**Area of Distinctiveness - Holistic Development as a structured and inclusive approach**

**The Context** - The University carries its Vision as “Holistic Development” of students, where it tries to inculcate balanced growth of its pupil. It follows a top down and inclusive approach to realize this vision, and this is what makes this university distinctive.

The distinctiveness is reflected right from the Kulgeet of University which emphasizes on Physical Growth, Intellectual Growth and Spiritual Growth. The university organizes activities and provides opportunities for students of all departments at a centralized level. The teaching departments and other central offices of the university contribute to these activities.

**The Practice and its relevance in Indian Higher Education –**

The university has created a structure to facilitate the all round development. The students can derive benefit from these facilities which include – University Cultural Centre, Student Wellfare Department, DDU Kaushal Vikas Kendra, University Sports Centre, Centralised Placement Cell, Minority Cell, Anand Cell etc. Apart from these centres and cells, the university has task forces (i) ICT for Learning and Support and administrative services, (ii) Effective Teaching-Learning and Evaluation, (iii) Student Support and Progression, (iv) Energy and Environment Management, (v) Fostering Excellence in Research, (vi) International Cooperation, (vii) University-Industry Partnership Cell, (viii) Promotion of Human Values and Professional Ethics.

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These facilities have been created to ensure holistic development of the students in the following three dimensions –

* Physical Development
* Intellectual Development
* Inner Development – Values and Soft-skills

These centers organize various activities where students of all teaching departments can participate. The activities span over a wide spectrum – motivational talks, competitions in cultural, sports, literary, arts and other areas. These activities are held at interdepartmental, inter college, state and national level. Thousands of students from university have been benefitted by these central activities. These activities serve multiple purpose- they provide platform to students to hone their skills, develop management skills among students, inculcate harmony and team spirit in the students.

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The university cultural centre (UCC) has contributed tremendously towards the university students as well as local community. It conducts Sfoorty-cultural fest, interdepartmental cultural competition which has participation of more than 2000 students from all UTDs. The youth festival at inter college, state, national and international level have been organized by UCC, where more than 10000 students have participated in last 5 years.

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The UCC also provides its facilities to local theatre groups to promote theatre and culture in the city.

The Anand Cell of the university conducts workshops, symposiums, sessions on Happiness through various activities.

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Sessions like “Crafting Career with Happiness” in collaboration with Heartfulness Institute, Meditation sessions, National symposium on Happiness and Health are few prominent activities to mention, where more than 3000 students and faculty member have been benefitted. Yoga and meditation has also been a part of regular activities in the university.

The Student welfare department in collaboration with task forces and departments has organsied several talk shows where prominent speakers have motivated the university students. Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi’s session **on “Bachpan Bachao” 2016,** “The Subhash Chandra Show” – Real Happiness in Life, 11th November 2017 , Talk by “Ms.Malvika Iyer” bomb blast survivor, Expert Talk on **“**Changing Dynamics of Indian Higher Education” by UGC Chairman Prof Ved Prakash, 10th April 2015. The Golden Jubillee lecture series, the Lokpriya Jan Vyakhyan Mala are some events where students from all departments have been benefitted.

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Each of these sessions has seen participation from more than 1000 to 1500 students.

The industry institute partnership cell worked towards creating linkages with the industry to enhance employability among students.

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The univserity sport’s centre organizes annual sports events like Sfoorty – Sports, inter college competitions etc

**The Outcomes -**

As a result of these activities directed towards providing opportunities of grooming to the students, the university has accomplished encouraging results.

The students have shown increasing participation in cultural, social and sports activities which have enabled them to become more employable and better citizens. Increasing number of students have participated in state, zone and national level youth festivals, won awards in academic events, have gone to villages to create awareness on pertinent issues, have adopted TB patients, have approached local community for creating awareness towards fundamental duties, have attended the motivational sessions in university, etc.

The university has been able to provide platform to increasing number of students. The enhanced employability in terms of campus placements, negligible student unrest are visible. The university as an environment of cohesion and harmony is notable. Students and faculty can focus towards creative contributions to society.

The improving placements offered to DAVV students show their increasing employability.

This approach of university, to provide support through centralized facilities for holistic development of students is bearing fruitful results. There is increased cohesiveness among students and faculty from all UTDs and they are able to work synergistically towards development of the university.