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Hectic schedules at campuses on city's outskirts leave students with no time to pursue their interests. So, 'expert' students become teachers and conduct free classes find out Niyati Rana and Kruti Naik

Dance with me

{JENNIFER JACOB, MONICA REDDY AND SHIVANI DESAI MICA CLASSES: Salsa, Hiphop

Having a campus located far away from the city has its pros and cons. While it offers a serene and peaceful environment, the location makes it impossible for students to step out of campus to learn new skills, be it dance or music. So, students who have mastered a skill, offer training to other students. Here at MICA, students conduct 'open for all' football, dance, art and cupcake-making workshops. The recent addition is the weekly dance workshop. "The MBA routine can be rigorous and many of us lose touch with our hobbies in the course of two years. I do not believe gym is a worthy substitute for dancing. I used to be a regular at my dance academy back in Mumbai and I have trained for 14 years. Since I myself missed dance, I began conducting workshops, says Jennifer Jacob, who along with Shivani Desai and Monica Reddy began the dance workshops in January this year.

"It offers great peer-to-peer exchange as there are trained dancers among us as well as those who aspire to learn dance," she adds. The trio has organised salsa, Bollywood and belly dance classes this term and hope to begin soon with contemporary dance. "The best feeling I got while teaching salsa was when students came and told me that it was a huge stress buster and they were looking forward to my next class," says Aditya Naishadam, salsa instructor and a PGP-1 student.

"We had a wonderful experience teaching belly dance, or Raqs Sharqi, which is a good mix of sensuality and spirituality", says Tanvi, a belly dance instructor. "What I like is that all are welcome, irrespective of their abilities. Choreography techniques are made easy for us," says Surabhi Gupta, a student of PGP-1.

Packing a punch

{ KNOCK OUT CLUB Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University CLASSES: Martial arts, taekwondo and self-defence

The students have come up with free martial arts and taekwondo training for everyone in the university. The expenses incurred are taken care of by the college. "We want to make students capable of protecting themselves. So, we came up with the idea of starting a club to train students in taekwondo and martial arts. It has been two years that we formed this club and now we have 19 regular members and 62 in total," said club's vice president Maitrayya Wathore, who teaches taekwondo and Israeli martial art forms to students. He says the club helps students boost their self-confidence.

Club's president Abhijit Patel says, "The classes are conducted every day between 5 pm and 7 pm. We also organise inter-college martial arts tournaments to encourage more students to join the club." Initially, not many students enrolled.

Now the club is not limited to just the students. Even faculty members and other staff members have joined it.

Fear exams no more

{ RUPESH RAJ Entrepreneurship Development Institute CLASSES: Preparing for exam and Fitness Temple

Many students at Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) would get nervous on the stage when asked to make a presentation. Noticing this stage-fear, one of the students at EDI decided to start an initiative called Among Ourselves (AO) where students could freely express their opinions and prepare themselves to become better speakers, which is an important aspect of leadership.

"Students could come and speak on any topic they wished to. All they needed to do was put forth their presentation idea to a committee which reviewed it and monitored the discussion," says Rupesh. The AO group also tutored the entire PG16 batch for mid-term and final-term examination. "The interesting part is that no faculty member was involved and it was only the students who taught the rest," said Rupesh.

Nearly 50 students at the institute groom their skills by being part of AO.

As Rupesh wants to venture into fitness industry, he also started fitness classes at the campus with participation from seven students. He chose to name it Fitness Temple. Asked how he manages to pursue his other interests along with academics and he responds, "I loved the challenge.

It was not difficult to take care of studies as the activities were scheduled late in the evening after dinner. Most of us would spend this time gossiping away. Instead, I thought why not focus on something constructive." He, however, runs the fitness classes at 7 am.



