



**CHITKARA**  
UNIVERSITY  
PUNJAB

**Policy on Life-Long**  
**Learning**  
**(Version 2.0)**

(Approved by 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body Meeting dated 29-02-2024 Vide Agenda  
Item No. GB 25.22)

## **FOREWORD**

Education, a fundamental pillar of human resource development, is inextricably linked to a nation's economic progress. Ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, both in formal, non-formal, and informal settings, is essential for fostering lifelong learning and empowering individuals to thrive in today's rapidly evolving world.

Lifelong learning, a continuous process of acquiring knowledge, skills, and attitudes throughout one's life, is crucial for personal growth, societal development, and meeting the demands of the dynamic job market. It empowers individuals to adapt to change, embrace innovation, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In the context of globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of the world, lifelong learning has become more imperative than ever. Individuals must acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to compete in the global marketplace, address emerging challenges, and contribute to sustainable development.

Recognizing the importance of lifelong learning, Chitkara University, Punjab has developed a comprehensive strategy to promote this essential aspect of education. The strategy focuses on providing students with the tools and opportunities to continue their learning journey beyond graduation, empowering them to become lifelong learners and active contributors to society.

By fostering a culture of lifelong learning, Chitkara University, Punjab aims to equip its students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world, contribute to economic growth, and make a positive impact on society.

**Chitkara University, Punjab**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Chitkara University, a prominent institution in India, has embraced the concept of lifelong learning as a cornerstone of its educational philosophy. In a rapidly evolving world characterized by technological advancements, globalization, and demographic shifts, the ability to continuously acquire new knowledge and skills is essential for both personal and societal progress. Chitkara's commitment to lifelong learning aligns with the evolving needs of India and positions it as a leader in higher education. The university's approach to lifelong learning is multifaceted. It offers a diverse range of programs that equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world. Through industry partnerships, Chitkara ensures that its curriculum remains relevant and aligned with market demands. Additionally, the university fosters a culture of research and innovation, encouraging students and faculty to explore new ideas and contribute to knowledge advancement.

By emphasizing skill development, Chitkara University provides students with practical skills that are highly valued by employers. The university also offers a variety of online and continuing education programs to cater to the diverse needs of learners, making lifelong learning accessible to a wider audience.

Chitkara's commitment to lifelong learning is not only beneficial for individuals but also for the broader Indian society. By empowering individuals with the tools and resources they need to thrive in a changing world, the university is contributing to the nation's economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. Lifelong learning is essential for bridging the gap between the most advantaged and disadvantaged members of society, promoting social inclusion, and fostering a more equitable future.

In conclusion, Chitkara University's dedication to lifelong learning is a catalyst for India's progress. By providing individuals with the opportunity to continuously learn and adapt, the university is equipping them to navigate the complexities of the 21st century and contribute to a brighter future for themselves and their nation.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of lifelong learning, there are significant challenges to be addressed. These include:

- **Accessibility:** Making sure that lifelong learning opportunities are open to everyone, no matter their socioeconomic status, age, or where they live.
- **Affordability:** Ensuring that lifelong learning is financially accessible for individuals and families, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds.
- **Quality:** Guaranteeing that lifelong learning programs are of high quality and cater to the needs of learners.
- **Relevance:** Making certain that lifelong learning programs align with the evolving demands of the job market and society. Despite these challenges, there are also considerable opportunities to promote lifelong learning. These include:
  1. **Technological advancements:** The broad availability of technology, like online learning platforms and mobile devices, has simplified access to education and training for individuals.
  2. **Partnerships:** Collaborations among governments, educational institutions, businesses, and civil

society organizations can foster a supportive environment for lifelong learning.

**3. Individual motivation:** It's essential for individuals to be motivated to pursue lifelong learning. This involves changing the perspective from seeing education as a one-time event to understanding it as an ongoing journey.

### **The Role of Chitkara University**

Chitkara University is promoting lifelong learning; by offering a wide range of educational programs, providing access to state-of-the-art facilities, and fostering a culture of innovation and inquiry, universities can equip individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st century.

Furthermore, university will also collaborate with businesses, government agencies, and other organizations to develop lifelong learning programs that meet the specific needs of different sectors and communities. By doing so, Chitkara University will help to create a more skilled and adaptable workforce, contributing to the overall development of society.

Lifelong learning is a fundamental principle that is essential for individual and societal progress. As the world continues to evolve, the ability to learn and adapt throughout one's life will become increasingly important. By addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities associated with lifelong learning, we can create a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future for all.

## **2. VISION**

"To empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world, foster innovation and social progress, and contribute to the betterment of society through lifelong learning opportunities."

## **3. GOAL**

"To provide a comprehensive and inclusive learning environment that empowers individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to excel in their chosen fields, contribute to economic growth, and make a positive impact on society."

## **4. OBJECTIVES**

To achieve the above vision and goal, the objectives are set as follow:

- 4.1.** Provide services of lifelong learning to all Chitkara University's students, staff and faculty members.
- 4.2.** Develop comprehensive and flexible Lifelong Learning Programs in response to the demand for learning
- 4.3.** Develop learning centers, physical infrastructure, and learning venues properly
- 4.4.** Provide capacity building for LIFELONG LEARNING program coordinators with emphasis

onprogram design, material development, teaching methods, orientation program, and technical and professional practicum

**4.5.** Recognize, validate, and accredit knowledge, skill, and competence acquired from Lifelong Learning program in accordance with Academic Framework ensuring transparency, justice and consistency

**4.6.** Encourage concerned institutions, private sector, and development partners to implement lifelong learning programs to update and upgrade Chitkara University students, staff and faculty from level to level.

## **5. STRATEGIES**

Following strategies are identified to accomplish the above goal and objectives:

### **5.1. Strengthening Legal Basis & Implementation Practices**

- Enhance and solidify legislative documents to guarantee that Lifelong Learning is effectively and thoroughly put into practice: Making sure that legislative frameworks fully back the broad implementation of Lifelong Learning initiatives.
- Strengthening Leadership and Management: Creating and putting into action robust and high-quality leadership and management systems.
- Updating Monitoring and Evaluation: Revamping current monitoring and evaluation systems to encourage collaborative, consistent, effective, and inclusive participation from all relevant stakeholders.

### **Provision of Lifelong Learning to all people**

- Universal Access: Guarantee that everyone has the right to education and the chance to participate in lifelong learning. Offer services through formal, non-formal, and informal education to meet various needs and enhance access to literacy, numeracy, vocational skills, professional skills, and soft skills.
- Accessibility and Information: Ensure that lifelong learning opportunities are available to all, particularly to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Provide clear and effective information about the services available to assist individuals in making informed decisions.
- Dissemination and Expansion: Raise awareness of the success stories and advantages of lifelong learning. Broaden the range of public, private, community, and home-based services, with a special emphasis on promoting lifelong vocational skills for both youth and adults.
- Flexible Learning and Support: Encourage adaptive and flexible learning approaches in all educational environments. Establish skills-bridging programs, career guidance, and employment consultation services to help individuals enhance their vocational skills and explore career opportunities.

## **5.2. Creating Well-Rounded and Adaptable Lifelong Learning Programs to Meet Learning Needs**

- Program Updates and Upgrades: It's important to keep formal, non-formal, and informal education programs current to address the changing needs of learners. Emphasize the development of technical skills, competencies, values, cultural understanding, knowledge, gender awareness, and positive learning attitudes.
- Curriculum and Materials Alignment: Revise the curriculum and teaching materials to align with contemporary socio-economic trends and ensure they remain relevant.
- Lifelong Learning Program Development: Conduct research and create programs that embody the principles of lifelong learning.
- Quality and Impact: Support literacy initiatives, equivalency programs, and quality of life improvements that truly meet the needs of learners. Encourage participatory programs that empower both learners and trainers, fostering engagement in lifelong learning and enhancing family income opportunities.

## **5.3. Establishing Optimal Learning Environments**

- Transforming Public Spaces: Prepare and adapt public areas to serve as effective venues for lifelong learning.
- Organized Infrastructure and Environment: Make sure the learning environment is structured and promotes effective learning.
- Lifelong Learning Centers: Create lifelong learning centers and weave the idea of lifelong learning into all educational institutions.
- Materials and Equipment: Supply essential materials and equipment for lifelong learning, paying special attention to the needs of learners with disabilities and promoting gender inclusivity.

## **5.4. Strengthening Lifelong Learning Coordinator Capabilities**

- Enhance training and orientation programs to improve comprehension of teaching methods and professional practice.
- Build the capacity of service providers in basic vocational and technical skills to support a high-quality and effective lifelong learning process.
- Strengthen teachers' skills through training and orientation prior to or during the execution of programs centered on teaching methods and professional practice.

## **5.5. Validate and Recognize Lifelong Learning Achievements**

- Accreditation Mechanisms: Create strong national and regional systems to issue accredited certificates or letters to those implementing programs.
- Prior Learning Recognition: Promote and acknowledge prior learning and existing skills to guarantee fair and just validation.
- Understanding Technical and Vocational Education: Enhance awareness of the technical and vocational education and training system to support effective recognition and validation.
- Flexible Pathways and Evaluation: Expand enrollment opportunities through flexible pathways and establish literacy evaluation frameworks and tools to assess skill levels.

### **5.6. Encouraging Institutional Engagement in Lifelong Learning**

- Institutional Motivation: Inspire ministries and relevant institutions to actively support and encourage everyone to participate in lifelong learning.
- Capacity Building: Enhance the development capabilities of lifelong learning institutions to provide effective and high-quality programs.
- Resource Mobilization: Work together with relevant institutions to gather resources and technical assistance for lifelong learning initiatives.
- Partnership and Coordination: Collaborate and coordinate with pertinent institutions and development partners to foster a learning society and support human resource training programs that align with lifelong learning goals.

### **5.7. Promoting Intercultural Understanding**

- Volunteerism and Community Engagement: Inspire everyone, especially young people, to get involved in various forms of volunteer work. Create an environment where knowledge and experiences are shared freely among ministries, institutions, the private sector, and civil society.
- Academic Staff Engagement: Encourage and energize academic staff to take an active role in promoting and participating in lifelong learning initiatives.
- Inclusive Lifelong Learning: Motivate all individuals, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups, to engage in and benefit from lifelong learning programs.
- Job Opportunities and Social Harmony: Expand job opportunities for those who have completed specific training programs, giving priority to volunteers. Cultivate a culture of lifelong learning within families and communities to promote harmony and combat discrimination.

### **5.8. Promoting Equality for All**

- Provide opportunities for disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized individuals, especially women and children, as well as people with disabilities, to access lifelong learning.
- Focus on supporting drop-out students, vulnerable populations, ethnic minorities, migrant workers, the unemployed, and marginalized groups in acquiring basic vocational and technical skills.
- Create opportunities and support the rehabilitation of victims by offering simple technical and vocational training.
- Promote gender equity and inclusion throughout the lifelong learning process.

### **5.9. Advancing education with the help of technology**

- Policy Dissemination: Share and promote the Policy on Lifelong Learning to enhance awareness and understanding among the public.
- Media Outreach: Consistently share information through mass media on topics related to vocational training, technical skills, science, education, culture, religion, and other aspects of lifelong learning.
- Lifelong Learning Awareness: Increase awareness of lifelong learning by utilizing various mass media channels.
- Learning Resources and Technology: Support the creation of educational materials focused on

technical and vocational skills, best practices, and other relevant subjects for technology-driven lifelong learning. Encourage the use of technology and set up learning management systems, particularly mobile technology, for literacy and other educational programs

### **5.10. Mobilizing Support for Lifelong Learning**

Encouraging Private Sector Involvement: Motivate and provide incentives for businesses, factories, artisans, farmers, and other private entities to engage in and promote lifelong learning initiatives.

- Collaboration with NGOs and Development Partners: Work together with NGOs and development organizations to enhance lifelong learning programs and facilitate their execution.
- Building Networks: Create connections with local service providers to design relevant and effective lifelong learning curricula.
- Community and Parental Engagement: Partner with and support the efforts of parents and communities to create lifelong learning programs that address local needs.

## **6. ACTION PLAN**

To accomplish the above vision, goal, objectives, and strategies, action plan is required to operationalize as follow:

### **6.1. Establishment of Team**

- Constitute a Lifelong Learning Steering Committee

### **6.2. Financial Support**

To support the mechanism and process implanting activities in each strategy, this policy is required for financial support from various sources:

- Budget of Government, Non-Government bodies of education sector.
- Budget of Statutory body of university
- Budget from development partners and contribution from private sectors and community, as well as budget from other various sources

### **6.3. Human Resource Development**

To effectively implement the Policy on Lifelong Learning, it is essential to focus on developing human resources for management, planning, and coordination. Additionally, there is a need to continuously update and enhance curriculum development across various educational modalities: Formal, Non-Formal, and Informal education. This approach should be comprehensive and flexible at all levels, with the goal of promoting lifelong learning.

### **6.4. The Plan Planning Process**

A comprehensive Plan on Lifelong Learning is being developed through research studies and consultative meetings with key stakeholders. This approach aims to support and enhance the effectiveness of the policy implementation. The plan should align with Chitkara University's vision of promoting lifelong learning for all individuals and be executed within the established framework.




### 6.5. Oversight and Accountability for Lifelong Learning

- Develop a comprehensive system for follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation to measure progress and identify opportunities for enhancement.
- Prioritize the assessment of the targets and strategies defined in the Policy on Lifelong Learning.
- Examine the engagement of service beneficiaries, providers, and other stakeholders in lifelong learning initiatives.
- Keep track of the progress made in lifelong learning programs and evaluate the outcomes against the set objectives.


## 7. CONCLUSION

The Lifelong Learning Policy acts as a framework for developing human resources in India. To meet its goals, it requires collaboration and support from a variety of stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, educational institutions, and individuals at every level. It's essential to establish the right mechanisms and legal standards to create a coordinated team or organization that can implement the policy, craft a strategic plan, promote lifelong learning widely, and gather resources from different sources. The policy encourages Chitkara University to transform into a global institution that meets societal needs and aligns with global trends, especially in a job market that increasingly values knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values. Individuals need to develop both hard and soft skills to effectively enhance the quality of life in a knowledge-driven society.

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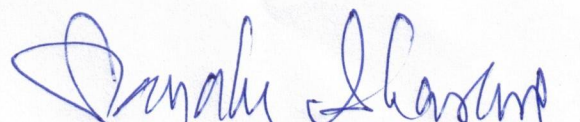
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