



ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

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Vice Chancellor's Address to the Faculty Members of AMU in the Beginning of the Semester

Dear Colleagues,

Assalamo Alaikum and a very Good ***afternoon*** to all of you!

I hope that each of you had a good summer break and enjoyed refreshing time with your family, friends and loved ones. I am confident that, as always, you are coming back to AMU with renewed enthusiasm and excitement. I am pleased to welcome all of you after the summer break.

Before I get into the plans for our new academic year, let me start by expressing my gratitude and thankfulness for all the hard work you have been putting in with our students. I am very proud to be a part of AMU fraternity.

The university has planned lots of activities to ensure a productive and well-organized semester ahead of us. Your participation and cooperation are a major factor for the success of those activities, we count on you. Your participation and cooperation also reflect your professionalism and commitment to our beloved Institution.

Dear colleagues, as all of you are aware that a university is known for its researches and patents. In universities, we have a good blend of **EDUCATION and RESEARCH**, with *research, innovation and independent learning* as the major components. The responsibility of a university teacher is to set the students in the right direction and guide them where to go, but it's up to the students to learn, to perform and do the research.

Out of the two major components of university level learning, first I would like to talk about **EDUCATION**.

The goal of education is to increase the students' capacity to learn, to provide them with analytic skills and to increase their ability to deal with new information and draw independent conclusions. The better the quality of education, the brighter would be its students in terms of independent thinking and innovation. We are proud to be a part of a historical educational centre of learning, which has continuously improved in terms of quality measures. This has also been reflected by various ranking data published worldwide from time-to-time. We cannot afford to boast on our past glory without making sustainable efforts to further improve the quality of education aligned with present-day requirements.

We are proud of having one of the biggest Academic Library in Asia, in terms of door-step availability of rich learning resources through various channels including main library, seminar library, reading rooms, and campus wide network. As a teacher and mentor, it should be our responsibility to motivate students to judiciously use these learning resources to enhance their knowledge and skills. Further, teachers are not merely meant for class room teaching, but our role in training and grooming the students is far more important at AMU campus using the various available facilities like Coaching and Guidance Cell, and Students' Counseling Centre, etc. We should look for

avenues to make use of the state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure to provide 24 Hours availability of guidance and support to our students.

We, undoubtedly, strive hard to impart our students a quality modern education upholding the "Tehzeeb", traditions and culture of AMU, all thanks to our teachers, but there is always scope for improvements. You are a better person to identify the weaknesses in the present system, suggest improvement plans, execute the proposed plan and measure its effectiveness in next academic session. This cycle may be repeated to enhance the quality of our education. Just to elucidate, I would like to emphasize the following:

1. We should keep our syllabi updated and well tuned with present-day requirements of industry and academia. Syllabus revision should be made a regular feature to accommodate the recent phenomenon, developments and researches.
2. Once the semester teaching is over, all of us are required to write **End-of-the-Semester** (EoS) report highlighting the major achievements of the individual course and identifying the short-comings.
3. The identified shortcomings should be analyzed to find out the possible reasons for this, and all such findings should be very clearly mentioned in the EoS Report. Once we have analyzed the shortcomings, the plan for the future improvement should be proposed to overcome this problem. The proposed plan for quality improvement should be executed in the next semester and at the end of the semester, its effectiveness should be measured. This cycle of **Continuous Quality Improvement** (CQI) is repeated to enhance the quality of education at our Institution.

The suggestions may include the improvement of the syllabus, using innovative methods for lecture delivery, blending digital technology with teaching methods, discussion on more recent topics in the class room, giving case studies based on real life problems,

and even for the improvement of the support system or process. ***The concerned authorities should chalk-out the mechanisms for the effective implementation of CQI plans.***

In the next semester, *I would personally visit the departments to see the **CQI plans** at course level (proposed by the individual course-teacher) and **CQI plan** to improve the quality of overall Programme (proposed at the department level by the Chairperson).*

In the beginning, we may find it difficult, but once you start doing it, *believe me*, you will start enjoying it and you will fall in love with this activity, as it will provide you a mechanism for clearly weighing the effectiveness of your efforts and which in turn would result in professional satisfaction.

The university has taken various initiatives to support the enhancement of the quality of education at our university through the establishment of IQAC, Academic Programme Committee (APC), the innovation and IP committee, etc. These establishments need to be more vibrant and visible in the days to come.

The second major component of university education system is **RESEARCH**.

Producing quality research in the university is our prime aim. We are proud that our university has produced quality researches and even today we are doing a good job. Still more needs to be done. Researches in the **core area** have its own importance and should be continued with more vigour. But, researches in the **application areas** which directly touch the needs of the masses should be emphasized and we should take remarkable lead in this direction. I am aware of some such research activities in our university, but there is still a need to pursue more **application oriented multi-disciplinary research activities**. Though you are expert in your field, but for the sake of example, I name a few. We, as a layman keep on hearing the terms like GDP,

national index, nifty, circular economy, digital economy and similar terms. Can't we try specialized and multi-disciplinary research on related topics showing direct impact of these on our economy, the factors affecting these, and thereby suggesting solutions to improve economic condition of the nation, and all such activities well supported by quality research data? If such researches are produced, we may establish specialized study centres on these topics giving consultancy and support to private and government agencies on national and international level as well.

We have to pursue innovative and multi-disciplinary researches on the fast changing world order, strategies to compete and survive economically and strategically under the present circumstances. I mean to say that we should focus on specialized application area researches with an aim to excel in that area to an extent that we may provide expert consultancies in the related field at both national and international levels. This will result both in improving external funding and bringing good name to our university.

Similar kind of multi-disciplinary researches can be pursued in various fields of natural science, medical science, IT, engineering & technology, Agricultural science, management, social science, commerce and law. Launching centres of excellence in smart cities, technology incubation centres for accessible and sustainable technology, and related researches may be a good example for inter-disciplinary research area, using the expertise of diverse field of studies.

Similarly, the globalization has provided the best opportunity for the establishment of specialized language learning centers. In china, people are learning urdu language, in US, language learning centres have been established for urdu, hindi and several other languages. We can make optimal use of our resources available in Arts and humanities to prepare our students for various walks of life.

I mean we should make our presence felt globally by producing quality researches, patents and by establishing quality R&D and consultancy centres.

Dear Colleagues, It is a fact that we excel in core researches in many areas (reflected in NAAC, world rankings, etc) but you will agree that despite having state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure on the campus, we couldn't mark our presence (in such proportion) in the global digital world. This untapped area needs immediate attention and I request all my learned colleagues to take this challenge head-on and put hard efforts to mark our presence felt far and wide. SWAYAM is one such opportunity, let us grab it and grow globally. MHRD is funding generously for creation of quality e-contents for MOOCs. Your active participation would help our university in achieving two fold objectives: getting funds as well as marking the global presence of AMU.

The university has taken various initiatives to support and further strengthen the research activities, like the establishment of technology Incubation centre, Patents Committee, etc. I assure you full support from the university for any such proposals, which are submitted to external agencies for research/project funding.

I am taking special care to provide facilities to Teachers like sitting space, computers and other Infrastructural facilities. We are building new Chambers for Teachers in Engineering College, Women's College, Law Faculty and Tibbiya College.

Let us also make full use of programmes like Gian Programme and Aligs Academic enrichment programmes.

You are aware with the fact that our University has been ranked **A** by NAAC, and the re-evaluation of NAAC accreditation is substantially dependent on the quality, merit, and completeness of the reports time-to-time compiled by IQAC. Funding from government agencies, in future, would be linked to performance evaluated by NAAC. Hence, your active participation and cooperation in this regard will be highly appreciated.

As I have already mentioned, all the reports will be thoroughly reviewed during the next semester under my supervision and I am expecting high level of quality of contents, both at individual and department level.

Dear colleagues, we are fortunate to have autonomy in this university, which gives us more freedom over our own destiny. We are a self-governing community of scholars. We write our own Ordinances and regulations and have exercised these powers since our foundation. Our institutional autonomy - sustained by governance, the prudent use of resources, and by a productive relationship with society - serves to underpin our intellectual freedom, which is the real reward. It is this freedom with which we pursue education, learning and research at the highest international level of excellence that enables us to achieve the end of contributing to society, as encapsulated in our mission statement too. With higher level of freedom comes more responsibilities on us. We should make optimal use of this freedom in making this institution among top rated universities. Further I feel appropriate to mention that the community looks up to us with great expectations and as a Head of the Institution I am committed to protect the interest of the community as well as the University.

Besides ensuring quality **education and research**, enhancing the number of seats in existing programmes and Launching of new courses/programmes to increase the **ACCESS** is the demand of the hour. We have taken various initiatives to increase **ACCESS** as well as **INCLUSIVENESS**, as per UGC requirements.

A number of new projects have been planned for future growth of the university. The list is very long, but to name a few,

1. Establishment of College of Paramedical Sciences
2. Establishment of College of Nursing

3. Establishment of Institute of Pharmacy
4. Hall of Residence for Research Scholars
5. Creation of International Hostel
6. Establishment of Sports Hostel
7. Establishment of Convention Centre
8. Conversion of Classrooms into Smart Classrooms
9. Establishment of Integrated Admission and Examination Unit
10. Expansion of Administrative Block
11. Introduction of New Courses in various Faculties and Rationalization of old Courses

Since we are proud of the quality of our education and we care about extending access to it, growth in the number of students has been the pattern of past decades. Each new graduate course we create must provide the international excellence that should be the hallmark of our Institution. I assure you that the university will work harder in delivering this, but together we need to respond to the pressing question of how to meet the future social, academic, and pastoral needs of our growing graduate (and postdoctoral) communities.

These questions – how we grow without losing our distinctiveness; how we educate increasing numbers of students, especially graduate students; how we develop the research environment of the University and how we engage with those who choose to support us - will face us squarely in the next few years. The answers we choose will shape what the University looks and feels like in 20 years' time. These choices are critical; our responsibility is great. Maintaining our freedom is hard and needs watchfulness. The right to choose has been hard earned - let us embrace it.

As you can see, our university has a very ambitious agenda and we need your cooperation to implement it.

Hope all of us will continue to work sincerely to the greater cause of making our university an excellent place for education, learning and innovation realizing the vision of Sir Syed. In achieving the objectives of our alma-mater, I assure you, my whole-hearted support.

Thank you, may ALLAH bless you and all your loved ones.

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