2.5.4 Positive impact of reforms on the examination procedures and processes including IT integration and continuous internal assessment on the examination management system

Response:

Examination Procedures

DEI has a well-established and efficient continuous evaluation system with different types of assessments spread through the duration of each semester. The processes related to the conduct of examinations, declaration of results and award of degrees and diplomas are controlled and monitored by the Central Examination Department of the Institute together with the Faculty and College Examination Cells. Various reforms have been undertaken in the last five years that have made a positive impact on examination management:

1. **Centralized conduct of Internal and End-Semester Examinations**: Seating and invigilation for internal class tests and end-semester examinations are now organized centrally at the Institute level, which were earlier organized and managed by the six faculties individually for their own students. This has led to optimal utilization of physical as well as manpower resources, increased vigilance and smooth conduct of the examinations.

2. **Automation of Examination System**: A Course Management Software System has been developed completely in-house with the following features:
   - *All type of programs supported including integrated, distance, dual and regular.*
   - *Enrolment and registration of students.*
   - *Registration cancellation.*
   - *Verification of students.*
   - *Flexible award blanks for entering marks of different types of evaluation components.*
   - *Flexible to handle any type of course.*
   - *Marks approval; verification by student and request for correction.*
   - *Support for Grading and percentage-based evaluation.*
   - *Student Tracking.*
   - *Compilation and Declaration of Results.*
   - *Printing of degrees, progress cards and transcripts.*
   - *Generation of reports for teachers, administration and regulatory bodies such as UGC.*
   - *Online Semester/ Module Fee Payment.*
   - *Seamless link with the admission system*
   - *Link with the OMR system for automatic transfer of marks*

   The automation has resulted in an extensive improvement in the efficiency and transparency of the Examination Department and other stakeholders such as teachers and has also provided an effective method for parents and students to track performance.

3. **OMR Based Evaluation System**

An OMR-Based Evaluation System has been developed inhouse with the following features:
*   *OMR – based evaluation of multiple-choice tests.*
*   *Caters to single correct and multiple correct answers.*
*   *Inexpensive – works on photocopied sheets.*
*   *Error Tolerant - does not require precision or color printing.*
*   *Adaptable to all scanner resolutions.*
*   *Flexibility for negative marking and other testing features.*
*   *Interface completely web based.*
*   *Optional negative marking, configurable by sections.*
*   *Choice between subjects for different sections.*
*   *Instant results available on the web and may also be exported to other formats such as MS Excel, Open office, etc.*

The evaluation system has helped reduce the cost of conducting a test greatly since it works on simple photocopied paper and is highly error tolerant. Its accuracy and reliability have ensured that the system can be used in high volume situations.

4. **Daily Home Assignments (DHAs):** Daily home assignments on topics covered in lectures have been introduced in all programmes in the Institute. These short assignments which are focused at reinforcing skills, concepts and information learned in the class have helped students in many ways. Besides facilitating the learning process, it has been found that these assignments have encouraged students to take initiative and responsibility for completing tasks, work independently, assess self-progress and in many cases, connect subject learning to the real world.

5. **Weekly Class Assignments (CAs):** Weekly Class Assignments on topics covered during the week and in daily home assignments are given in class in the form of a short quiz. This ensures that the student has paid attention in the classes and has also attempted all daily home assignments with the required rigour. These assignments have been found to have led to critical-thinking and self-assessment in students.

6. **Centralized Grading of Common Courses:** Common courses that are run University wide, such as the core courses, courses that are run within the same programme, but across the main campus and distance centers, are now graded and moderated centrally by the course coordinators. This has ensured uniformity and transparency in grading and moderation irrespective of where it is run and taught. Through the moderation process, differences in marking procedures have also been uniformized.

7. **Online Courses**: Students can now opt to credit 20% of their course requirements through online offerings such as SWAYAM and NPTEL. This has paved the way for students to

compare and take courses from the best of Universities offered by acclaimed faculty members.

8. **Remedial Examination**: Provision has been made for conduct of remedial examination after every semester instead of the earlier annual system. With this, a student who failed in the odd semester, but has to repeat the whole year, can now take up a modular skilling course in the even semester so as to put his time to purposeful skilling rather than wasting it meaninglessly.

9. **Online Viva-Voce Examination**: Provision has been made to conduct viva-voce examinations through video-conferencing in India and abroad. This has helped students who have moved on to jobs and has also allowed external experts to be engaged to examine the students.