Jeevan Vidya Workshop 2010: Impact Survey

Jeevan Vidya Workshop was held for all 1st year undergraduate students of IIIT-Hyderabad for a week in January 2010. The objective was to draw attention to some important aspects of our life that are often ignored. Major factors responsible for this ignorance are (a) what market-media presents, and what is generally considered helpful by society at the current time (i.e., peer pressure), (b) anxieties related to relationships and the future, and (c) inadequate thought given to these matters. A survey was conducted by the IIIT-H Academic Office to assess the impact on the students, one and a half months after the JV workshop.

In the survey, a question was asked to the participants about the extent to which the Jeevan Vidya benefited them. Around 65% students answered that the workshop benefited them greatly to a good amount to somewhat (Figure 1). This indicates that a large proportion of the students were positively affected by the workshop. Among the different topics discussed during the workshop, the discussion on relationships impacted them the most.

How many participants would have attended the workshop if it was not compulsory? Only 21% according to the survey (Figure 2). Thus, a major section of the participants would not have attended if the workshop was optional, let alone derive any benefits. This
is a reason why it is an essential part of curriculum. (Core curriculum ensures that what is beneficial in the longer term is taken by everybody. That is why Theory of Computation or Signals & Systems is an essential part of the curriculum, along with Calculus and Physics.)

Figure 2: Would you have attended it if not compulsory?

It was also seen from the survey that people who attended the workshop with a sense of prior willingness (that is, those who answered they would have attended the workshop even if it was not compulsory) benefited greatly. 97% of the students who had prior willingness drew benefits from the workshop (Figure 3). However, only 46% of the students who were
not willing benefited from the workshop as reported by them. These statistics convey that lack of willingness may have impacted the gains one could get from the workshop.

It is interesting to see the results of the 2005 survey (URL in Note 1 below) conducted by the then UG1 students, when Human Values was introduced for the first time in the UG curriculum. The students who were not affected by JV, had said in later conversations that they “had not paid any attention to it”. The article said:

“Alas! these ‘non benefiteds’ from Jeevan Vidya have been louder than their ‘benefited’ counterparts... In personal conversations, people come out with the facts that post J.V. their behavior has improved, they now value relationships like they never did, that they've been encouraged to think, and encouraged to act out of their own free will. These are the results, they've been attained within two months of Jeevan Vidya.”

If there was greater willingness on part of all the UG1 students, the impact would have been greater. The reasons for “prior” unwillingness might be because of peer pressure or irresponsible advice from seniors, or preconceived notions about the workshop.

This brings us to another question: what should be the role of the IIIT-H community in making the workshop more effective? Should the community help in conveying to UG1 students in future that they should go with an open mind regarding Jeevan Vidya workshop?

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Notes:
1. Article on JV Survey 2005 is available at URL:
   http://www.iiit.ac.in/humanvalues/articles/jvsurvey2005.html
2. Individual feedback on the JV shivirs is welcome and may be mailed to humanvalues@iiit.ac.in. In the past, such feedback has been incorporated in improving the shivirs. As a result, the organization of the shivirs has been constantly evolving.
3. See detailed compilation of results of the JV Survey 2010 in the Appendix.
4. This article can be downloaded from:
   http://www.iiit.ac.in/humanvalues/articles/jvsurvey2010.html
Appendix: Compilation of JV Survey 2010

This appendix presents the compilation of answers for each question in JV Survey 2010.

**Question A**

![Bar Chart: To what extent has Jeevan Vidya affected / benefited you?]

- Greatly: 4.6%
- To a Good Extent: 29.31%
- Somewhat: 30.46%
- Very little: 15.52%
- None at all: 19.54%
- Can't say: 0.57%

Figure 4: Benefit to you

**Question B**

![Bar Chart: Would you have attended Jeevan Vidya had it not been compulsory?]

- Yes: 20.69%
- No: 67.47%
- Can't say: 21.25%

Figure 5: Would you have attended it, if it was not compulsory?
Question C

Given an opportunity, will you attend another shivir?

![Chart showing the percentage of participants who would attend another shivir]

Figure 6: Will you attend another shivir?

Question D.1

As a result of Jeevan Vidya, I have benefitted and started giving more attention towards my own thoughts

![Chart showing the percentage of participants who benefitted from Jeevan Vidya]

Figure 7: Started given attention towards my own thoughts
Question D.2

As a result of Jeevan Vidya, I have benefitted and started giving more attention towards my body

Figure 8: Started given attention towards my body

Question D.3

As a result of Jeevan Vidya, I have benefitted and started giving more attention towards my relationships

Figure 9: Started given attention towards my relationships
Question D.4

As a result of Jeevan Vidya, I have benefitted and started giving more attention towards societal issues

![Bar chart showing percentage of responses to Question D.4](image)

Figure 10: Started given attention towards societal issues

Question D.5

As a result of Jeevan Vidya, I have benefitted and started giving more attention towards nature

![Bar chart showing percentage of responses to Question D.5](image)

Figure 11: Started given attention towards nature
Question E

Figure 12: Will you recommend Jeevan Vidya to a friend in another college?