

The Veer Narmad South Gujarat University was established to cater to the needs of tribal and coastal population of the south Gujarat region in the year 1965. The University since then has been focusing on the need of the students from these groups by offering programs focusing on the development of these region along with the other modern branches of science and technology. It offers programs like Master of Rural Studies and Master of Science in Aquatic Biology for the rural tribal and coastal development respectively.

Digitalization of academic and administrative procedures have immensely helped all the stakeholders including the students of the University belonging to all social classes and regional places. On the academic administration front the University has developed and implemented the ERP system to help students, affiliated colleges and institutions, teachers and administrative staff of the University in various ways. For the candidate desirous of seeking admission, the University has developed a hassle-free, contactless, transparent and efficient admission system. After admission the students can pay the fees online and get permanent enrollment/registration number through which he can receive all the information regarding his/her academic career. The ERP helps students to fill examination form online from a distance in a paperless manner. The digitalization of the Examinations Department helps faster, transparent and errorless declaration the results. The students can download his/her mark sheet from his dash board provided by the University.

The filling up of Convocation form to obtain degree certificate is also made easy under the ERP system. Students can apply online and pay the requisite fees through paperless mode. Regarding grievance in examination, the students can apply online.

The digitalization has also facilitated and enriched teaching and research in the departments on the campus. Classrooms in every departments are mostly equipped with LCD projectors, smart boards and internet facility. In addition to this the students are provided free access to internet on the entire campus including hostels. Most of the departments have their own computer laboratories for digital learning and research. All this enables successful online teaching. The digital resources of the University proved a great support in view of Covid-19 pandemic times

when online teaching emerged as a mode of teaching out of necessity, but it also proved an immensely rich mode of teaching with its accessibility in remote tribal areas of south Gujarat.

The online teaching has also been followed appropriately by online examination and evaluation. All examinations including entrance test, unit tests, presentations, viva voce, semester end examination as well as Ph.D. entrance test and Ph.D. viva voce have been conducted online. The ERP system of the University has ensure more efficient and objective method of conducting examinations. Through this the question papers are emailed from the nodal center to the examination center ensuring all confidentiality and time management. The examinations are conducted at various places including the students' home through online surveillance which is monitored by the proctors at the nodal center.

The reassessment involves the evaluation of the scanned copies of the answer books providing the paperless green alternative to the conventional evaluation. The digital infrastructure has also helped in maintaining confidentiality in the entry of marks and processing and declaration of results of various examinations that are conducted round the year by the University.

The digitalization of the University has also an important component in the form of e-resources available at the University library and accessible also at the Departments. The availability of e-books, e-journals, e-data sources etc. have widened the horizons of research on the campus. The digitalization has also enabled organization of and participation in webinars on varieties of research areas and topics.

Due to the digital infrastructure developed by the Universities almost all the meetings of various statutory bodies like the Senate, the Syndicate, the Academic Council, Board of University Teaching, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Building Committee and other committees are held and attended in online/offline mode, saving time of the members and funds of the University. The decisions taken at such meetings are conveyed in soft forms to the members saving a lot of quantity of papers.

Most of the administrative and academic communication is made through digital paperless mode which has proved efficient and transparent.

The Human Resource Management System component of ERP helps the University and teachers in conducting the application and sanctioning of leave and maintaining other basic academic and administrative data.

Digitalization in administrative and academic sections and procedures of the University has benefited all the stake holders. In the administrative context digitalization has maintained a decent pace in efficient working and desirable objectivity and transparency in its functioning which has, needless to say, helped students in teaching, research and examination as well as the teachers in their research and teaching work. In the academic context digitalization has enabled the classroom teaching to transcend the limitations of the four walls and also tap the e-resources regarding the Universal discourse of knowledge. The efficacy of the upgraded digitalization, its ERP system, in the University has been amply evidenced in the way it could invent ways and strategies to cope with the challenges put forward by the Covid-19 pandemic in education sector.