

Technology at Periyar Maniammai University.

Periyar Maniammai College of Technology for Women was started in the year 1988 and it was elevated as Periyar Maniammai University in 2007. It has been accredited by NAAC with B grade. All engineering and technology courses have been accredited by NBA of AICTE. It has been certified with ISO 9000 in 1999, ISO 9000:2000 in 2000 and ISO 90001:2008 in 2010. Technology interventions at Periyar Maniammai University match its consistently excellent standards in other areas.

While it is usually observed that universities and educational institutions lag in implementation of technology in teaching and learning, Periyar Maniammai University has been at forefront of implementing technology in teaching and learning. Technology interventions at Periyar Maniammai for teaching and learning fall in several categories such as:

1. NPTEL courses conducted by IIT Bombay faculty.
2. Virtual Labs courses conducted by IIT Professors
3. Virtual Courses with Video Lectures by the university faculty in around 170 subjects
4. MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses conducted by the university faculty being transmitted through edX
5. Virtual Board – live interaction of board members through virtual means
6. Participation in 10000 teacher training program conducted by IIT faculty.
7. IUCC webinar courses conducted
8. Being able to access IIT Bombay Moodle
9. Moodle at the university itself.
10. Online courses with online evaluation.

On the side of governance the university has developed ERP in house – BRAINS. This has several system such as :

1. Admission Management System
2. Student Information System
3. Financial Management System
4. Examination Management System
5. Hostel Management System

6. Human Resource Management System
7. Inventory Management System
8. Library Management System
9. Space Management System
10. Training and Placement
11. Academic Management System
12. Research and Administration
13. Generic Utilities

Periyar Maniammai University has several suggestions to make on how to improve interventions in area of technology such as:

1. Inviting industrial experts to deliver technical lectures.
2. Use of e-content material to cover various level of students.
3. Advanced courses – Massive Open Online Courses – for various modules.
4. All engineering colleges should include NPTEL courses.
5. Aakash Tablet to be used at remote places.
6. More awareness program on NPTEL courses.
7. Periyar Maniammai courses can be used for 170 subjects after review by Ministry of HRD.

Technology interventions at Periyar Maniammai University may not be impressive but certainly meet the criteria of functional utility. Institutions must study these interventions. One chief lesson that we can derive from technology interventions at Periyar Maniammai University is that, technology interventions in teaching and learning need not take a “Big Bang” approach and could actually be small interventions that on a whole make revolutionary change. Similarly, in area of governance, educational institutions need not spend a fortune procuring expensive ERP packages. It is possible to develop limited ERP packages at reasonable costs. Of course learnings from technology implementations at other educational institutions cannot be applied without customisation and educational institutions are advised to charter their own path in implementing technology.