

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF INDIAN MEDICINE NEW DELHI

ADVISORY ON E-LEARNING FOR INSTITUTIONS, TEACHING FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF INDIAN MEDICINE IN THE LIGHT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

24th April 2020

Considering the ongoing challenging times resulted due to the COVID - 19 situation we are facing an inevitable disruption of Education in Indian medicine throughout the country. The CCIM after closely monitoring the situation and learning from global and historical experiences and keeping in view the possibility of educational institutions not returning to normalcy in the immediate future has decided to recommend the following guidance to be adhered to ensure that teaching and learning is not affected in the Institutions and to the students it remains a continuous learning process without being felt disadvantaged.

These recommendations and norms are being made keeping in mind the following reasons:

1. The students who are the primary stakeholders are not disadvantaged by the disruption in the teaching, learning and evaluation process and are able to complete their studies without loss of time, additional costs towards their education and are able to pursue their careers with confidence.
2. The faculty and staff are continuously engaged either through remote or other technology based teaching - learning process and other tools, thereby being in the process of working from home / remote site and are not threatened by loss of positions and continue to be on the payrolls of the institution.
3. These guidance are a onetime measure and shall be applicable only to the present academic year and will be reviewed / modified from time to time to remove difficulties if any, while implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The academic institutions through various orders of the Government of India, State Governments, Statutory Bodies and district administration have been asked to close completely or asked to suspend classes and offer teaching learning using technology and working from home.

2. Similarly several guidance's have been given by the Government of India and it's autonomous bodies to use various learning resources, technology platforms and innovative teaching approaches. The students have been advised to study from home, maintain social distancing and restrict their movements from their present place of stay.

3. The Principal shall exempt those faculty / students from taking attending online classes who are on duty in the fight against the COVID19 situation at the isolation / quarantine centers etc.

4. The Principals / Heads of the institutions are advised to take necessary steps and put up the necessary timetable and structure in place so that the faculty are able to engage in online teaching to the students and complete the theory part of their curriculum through remote teaching for as long as the institutions have been asked to remain closed by the government and the district authorities in different parts of the country. They may do so by sharing the learning resources in advance through their website, email to students and other learning apps / platforms that are available in this regard.

5. The institutions/Faculty shall document the details of classes taken, the students –engaged, the percentage of attendance and assessments and assignments conducted.

6. The CCIM will accept this as an equivalent effort towards the teaching - learning efforts provided in the various regulations for being eligible to appear for examinations. The examining authorities are also advised to take cognizance of the same towards fulfilment of academic requirements for admitting a student to examination.

7. As regards to the practical/experiential/clinical classes are concerned, the institutions may engage students to complete the same through block teaching on reopening of the colleges , keeping in view that the theory classes would have been completed through the online mode.

8. The institutions are encouraged to share their best practices to other institutions in the region to help advance Indian Medicine education in the country. The institutions who have so engaged are advised to send details along with documentary evidence and will be given due credit during the various funding / support that CCIM gives to institutions towards Faculty Development and continuous professional development.

9. Faculty who are engaging students through online classes either through the institution or through their own personal online platforms will be given due credit by the CCIM and invite them to serve on the various academic committees of the CCIM to share their expertise and knowledge. Such initiatives should be beyond the needs of the host institutions and curriculum driven.

10. For smooth conduction of the classes following practices can be adopted

- a. Lectures conducted should last for at least 40 minutes.
- b. Attendance should be taken at the end of the lecture, teachers shall consider only those students who have attended the lecture for not less than 35 minutes. Students shall join the class online as per the timetable circulated by the Principal.
- c. Faculty should report the classes conducted to the principal daily.
- d. Faculty are encouraged to cover the syllabus on time, so there should be no complaints of lack of time to cover syllabus in the future.
- e. Resources on Sars-Covid-2, made available by the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of health and family welfare should be used to educate the students on the ongoing pandemic.
- f. Teaching faculty may use social media / online groups like Facebook/WhatsApp to disseminate the academic information / timetable etc. All such online groups shall be under the direct monitoring of the Principal to prevent any potential misuse/ adverse event.
- g. Freely available video conferencing tools such as Zoom Meeting, Cisco Webex, Google Meet etc. can be used to conduct classes. Tools used should have the capacity to record the sessions, so that students having trouble connecting can view the lectures later. Also, this can be used to assess the quality of lectures and keep check on student attendance.
- h. Class notes shall be stored permanently in online storage spaces like Google drive and can be shared via email or any other convenient mode. Lectures / Presentations and other documents can also be made available via online groups or can also be recorded and shared via YouTube.
- i. Teachers may utilize Google Forms to conduct assessments / class tests online, and the test results shall be submitted to the head of the Institution. The online assessments shall be made in such a way that the students shall receive copy of their answers immediately after the submission of their answers.

A few of online resources available are listed below, so students can conduct research from home without visiting the library. They are as follows:

- <https://storage.googleapis.com/uniquecourses/online.html>
- http://ugcmoocs.inflibnet.ac.in/ugcmoocs/moocs_courses.php
- <https://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in>,
- <https://swayamprabha.gov.in>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/cecedusat>
- <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>
- <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>
- <https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in>
- <https://vidwan.inflibnet.ac.in>

Few of opensource software available to assist colleges in e-learning are listed as follows:

- Moodle : <https://moodle.org/>
- Google Classroom : <https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/>
- OpenEdx : <https://open.edx.org/>
- Chamilo : <https://chamilo.org/en/>
- Canvas : <https://canvas.instructure.com/>

11. The principals / the head of the institutions are required to submit to the CCIM the details of the efforts taken by them in this regard.

12. Head of the institutions may get in touch with CCIM if any assistance is needed. The objective of this advisory is to ensure that in such testing times, our medical education program should lead by example, and continue day to day operations to ensure continuity and encourage the nation to keep calm and continue onwards.

