However final document and model evaluation except design will be done in the studios only.

C: Practical/workshop: will be taken immediately on completion after reopening of college as per curriculum.

TAKE AWAY:

- 1) Upward improvement of marks are always possible for all students if progress is informed to your teachers continuously during the lockdown period.**
- 2) The date of final submission of design will be intimated subsequently by an official notice.**
- 3) The progress reviewed online during the lockdown period for design as well as for other theory courses will be definitely protected**
- 4) All students including those who are facing “genuine” concerns deterring them from working effectively now, will also be given a chance to improve the stages as required within the time frame available to each subject.**
- 5) All test papers will be conducted in the first week after reopening. Hence come prepared for the test paper.**

An Advise: (who needs advise.. still)

Do manage your time and resources judiciously during this lockdown period by cooperating with your teachers .

This will certainly help you to save time and to manage your remaining work effectively and comfortably for better output , once the classes resume. .

I hope all of you would take the Covid bull by its horn and demonstrate resilience during this difficult period.

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