



EFFECTIVE MENTOR- MENTEE SCHEME AND KEY CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS

A Report of IQAC, University of Allahabad

Moto

**Guiding Futures, Building Success: The Mentor-Mentee Scheme at
University of Allahabad**

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**Director NAAC
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List of members of the IQAC Committee of the University of Allahabad

S. No.	Name of Faculty Member	Designation	Department
1.	Prof. Madhurendra Kumar	Coordinator	Political Science
2.	Prof. Manoj Kumar	Co-coordinator	English and MEL
3.	Prof. Suneet Dwivedi	Member	KBCAOS
4.	Prof. Shailendra Rai	Member	KBCAOS
5.	Dr. Nirupama Tripathi	Member	Sanskrit
6.	Dr. Tarkeshwar Trivedi	Member	Physics
7.	Dr. Mukesh Kumar Singh	Member	Ancient History
8.	Dr. Ekta Verma	Member	Commerce
9.	Dr. Ashwani Kumar	Member	Botany
10.	Dr. Abhishek Kumar	Member	Law
11.	Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh	Member	Earth & Planetary Sciences
12.	Dr. Prakash Kumar Singh	Member	Earth & Planetary Sciences
13.	Dr. Amar Nath Kumar	Member	English and MEL
14.	Dr. Vinod Kumar	Member	Electronics & Communication
15.	Dr. Priyanka Mishra	Member	Botany
16.	Dr. Prashant Verma	Member	Statistics
17.	Dr. Upendra Kumar Kushwaha	Member	Physics
18.	Dr. Amrendra Pratap Singh	Member	CBCS
19.	Dr. Manish Kumar Gautam	Member	Education
20.	Dr. Rehnamol P.R.	Member	Political Sciences

Structure of Mentor Mentee scheme in the University of Allahabad

The structure of the Mentor-Mentee scheme at the University of Allahabad is designed to ensure effective guidance and support for the students.

Mentor
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitors regularity, discipline and academics• Need based mentoring
Head of the Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise for extra assistance required• Focus on academic guidance and career mapping• Reviewing the program and updating the head of the faculty
Dean
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolve critical issues• Review the overall status of the program and updating the Co-ordinator, IQAC
Psychologists
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolve psychological issues
Law faculty member
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can assist in any legal concerns
Batch Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheduling meetings• Maintaining records• Collecting feedback• Assist In Training participants

1. Mentor Selection:

- **Eligibility:** Faculty members or senior students with strong academic records and good interpersonal skills.
- **Training:** Selected mentors undergo training sessions to equip them with mentoring skills and knowledge about university resources.

2. Mentee Assignment:

- **Criteria:** Mentees are assigned based on their academic interests, department, and personal preferences.
- **Introduction:** An initial meeting is organized to introduce mentors and mentees, setting the stage for a productive relationship.

Objective of the Meeting:

The purpose of this mentor-mentee meeting was to identify key challenges faced by students in the University of Allahabad and provide actionable solutions to help them overcome academic, personal, and administrative hurdles. The meeting was attended by members of the mentor-mentee committee of all the departments, Deans of all faculties, legal and psychological representatives. The meeting was Chaired by the Co-ordinator and members of IQAC along with a group of student representatives of all the faculties. The meeting was conducted in the Prof. Ishwar Topa Complex auditorium on 10.01.2024 from 02:00 PM.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Mentor Coordinator
2. Open Forum for Students to Share Their Issues
3. Discussion on Key Challenges Faced by Students
4. Suggestions and Solutions from Mentors
5. Action Plan for the Next Steps

Key Issues Highlighted by Students:

1. Academic Challenges:

- **Lack of Study Resources:** Many students reported the scarcity of up-to-date reference materials and textbooks in the university library, leading to difficulties in completing assignments and preparing for exams.
- **Irregular Classes:** Several students mentioned the inconsistency in class schedules, especially for core subjects, due to the unavailability of faculty members or administrative delays in arranging lectures.
- **Overloaded Curriculum:** Some students, especially those in science and law departments, expressed concerns about the heavy workload in terms of projects, assignments, and exams, without adequate breaks in between.
- **Online Learning Difficulties:** Post-pandemic, certain courses are still being conducted online, but students reported that they face issues with internet connectivity and the lack of proper IT infrastructure at the university, leading to poor understanding of topics.

2. Administrative Issues:

- **Delayed Results:** A common issue faced by students was the delay in the publication of examination results. This affects their career prospects and further studies.
- **Inefficient Grievance Redressal System:** Students expressed frustration about the slow and often ineffective administrative system for addressing complaints related to fees, scholarships, and hostel allotments.

- **Course Registration:** Some students reported that the online system for course registration is outdated and difficult to navigate, leading to confusion during enrolment periods.
- **Hostel Accommodations:** Many students, especially first-year students, complained about the lack of available hostel rooms and overcrowding in the existing hostels.

3. Mental Health and Personal Issues:

- **Academic Pressure and Stress:** Several students expressed feelings of being overwhelmed due to academic pressure, especially in competitive programs like engineering, law, and sciences. Students mentioned that the high expectations from both faculty and family often lead to mental stress.
- **Lack of Mental Health Support:** While there is a counselling service available at the university, students mentioned that the availability of counsellors is limited, and mental health services are not promoted enough.
- **Homesickness and Adjustment Issues:** First-year students, particularly those from distant cities or rural areas, reported difficulties in adjusting to the urban environment of Allahabad and the competitive academic culture of the university.

4. Infrastructure and Facilities:

- **Inadequate Hostel Facilities:** Many students, especially girls, complained about the poor condition of hostel infrastructure, including insufficient water supply, poor sanitation, and lack of security.
- **Library Hours:** Students from postgraduate programs expressed concern over limited library hours, which do not match the schedules of those who prefer studying late at night or during weekends.
- **Sports and Extracurricular Activities:** Students highlighted the lack of proper facilities and support for extracurricular activities, especially for sports and arts. They mentioned that more focus should be placed on holistic development.

5. Placement and Career Guidance:

- **Limited Career Guidance:** Final-year students, especially in humanities and social sciences, raised concerns over the lack of guidance on career opportunities, internships, and higher education.
- **Unorganized Placement Cell:** Some students felt that the university's placement cell is not proactive in connecting them with companies or organizing enough job fairs or campus recruitment drives.
- **Soft Skills Development:** Several students requested more workshops and sessions on soft skills, communication skills, and professional etiquette to prepare them better for the job market.

Suggestions and Solutions Proposed by Mentors:

1. Academic Solutions:

- **Organize Study Groups:** Mentors encouraged students to form peer-led study groups where they could help each other with difficult subjects and share resources.
 - **Increase Faculty Interaction:** Mentors suggested the university could introduce weekly "office hours" where faculty members would be available for one-on-one discussions with students regarding academic problems.
 - **Hybrid Learning Workshops:** Mentors recommended the organization of workshops focused on enhancing digital learning skills to help students navigate online classes more effectively.
- 2. Administrative Solutions:**
- **Grievance Redressal Portal:** Mentors suggested that the university could establish an online portal for tracking the progress of student grievances, allowing transparency and faster redressal.
 - **Digitalization of Records:** It was proposed that the administration invest in modernizing their student management system, especially for course registration and result dissemination.
- 3. Mental Health and Personal Support:**
- **Mental Health Awareness Campaigns:** Mentors proposed organizing regular workshops and seminars on mental health awareness and stress management, along with increasing the availability of counsellors.
 - **Buddy Programs for New Students:** To help first-year students adjust, a buddy system could be implemented where senior students mentor freshers on both academic and personal issues.
- 4. Infrastructure Improvements:**
- **Hostel Revamp Plan:** Mentors suggested the university should prioritize the renovation of hostel facilities, with a focus on improving water supply, sanitation, and security measures.
 - **Extended Library Hours:** The proposal to extend library hours, especially during exam periods, was well received.
- 5. Career Development:**
- **Career Counselling Workshops:** The mentors recommended organizing monthly workshops on resume writing, interview preparation, and networking skills.
 - **Alumni Networking Events:** Mentors suggested that the university could collaborate with alumni to organize networking events and mentorship programs where alumni can provide career advice and internship opportunities.

Action Plan:

- 1. Regular Mentor-Mentee Meetings:** The university administration agreed to organize quarterly mentor-mentee meetings to continue the dialogue between students and mentors.

2. **Formation of Student Committees:** Committees will be formed to address specific issues like hostel accommodation, mental health, and career counselling. These committees will work with mentors to implement solutions.
3. **Feedback Mechanism:** A feedback system will be created to regularly track the progress of action items discussed during the meetings and ensure accountability.

Conclusion:

The mentor-mentee meeting was a productive session where students were able to voice their concerns openly. With active participation from both students and mentors, a comprehensive action plan was developed to address the issues. It is expected that the proposed solutions will lead to a more student-friendly environment at the University of Allahabad, fostering both academic and personal growth.



Auditorium of Prof. Ishwar Topa Complex, University of Allahabad

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