



National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal

Life before and after COVID-19

The advent of COVID onto our lives has put humanity in an extreme distress and now in the later phases is leaving us in a state of total confusion. Many opinions are aired through various media that COVID is going to be there for a long time on us. It is therefore more appropriate to visualize the life after the lockdown, rather than life after COVID. Even this is going to be very difficult to imagine. We are also seeing on TVs the trauma to be faced when someone gets sick in our neighbourhood. And in-view of that the local or the central administration has imposed a total lockdown and we are now reaching a stage where it cannot hold the lockdown for a longer period of time. There are signs of it being eased out slowly. In this later part of lockdown, the government will not show similar strictness because it has made us aware about corona disease. The government cannot and will not take the responsibility of guarding us 24x7 and 365 days. There is no reliable data to tell us when the pandemic will end. The answer to all these uncertainties is to define a new normal of social distancing, masks, gloves and washing of our hands. Even if all restrictions are lifted, until a vaccine is found, we have to remember that the virus is still in our neighbourhood only.

We at NITK have been proactively trying to take decisions keeping the academics in the front seat without sacrificing the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and faculty. Even during strict lockdown periods, we have had meetings with the central and the local authorities as well as the Deans with the same intention.

Here I would like to appraise the NITK community that sometimes, reasons apart, people have breached the sanctity of confidentiality of the information. The consequence is that the students and parents are driven into a lot of confusion, which otherwise is totally uncalled for. Here again I would like to reach out to all through this message that one video about on-line exams is currently going rounds amongst the student community. Such acts in the first place are objectionable since they damage the integrity and thereby the image of the institute of which we are the stakeholders. Since such acts are repeated with a wrong message, it is obvious that it is done consciously and to cause whatever it

has caused now. I have instructed the respective Deans to reach out to the community as a measure of salvaging the damage and to contain such mischief from happening in future. It is expected that the students come to know about the circulars through our institute website. Any information outside the institute website is deemed to be spurious information and NITK shall not take any responsibility.

Further, I am appealing to the NITK community that we have to stand tall and united to fight this virus ourselves by changing our lifestyle and by strengthening our immunity. Let us understand Do's and Don'ts and act responsibly while working with the colleagues and students in future.

Stay healthy and let us all live safely.

Wish you all the best.

Director,
NITK Surathkal
17th May 2020