

The Significance of Perspectives Class in JAIN College's Humanities Programme

"Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast", the White Queen tells Alice. This line is from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland", a famous story that almost every child has heard, read or watched. Alice has amazing adventures and meets new characters, some of whom teach her new things. Alice, a seven-year-old fictional character, is a favourite to many. People love her for her curiosity, imagination, inventiveness and "Solutionist" prudence. She breaks away from the social stereotypes of her times and questions their reason.

Now imagine an untamed child, a child given the freedom to think and be curious about many things. How beautiful is the untamed mind, without restrictions and conditioning? Out of such minds come beautiful discoveries, inventions, even compassion, empathy, most importantly creative and effective solutions to challenges. But here we are, conditioned by the systems that have been intact for ages: encouraging monolithic thinking and shortsighted solutions.

At JAIN, through our Humanities programme, we provide a platform for students to give up on the monolithic lens and look at the world, its

beauty and challenges in multiple ways that provide hope and convenience for generations to come. We do this through a course called "Perspectives".

In the Perspectives class, you will find students questioning their existing knowledge, exploring the multi-dynamism of truth and dabbling with different schools of philosophy. Students also critically look at the scope, limits and methods of the different disciplines they study. They also pursue the society- structure and challenges. All this is done with the notion that there are multiple ways of knowing. A perspectives class dismantles fragmentary thought processes and creates an all-inclusive multi-perspective thought process.

All we are trying to do is create more Alices!



The 21st Century Skills Integration through Academic Programmes

The Department of Humanities, Jain PU College takes pride in knowing and understanding how essential it is to prepare students for stepping into the modern world with skills that will always give them an upper hand. Integrating 21st-century skills into academic programmes is a mandate as these skills go beyond traditional academic knowledge and focus on the abilities required in today's rapidly changing society and workplace. The inculcation of the skills organically into the structure of the programme makes it different from a regular Arts or Humanities course. The interdisciplinary nature of the programme provides the rigour to make critical thinking an essential part of every subject. Incorporating activities that require students to evaluate evidence, make logical connections, and propose innovative solutions has improved the quality of work being produced by the students. Student's interest towards learning improves tremendously with activities that involve their interests or hobbies as well. Activities like making a channel trailer for their imaginary YouTube channel made them present their ideas and talent in a way they are most comfortable in. Working on their verbal, and non-verbal skills through these presentations immediately gave them a lot of confidence.

Holistic education requires students to work individually as well as in a team. With group assignments and fieldwork, we foster a collaborative learning environment where students work together on projects, discussions, and group activities. Equipping students with the necessary digital skills to navigate technology effectively. Integrating digital tools and platforms into lessons and assignments, teaching students how to use them responsibly and critically evaluate digital content. The collection of digital badges by the students during the summer break gave them an insight into subjects that were unexplored by them. The reports being presented by students after every field visit or a survey that they have conducted, help students develop the ability to adapt to change, embrace new challenges, and persevere in the face of setbacks. Incorporating activities that simulate real-world scenarios, and requiring students to adjust their strategies and learn from failure have helped them come a long way. We still have a lot to explore and inculcate, learning is an ongoing process and we at Jain Humanities department strive to make our programme practical, workable and challenging as Phil Collins once said “In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.”