



VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

(AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to JNTUH, Approved by AICTE, Accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade, ISO 9001:2015 Certified
Kacharam, Shamshabad, Hyderabad – 501218, Telangana, India

OFFICE OF IQAC

Academic Year: 2024-2025

Date: 27-09-2024

Report on Open House Program #02

The Open House Program #02 provided a vital platform for UG & PG students to voice their concerns, share innovative ideas, and offer valuable feedback. This collective effort will ensure that the initiatives align with the evolving needs of our student community and foster a culture of continuous improvement. The program is scheduled from 05-09-2024 to 17-09-2024.

Open House Program – Listening to Student Voice

- The Open House Program offers students with a comfortable space, an informal, interactive, and solution-oriented platform to share their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions directly with faculty and administration, emphasize trust and institutional responsiveness.
- It encourages open dialogue on any issues such as:
 - Academic Related
 - Research Concerns
 - Student Activities
 - Infrastructure and facility-related
 - General campus experience etc.
- This annual program, conducted under the supervision of IQAC, has ensured that the concerns raised by students have already been addressed in a timely, respectful, and solution-oriented manner.
- This has been made possible through close coordination with all Heads of Departments, Deans, and Management of the college.

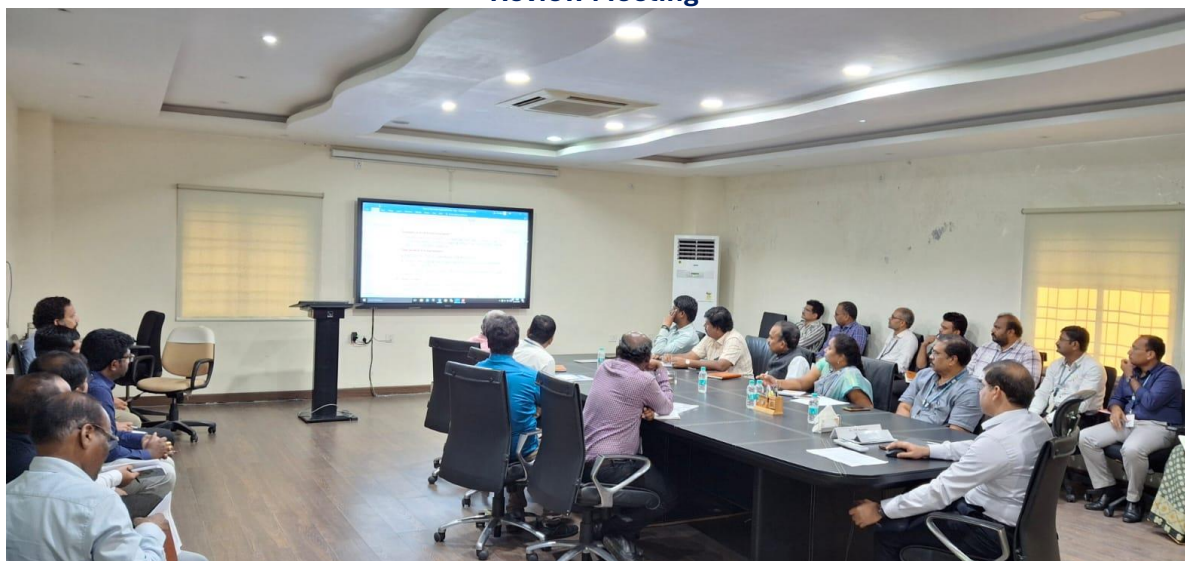
Voicing concerns to bring about meaningful change during the Open House Discussion







**Actions Taken: The follow-up discussion meeting of the Open House Programme #2
Review Meeting**




Dean IQAC
VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Shamshabad, Hyderabad-501218,




Prof. JVR Ravindra
PRINCIPAL
PRINCIPAL
VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Shamshabad, Hyderabad.



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OFFICE OF IQAC

F.No.: VCE/IQAC Office/Schedule/2024-2025/ OHP/002

Date: 31-08-2024

Open House Program #02 B.Tech & MBA AY: 2024-2025

The IQAC wing of Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad is going to organize Open House Program #02 for B.Tech III Year & MBA II Year Students to receive constructive suggestions and thought-full ideas.

The schedule is given below.

S.No	Name of the Department	Date
1.	Computer Science and Engineering	05-09-2024
2.	Information Technology	06-09-2024
3.	CSE (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)	09-09-2024
4.	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	10-09-2024
5.	Artificial Intelligence and Data Science	
6.	Electronics and Communication Engineering	11-09-2024
7.	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	12-09-2024
8.	Mechanical Engineering	13-09-2024
9.	Civil Engineering	14-09-2024
10.	Management Studies (II Years)	17-09-2024

Time : 02:45PM to 04:00PM

Venue : Room No.1009, Block-01

Dr. E. R. Aruna

Dean IQAC
Dean IQAC

VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Shamshabad, Hyderabad-501218.

Copy to:

All Dean's & HODs

B.Tech III Years & MBA II Year Students



Dr. JVR Ravindra
PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL
VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Shamshabad, Hyderabad.



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OFFICE OF IQAC

A Report on National Level Seminar on

"Enrichment of Engineering Education through Effective Implementation of NEP 2020"

Introduction

Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad, hosted a prestigious four-day national level seminar titled **"Enrichment of Engineering Education through Effective Implementation of NEP 2020"** from July 29th to August 1st, 2024 in the view of NEP 2020 4th Anniversary Day. The seminar, conducted online via Microsoft Teams, focused on the transformative potential of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in reshaping the landscape of engineering education in India. The event was meticulously organized by the Office of Academic Affairs, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the R&D Office of Vardhaman College of Engineering.

The seminar brought together an esteemed panel of speakers, including

- Prof. S S Mantha, Ex-Chairman of AICTE
- Prof. K. Rajanikanth, Former Principal of MSRIT, Bengaluru
- Prof. M. L. Sai Kumar, Former Dean at IPE, Hyderabad.
- Dr. A. N. Parameshwaran, Director of Industry-Institute Collaboration at NITTE DU

The event attracted a wide audience of 745 participants, comprising principals, deans, heads of departments, faculty members from higher education institutions, and industry experts across 21+ states and Union Territories.





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A Four Day National Level Seminar (Online) on "Enrichment of Engineering Education through Effective Implementation of NEP 2020" 29th July to 1st August 2024

About the College

Vardhaman College of Engineering (VCE), established by the Vardhaman Educational Society in 1999, approved by AICTE & Affiliated to JNTUH is renowned for offering top-tier Engineering and Management education in the Telangana region. The institution is dedicated to fostering a learning environment that promotes innovation, critical thinking, and practical skills among students. The college ensures that graduates are well-rounded, possessing both academic knowledge and the skills necessary to succeed in personal and professional life.

Accreditations and Recognitions:

- Approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) New Delhi.
- Affiliated to JNTUH, Hyderabad
- An UGC Autonomous College and permanently affiliated to JNTUH.
- Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade.
- 6 UG Programmes Accredited by NBA, New Delhi, under Tier-I.
- Department of Management Studies PG Program Accredited by NBA
- Recognized by UGC under Section 2(f) & 12(B).
- Identified as College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) by UGC.
- Ranked 151-200 in Engineering category in NIRF 2023 Rankings
- Band 51-100 NIRF Innovation Category in 2023
- Institution is identified as AICTE-MIC funded Mentor Institute for 2023-2024 under IIC 6.0
- Received 4 Star Rating from IIC-MoE, GoI for Developing Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in campus - 2021.
- Recognized as Research Centre under JNTUH, Hyderabad.
- Recognized as Science and Industrial Research Organization by DSIR.
- Recognized as AICTE Margadarshan.
- Recognized as AICTE UBA Institute.
- An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute.
- Recognized as Incubation Center by Startup India.
- Most Promising in Engineering College Award in Educational Excellence by Times

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. S S Mantha
Ex-Chairman, AICTE

RESOURCE PERSONS

Dr. K. Rajanikanth
Former Principal, MSRIT, Bengaluru

Dr. A. N. Parameshwaran
Director,
Industry-Institute Collaboration,
NITTE DU

Prof. M. L. Sai Kumar
Former Dean, IPE, Hyderabad

SCHEDULE

Date	Time
29-07-2024	1.45 PM to 3.00 PM
30-07-2024	7.00 PM to 8.15 PM
31-07-2024	7.00 PM to 8.15 PM
01-08-2024	7.00 PM to 8.15 PM

Link for Registration
<https://forms.office.com/r/CznipF9A9f>



Scan here to register

No Registration Fee.
Last Date for Registration :
29th July, 2024

Participation Link:
<https://msteams.link/XXC9>



Theme of the Seminar

The Four-Day National Level Seminar on "Enrichment of Engineering Education through Effective Implementation of NEP 2020" is an esteemed event organized by the Office of Academic Affairs, in association with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and R&D, Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad. Scheduled to take place from July 29th to August 1st, 2024, this seminar aims to delve into the transformative impact of the National Education Policy 2020 on engineering education in India. The seminar will explore various themes related to the enhancement of engineering education, including:

1. Transforming Curriculum Framework and Pedagogy.
2. Integrating Technology in Education / Multidisciplinary and Holistic Development.
3. Promoting Indian Languages and Culture / Vocational Education and Skill Development.
4. Government and Regulations in Education / Inclusive and Equitable Education & Promoting Lifelong Learning.
5. Role of Teachers in NEP 2020 / Global Best Practices in Education.
6. Future of Higher Education in India.
7. Identification of Different Platforms to Strengthen Industry Readiness in the View of NEP 2020 by Industries.

Participants

Principals, Deans, HoDs,
Faculty of all Higher Education Institutions
and Industry Experts

Organized by

Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad

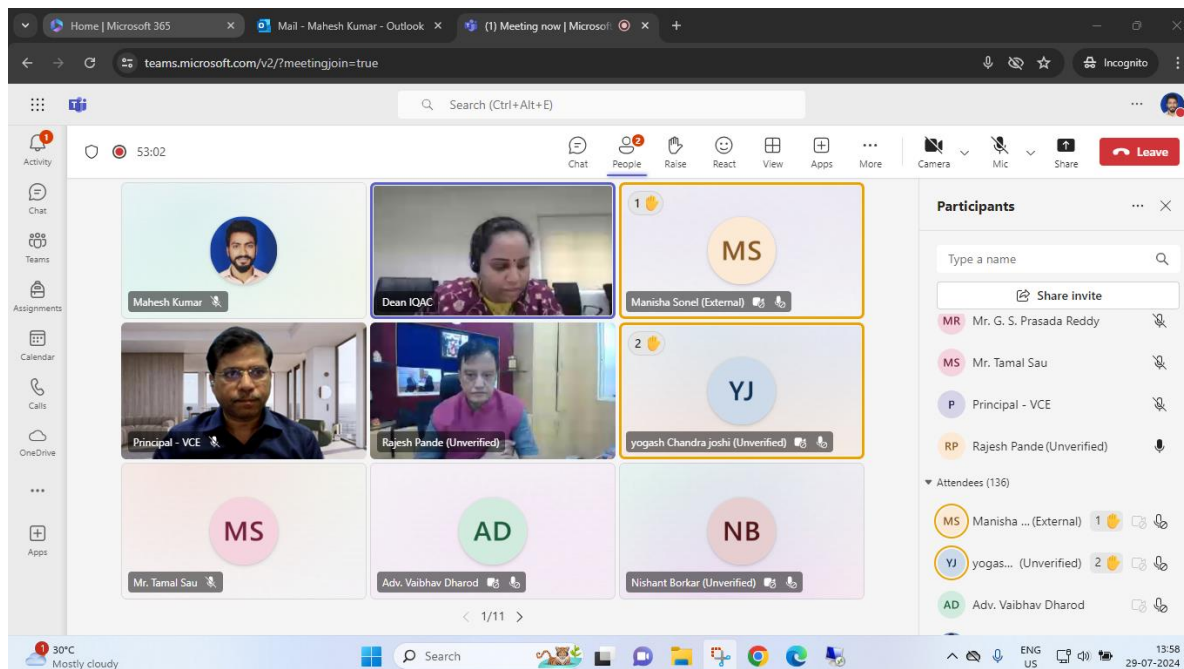


Contact Details +91 91827 97390, iqac@vardhaman.org

Seminar Brochure

Day 1: Inaugural Session and Keynote Address

The seminar commenced on July 29th, 2024, with an insightful keynote address by Prof. JVR Ravindra, Principal, Vardhaman College of Engineering. Dr. Ravindra invited Dr. S.S. Mantha to initiate the seminar on NEP 2020.



Dr. S.S. Mantha provided a comprehensive analysis of NEP 2020, focusing on its implications for increasing the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and the introduction of the Academic Bank of Credit. His address illuminated the necessity of education reform and emphasized the critical role of skill development in the rapidly evolving job market.

Dr. Mantha also highlighted the transformative potential of technology in various disciplines, particularly in agriculture, and shared his vision of an academic curriculum that aligns with industry demands. His deep understanding and passion for education reform set a constructive tone for the seminar. The session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging Dr. Mantha's valuable contribution to the discourse on NEP 2020.

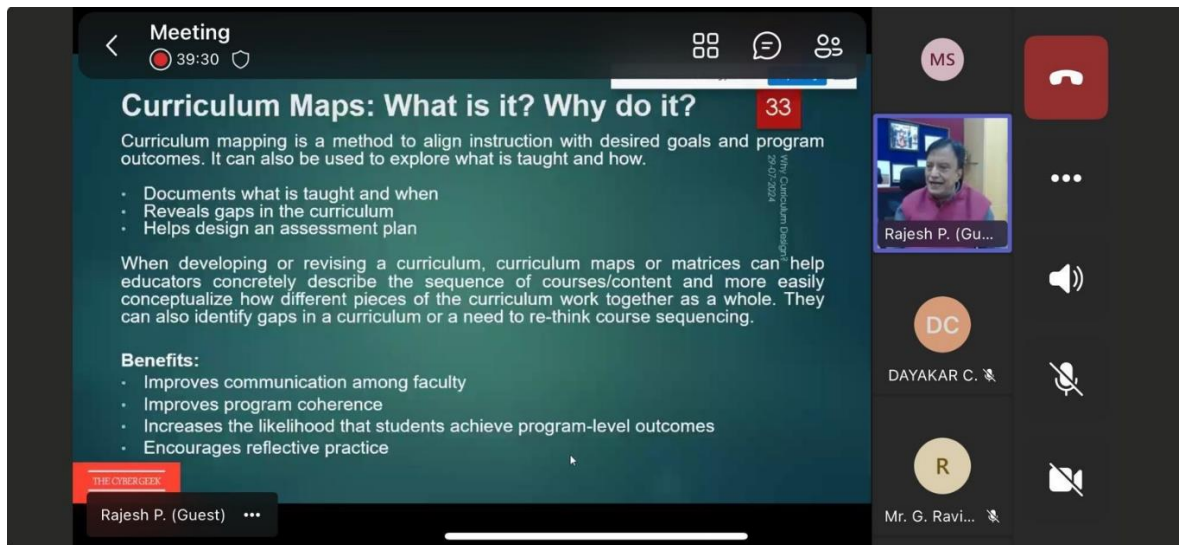


Image 1: Dr. S.S. Mantha discussing Curriculum Mapping

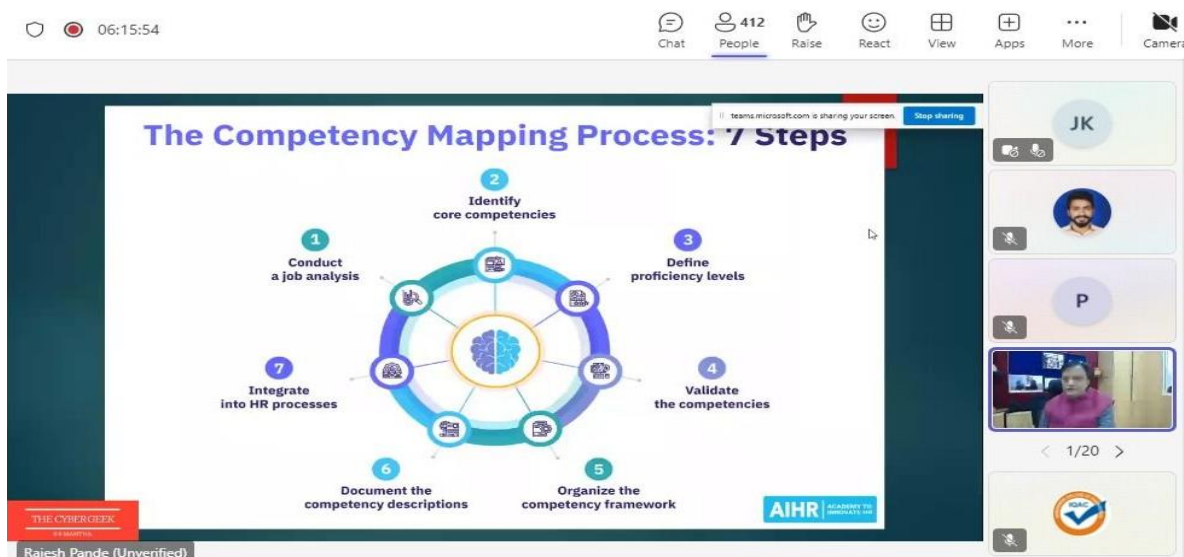


Image 2: Dr. Mantha talking about competent mapping processes

Day 2: Focus on Holistic Development and Technological Integration

On July 30th, 2024, the seminar continued with a session led by Prof. M L Sai Kumar. The day's discussions revolved around the importance of co-curricular activities in holistic development and the integration of technology in education. Prof. Sai Kumar emphasized the need for balancing knowledge and skills to prepare students for real-world challenges.

He also addressed the significance of mentoring, collaborative thinking, and fostering a multidisciplinary approach as outlined in NEP 2020. The session underscored the role of technology as a game-changer in modern education. Prof. Sai Kumar's session concluded with an expression of gratitude, acknowledging the insights and guidance provided by him.



Image 3: Dr. M.L. Sai Kumar conducting session on Holistic Development and Technological Integration

Day 3: Evolution of Indian Education and Strategic Implementation of NEP 2020

The third day of the seminar, held on July 31st, 2024, featured a compelling presentation by Dr. A. N. Parameshwaran. His comprehensive overview of the evolution of Indian education since independence provided participants with a deep understanding of the meticulous work behind NEP 2020. Dr. Parameshwaran introduced the funnel technique as an innovative approach to managing complex educational reforms.

He also discussed the challenges faced during the implementation of NEP 2020 and offered strategic solutions to overcome these hurdles. The practical guidelines for preparing an implementation manual for NEP 2020 shared by Dr. Parameshwaran were particularly valuable, equipping participants with the necessary tools to navigate the policy effectively. The session concluded with a vote of thanks, appreciating Dr. Parameshwaran's invaluable insights.

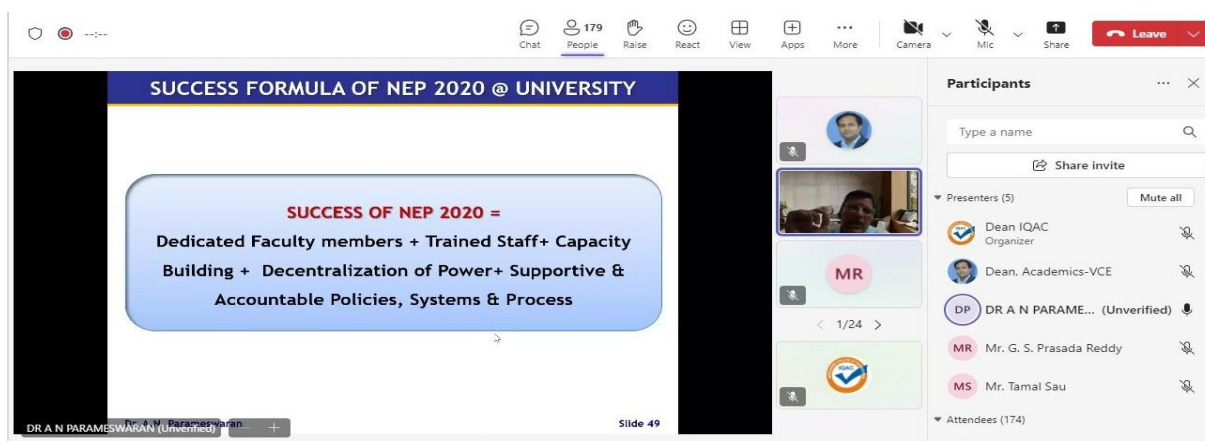


Image 4: Dr. A. N. Parameshwaran on preparing an implementation manual for NEP 2020

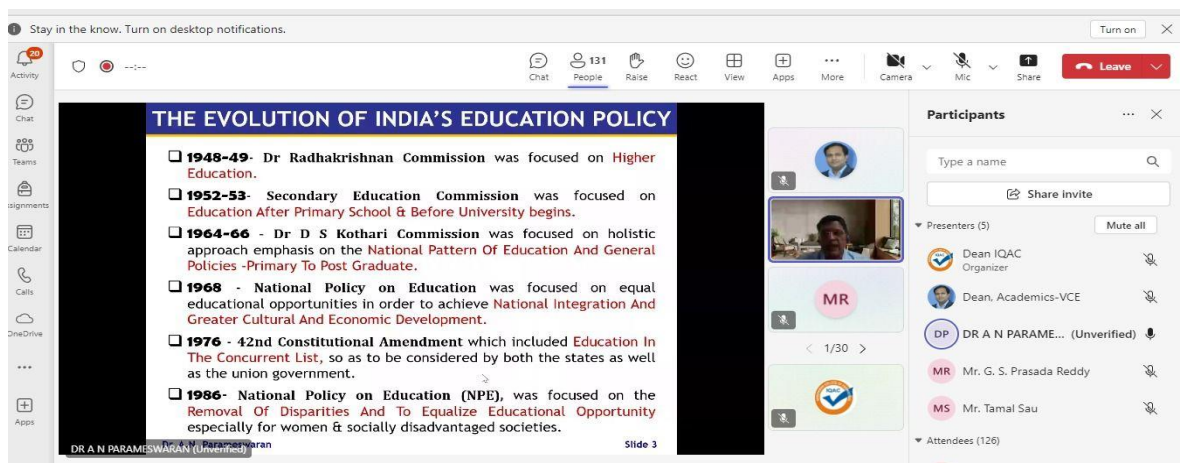


Image 5: Dr. Parameshwaram discussing the Evolution of India's Education Policy

Day 4: Curriculum Design in the Framework of NEP 2020

The final day of the seminar, August 1st, 2024, was marked by an inspiring session conducted by Dr. K. Rajanikanth. His discourse on the fundamentals of NEP 2020 and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in education resonated deeply with the audience. Dr. Rajanikanth provided detailed insights into curriculum design and strategic planning, which are crucial for effectively navigating the educational landscape.

As the seminar drew to a close, Dr. Rajanikanth's session encapsulated the essence of NEP 2020, motivating participants to strive for excellence in engineering education. The day ended with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their contributions to the success of the seminar.

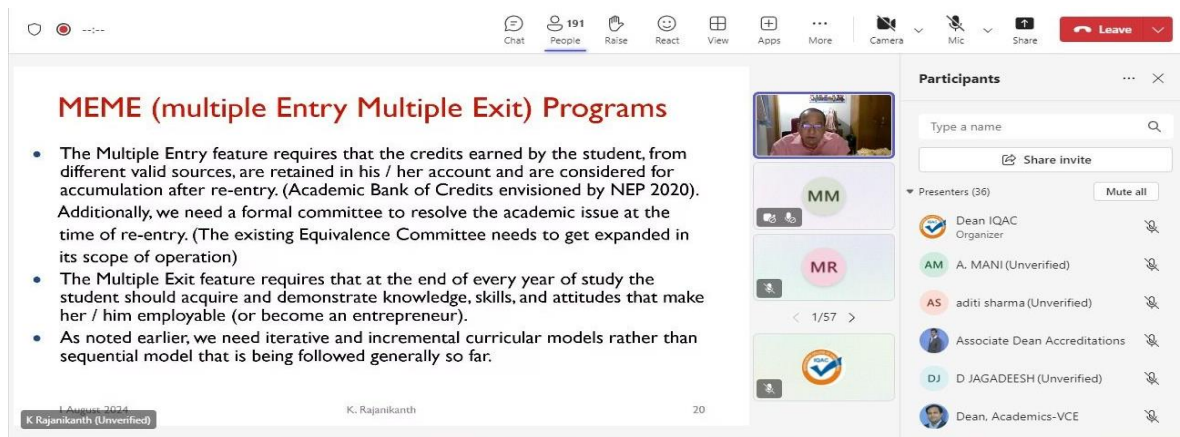


Image 6: Dr. K. Rajkumar explaining the Multiple Entry Multiple Exit Programs (1)

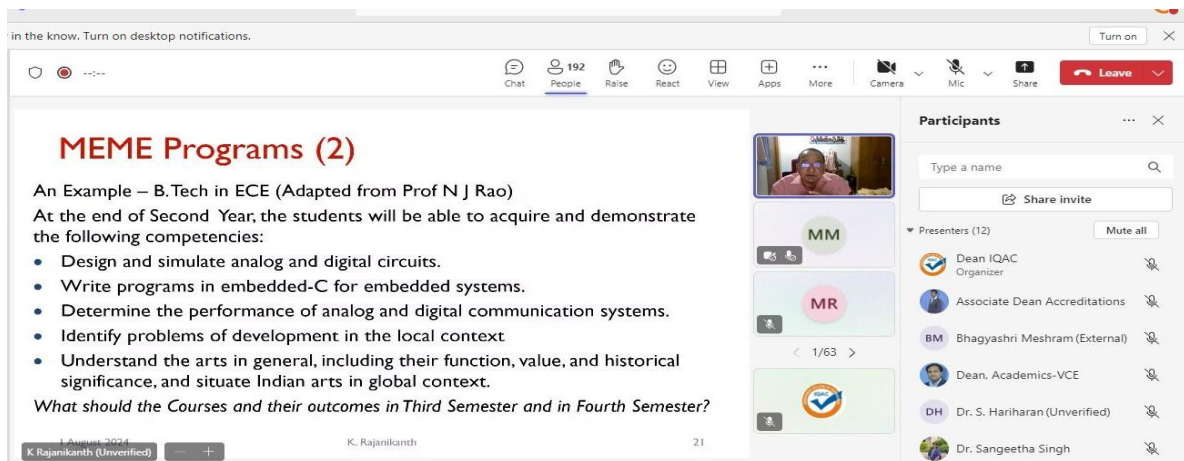


Image 7: Dr. K. Rajkumar explaining the Multiple Entry Multiple Exit Programs (2)

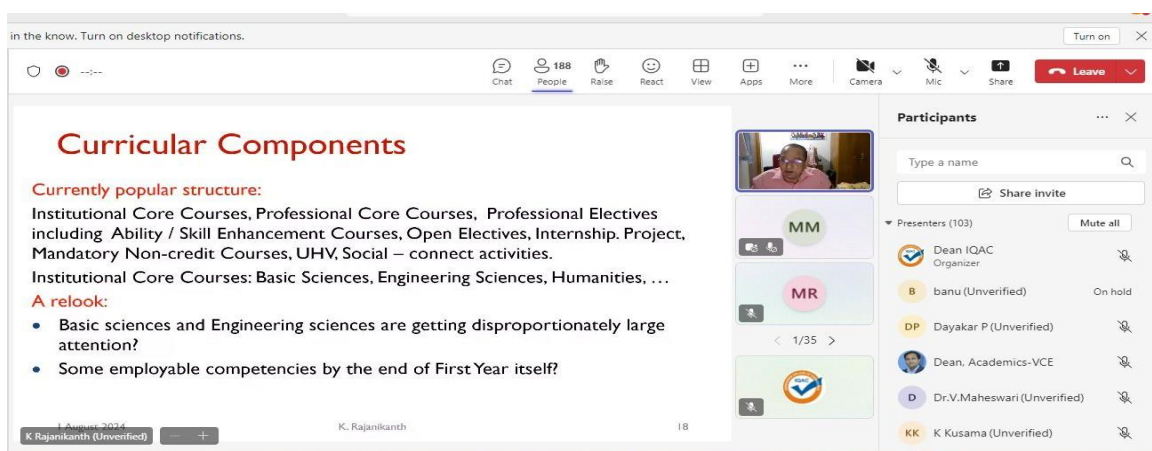


Image 8: Dr. Rajkumar on designing Curriculum

Conclusion

In conclusion, the four-day national-level seminar on "Enrichment of Engineering Education through Effective Implementation of NEP 2020," held from July 29th to August 1st, 2024, was a resounding success. The event provided a comprehensive platform for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions on the transformative potential of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) and its impact on engineering education in India.

Throughout the seminar, distinguished speakers, including Hon'ble Dr. S S Mantha, Prof. M L Sai Kumar, Dr. Parameswaran A N, and Dr. K. Rajnikanth, offered invaluable insights into the various facets of NEP 2020. Their discussions ranged from increasing the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and the introduction of the Academic Bank of Credit to the importance of skill development, multidisciplinary approaches, and technology integration in education. The speakers' profound expertise and clear explanations not only illuminated the path forward for educational reform but also inspired all participants to actively engage in the implementation of NEP 2020.

The seminar also highlighted the importance of co-curricular activities, mentoring, and collaborative thinking in nurturing well-rounded individuals prepared for real-world

challenges. The emphasis on aligning educational practices with industry demands, fostering entrepreneurial spirit, and addressing the challenges of unemployment underscored the seminar's relevance in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape.

The feedback received from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciations for the depth of knowledge shared and the practical guidance provided. The discussions and recommendations put forth during the seminar will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for institutions aiming to enhance engineering education through the effective implementation of NEP 2020.

Feedback Summary

A total of 745 participants attended the four-day long program on NEP 2024. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of attendees found the sessions to be informative, well-organized, and valuable for their professional growth. Many participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn about NEP 2020, and they appreciated the insights shared by the speakers.

Key Highlights:

- Participants found the sessions to be fantastic and highly informative, with some describing the experience as extraordinary.
- There was a strong interest in organizing more such workshops and seminars, with suggestions to increase the duration and frequency of these sessions.
- Some participants suggested conducting offline sessions to enhance engagement and interaction.
- A few technical issues were noted, particularly with the online platform, and there were requests for alternative meeting links or a shift to platforms like Zoom or Google Meet.
- Additional resources, such as session recordings, slides, and supplementary materials, were requested by several participants.
- Specific topics of interest for future events include R Programming, Universal Human Values, Artificial Intelligence, and research methodology.

Recommendations for Future Events:

- Consider conducting longer and more frequent sessions, possibly extending to a week-long program.
- Explore the possibility of hosting offline sessions to increase participant interaction.
- Address technical issues by providing multiple access links or switching to a more universally accessible platform.
- Continue providing valuable resources post-session, such as recordings and slides, to enhance the learning experience.

Overall, the feedback indicates that the NEP 2024 program was a success, with participants eager for more similar opportunities in the future.



Image 9: Participant Certificate

Guru-Dakshta#7 (UGC-FIP Module#5)

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Vardhaman College of Engineering successfully conducted a session on “**Personal-Emotional Development and Counseling**” as part of the Guru-Dakshta#7 Faculty Induction Programme. This event was designed to enhance faculty and staff awareness of emotional well-being, stress management, and psychological resilience in academic and personal life.

Title: Personal-Emotional Development and Counseling

Date: 4th March 2025

Venue: Main Auditorium, Block-07

Duration: 03.00PM to 04.30PM

Eminent Speaker: Prof. G. Padmaja

Professor & Head,

Centre for Psychology,

School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad



VARDHAMAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

A One Day UGC,
Faculty Induction Programme
Module #5
**Personal-Emotional
Development and
Counseling**
Guru-Dakshta #07



Organised by
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), VCE
The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at Vardhaman College of Engineering is dedicated to fostering a culture of continuous improvement in both academic and administrative spheres. It plays a proactive role in promoting a culture of excellence in higher education institutions (HEIs) by developing and implementing quality education.

Vision

- To be a pioneer institute and leader in engineering education to address societal needs through education and practice.

Mission

- To adopt innovative student centric learning methods.
- To enhance professional and entrepreneurial skills through industry institute interaction.
- To train the students to meet the dynamic needs of society.
- To promote research and continuing education.

Eminent Speaker
Prof. G. Padmaja
M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D.
Professor & Head
Centre for Psychology,
School of Medical Sciences,
University of Hyderabad.

The Session Covers

- ✓ Personality and its defining characteristics, Assessment of personality
- ✓ Nature and types of adjustment problems: academic, emotional and social
- ✓ Student Diversity and Challenges and responsibility in handling them
- ✓ Stress Management
- ✓ Counselling strategies for better personal and class adjustment
- ✓ Individual and group counselling, Ethical and moral codes of counselling

Key Takeaways

- Resilience and Growth Mindset
- Personal Empowerment and Self-Esteem Building
- Cognitive and Emotional Reframing

Venue:
Main Auditorium, Block-07
Date & Time:
04-03-2025, 03:00PM to 04:30PM
Target Group:
All Faculty & Staff

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Kacharam, Shamshabad, Hyderabad- 501 218, Telangana, India

www.vardhaman.org

(JNTUH College Code : 88)

info@vardhaman.org

Event Proceedings

The session commenced with a **prayer song**, followed by an **opening speech by the Principal**, who emphasized the importance of emotional well-being in the workplace. The guest speaker, **Prof. G. Padmaja**, was then welcomed and introduced, highlighting her extensive experience in psychology and counseling. Following the introduction, she delivered an insightful and engaging talk, covering various aspects of personal and emotional development. The event concluded with a **felicitation ceremony** honoring the guest speaker.

Key Discussions

Prof. Padmaja led an interactive and thought-provoking session, covering essential topics related to mental health and psychological well-being. Some of the key discussions included:

- **Child Psychology:** Understanding early emotional and cognitive development, and how childhood experiences shape mental well-being in adulthood.
- **Phone Addiction:** The impact of excessive screen time on attention span, social interactions, and mental health, along with practical strategies to manage digital dependency.
- **Relationship Abuses:** Recognizing emotional and psychological abuse in various relationships and fostering healthy interpersonal dynamics.
- **Stress Management:** Effective techniques to handle workplace and personal stress, including mindfulness, self-care, and cognitive reframing.
- **Distinction Between Clinical Terms and Naturalization of Clinical Jargon:** A discussion on how terms like **depression** and **OCD** are often misused in everyday language, leading to misconceptions about mental health conditions.

Engagement and Participation

The session was highly **interactive**, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences, and engage in discussions. Both **teaching and non-teaching staff (335)** actively participated, making the session more dynamic and enriching. The speaker's engaging approach helped in simplifying complex psychological concepts, making them relatable and practical for daily life.

Feedback and Conclusion

Feedback collected from the attendees was overwhelmingly **positive**. Faculty and staff appreciated the **practical insights** shared by the speaker and expressed their willingness to attend similar sessions in the future. Many participants found the discussion on **mental health awareness** particularly relevant, as it helped them better understand themselves and their students.

The event successfully provided valuable learning opportunities, promoting **emotional intelligence** and **stress management** techniques that will benefit both personal and professional aspects of life. IQAC looks forward to organizing more such sessions in the upcoming modules of the **Guru-Dakshta#7 (Faculty Induction Programme)**.

Glances of Program



Prayer Song & Inauguration.



Principal – Welcoming Guest Speaker



Dr. JVR Ravindra, Principal - Address



The guest speaker, Prof. G. Padmaja, addressing the event





Felicitation Ceremony



Vote of Thanks



Ravindra
Dr. JVR Ravindra
PRINCIPAL
PRINCIPAL
VARDHAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Shamshabad, Hyderabad.



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OFFICE OF IQAC

Report of Session on "How to Win a Hackathon"

Event Summary:

The session titled "**How to Win a Hackathon**" was conducted by Dr. Prashant R. Nair, the Head and Vice-Chairman of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore. Dr. Nair, an ACM Eminent Speaker and a top-performing innovation ambassador and mentor recognized by the Ministry of Education and NITI Aayog, shared his extensive experience and insights into winning hackathons. ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) offers numerous resources, including access to cutting-edge research, networking opportunities, and educational events such as hackathons and conferences. These resources help students stay updated on the latest industry trends, develop technical skills, and connect with professionals, enhancing their academic and career prospects in the field of computing. In order to inform the students on the same, the session was held on 10th August 2024, and it was organised by the IQAC at Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad, with an impressive attendance of 250 participants.

The poster is for an event organized by the VCE ACM Student Chapter. It features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left is the Vardhaman College of Engineering logo and name, followed by accreditation details. The main title is 'VCE ACM Student Chapter presents ACM EMINENT SPEAKER PROGRAM (How to win a Hackathon)' in white text on a blue background. Below this, it says 'ORGANIZED BY IQAC'. The speaker's name, 'DR. PRASHANT NAIR', is prominently displayed in a white box. His title, 'ACM EMINENT SPEAKER, HEAD, INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC), AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM, COIMBATORE.', is listed below. The date and time, '10th August '24' at '2:00PM', are shown with calendar and clock icons. The venue, 'Venue: 1009', is at the bottom. On the right, there is a photo of Dr. Prashant Nair, a man with a mustache wearing a white kurta and a blue vest, with his arms crossed. Logos for VCE and ACM are also present.

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VCE ACM Student Chapter
presents
**ACM EMINENT SPEAKER PROGRAM
(How to win a Hackathon)**
ORGANIZED BY
IQAC

DR. PRASHANT NAIR
ACM EMINENT SPEAKER,
HEAD, INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC),
AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM, COIMBATORE.

10th August '24 | 2:00PM

Venue: 1009

Speaker Background:

Dr. Prashant R. Nair is an ACM Eminent Speaker and a distinguished innovation ambassador and mentor. He has achieved over 50 hackathon victories and top rankings in various prestigious competitions, including the India International Science Festival, Smart India Hackathon, and IEEE Asia Pacific Humanitarian Tech Challenge. He has also represented India in the Singapore-India Hackathon. His extensive experience in mentoring students and his success in hackathons make him a credible authority on the subject.



Key Session Highlights:

1. Introduction to Hackathons:

Dr. Nair began the session by demystifying hackathons, emphasizing that they are intensive events aimed at digital product development within a strict time frame, often 24, 48, or 72 hours. He described hackathons as fun, innovative platforms where participants can apply their skills in ideation, conceptualization, prototyping, execution, testing, and pitching.

- **Definition:** A hackathon is an event where participants create innovative solutions to real-world problems in a limited time.
- **Purpose:** It's a chance to enhance skills, learn new things, and work collaboratively.



2. The Importance of Team Formation:

One of the central themes of the session was the importance of forming a strong team. Dr. Nair stressed that hackathons are rarely solo endeavors. Success in hackathons often depends on the ability of a team to work cohesively, leveraging each member's unique strengths.

- **Team Composition:** Dr. Nair recommended a team with diverse skill sets—design, coding, pitching, and business strategy.
- **Team Dynamics:** He emphasized the importance of understanding roles within the team, avoiding overlaps unless necessary, and fostering a strong sense of unity and collaboration.
- **Motto:** “Together Everybody Achieves More” was highlighted as the guiding principle for team success.



3. Selecting the Right Hackathon:

Dr. Nair provided guidance on how to choose the most suitable hackathon, aligning with the team's skills and interests.

- **Platform Recommendations:** Websites such as HackerEarth, HackerRank, and Dare2Compete were suggested as useful resources for finding hackathons.
- **Contest Alignment:** Teams were advised to choose contests that match their expertise and past experience to increase their chances of success.



4. Crafting an Effective Abstract and Idea Submission:

The session then moved on to the critical step of preparing a strong abstract or idea submission. Dr. Nair shared strategies for developing a clear and compelling problem statement, which is crucial for getting shortlisted in hackathons.

- **Clarity and Conciseness:** The problem statement should be brief yet comprehensive, effectively conveying the core idea.
- **Supporting Data:** He advised using references from reputable sources, such as newspapers, and including surveys, statistics, and infographics to strengthen the submission.
- **Architecture Diagrams:** A simple architecture diagram should be included to outline the components and the proposed solution.



5. Developing the Solution:

Dr. Nair provided a detailed roadmap for the actual hackathon phase, focusing on how to approach problem solving within the constrained time limits.

- **Focus:** Teams should concentrate on solving one significant challenge rather than attempting too many tasks, which could lead to confusion and inefficiency.
- **Preparation:** All necessary components, whether software or hardware, should be prepared in advance to avoid lastminute issues.
- **Documentation:** Clear documentation and adherence to coding guidelines were emphasized as vital for both development and presentation.



6. Navigating the Finals:

In the final rounds of hackathons, effective communication and presentation skills become crucial. Dr. Nair offered practical tips on how to excel in this phase.

- **Power Judging:** He explained that judging in the finals is rigorous and continuous, often occurring every few hours, both formally and informally.
- **Presentation Strategy:** The presentation should ideally be handled by one person to maintain flow and coherence. Dr. Nair recommended structuring the presentation into four parts:

- Introduction, Motivation, and Need (2 mins)
 - Architecture and Technical Details (2 mins)
 - Demo and Functioning (2 mins)
 - Summary (1 min)
 - Q&A (3 mins)
- **Content of the Presentation:** The pitch should be clear and concise, supported by visuals such as infographics and videos that speak for themselves. The presenter should also be well-prepared, with complete knowledge of the product and its potential market impact. A sharp presence of mind, good communication skills, and even a touch of humour can make a significant difference.



7. Insights into Competitive Programming (ICPC):

The session also touched on the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), considered the "Olympics of Programming." Dr. Nair provided a brief history of the contest, its structure, and the skills needed to succeed.

- **Contest Format:** ICPC is a team-based competition, with each team consisting of three students sharing one computer. Teams solve 615 problems in five hours, with the winner being the team that solves the most problems in the least time.
- **Essential Skills:** Success in ICPC requires a strong grasp of data structures, algorithms, and knowledge of programming platforms like CodeChef and HackerRank. Dr. Nair also emphasized the importance of creativity, stamina, teamwork, and a solid foundation in machine learning, data science, combinatorics, number theory, and graph theory.



8. Success Stories and Final Takeaways:

Dr. Nair concluded the session by sharing success stories from his mentoring journey, where his teams have won numerous hackathons and competitive programming contests. He reiterated the importance of following the guidelines discussed during the session to maximize the chances of winning.

Final Advice: Dr. Nair encouraged participants to practice regularly, stay updated on the latest technologies, and continuously refine their problem-solving skills.



Outcomes:

As a result of the session "How to Win a Hackathon," participants gained a deep understanding of the critical elements required to succeed in hackathons and competitive programming contests. They were equipped with practical strategies for team formation, problem selection, and solution development, as well as effective presentation techniques for the final judging rounds. The insights shared by Dr. Prashant R. Nair enabled attendees to better prepare for future competitions, enhancing their

problem-solving skills, teamwork, and overall confidence. The session also fostered a greater awareness of the importance of continuous learning, practice, and innovation in the fast-paced environment of hackathons, setting the stage for their future success in these highly competitive arenas.

Conclusion:

The session "How to Win a Hackathon" was a comprehensive guide for participants, providing them with practical strategies, insights, and tips to excel in hackathons and competitive programming contests. Dr. Prashant R. Nair's extensive experience and success in these fields lent credibility and depth to the session, making it an invaluable learning experience for all 250 participants. The session not only covered the technical aspects of hackathons but also emphasized the importance of teamwork, preparation, and effective communication—key elements that contribute to success in these competitive environments.



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