

TRANSPARENT CLASSROOMS

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Bangalore: Relying on proxy attendance to bunk classes will soon be history.

Adventurous students will instead have to risk an instant message to their parents, giving complete details of the class missed. What's more, the information, including data such as fingerprints and retina scan, will be stored online

for easy access by the institute authorities and administrators.

The 'attendance-online' pilot programme will be implemented at Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre from June. Parents can view teachers' comments about wards' academic performance and otherwise. The portal is designed by VHIRE4U, a hiring and web solutions organization.

They will also monitor its operation and security. CEO Harjeet Kakkar said no unauthorized person will be able to tamper with the system or make changes to it. Information can also be accessed through 'smart phones'.

Institute director Kalpaja D A said the aim is academic improvement, transparency and placement assistance.

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An online system will use biometry to help college students, parents and teachers. Students beware, you will be under the lens

ACCESS ANY INFORMATION

The institute will also launch a mega portal with a content of 5,000 pages. Sources said the website will feature comprehensive information about the college. It will also include other factual information on the admission procedure. Every department will be covered and anybody can access information on research papers, results and others

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The project has three sections – one each for students, parents and faculty and management

Students can simply log on and

- Apply for leave
- Air grievances on food, hostel, quality of faculty, etc
- View current grades, attendance, time-tables and course content

Parents can register themselves and access

- Complete information about their child
- Check student's records, attendance, class test

- reports, time-table
- Communicate with teachers and management
- Avail of assistance from a support desk
- Those without internet access can dial a given

- number and access a secure phone service to get the desired information
- According to their convenience, parents can activate the live SMS option, for daily or weekly reports

Teachers too can use the system to

- Feed in data
- Post comments on a specific student or group of students
- Give assignments and place mock test papers
- Department heads can keep track of their streams

PRIVACY FIRST

- A student will not be able to see peers' records
- A teacher will not be able to access information beyond his/her class
- HODs cannot access information beyond their departments
- Principals can only monitor their institute
- Top management, including directors and chairman, will have access to all colleges

WHEN AND WHERE ?

- The pilot project will be implemented in institutes of Vydehi – medical, dental, nursing, biotech and other centres – from June 2009
- It will be extended to 200 other colleges over the next two years