

Jawaharlal Nehru University

New Delhi

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Occupation and Blockade of the JNU Administration Building Must End

The students who have been blockading and occupying the administrative building since February 9 last are accountable for the huge financial loss to the university and adverse impact of it on multiple stakeholders in the JNU community.

Their genre of protest is extremely undemocratic and self-seeking in nature. Repeated appeals by the Vice Chancellor to end such unlawful and unhelpful method of protest, frequent visits by senior administration officials to request these students to come forward and discuss their grievances and allow the administrative staff to carry out their day to day activities and written willingness of the Vice Chancellor to hold dialogue and discussion with student representatives have fallen on deaf ears.

These students are inflexible and adamant and have been demanding that the Vice Chancellor must appear before and speak to a mass gathering of students, which is not only unjust but also unreasonable and impracticable. The striking students are more interested in gaining narrow political mileage than to care about the interest of the vast student community.

Sadly, repeated calls by the Vice Chancellor and other senior officials for constructive dialogue have been consistently rejected by the unbending group of students. The call of the administration is simple: End the illegal occupation and blockade of the Administration building and come for peaceful dialogue and discussions with the Vice Chancellor on any issues or any concerns of JNU community.

Unfortunately, these students have been playing the “social justice” card by twisting facts and making illogical arguments on the admission policy. It has been made amply clear time and again that reservation system and relaxation of marks for the marginalized sections of the society, the hallmark of JNU’s admission policy, will be retained within the parameters of the 2016 UGC Regulations. How do then they claim that “social justice” is at stake?

In fact, these so-called champions of “social justice” are completely heartless and they do not care about the impact of their unlawful occupation and blockade on over a thousand contractual labourers employed by JNU. Employees of the university too cannot get their salary in time. Medical reimbursements have been delayed. Students in large numbers seeking jobs are unable to get necessary documents. Research projects and their timely activation are also being hampered. JRF, SRF and RA recruitments in projects are also held-up. And teachers! Even teachers seeking leave for attending conferences are finding it hard to process their papers.

On top of it, university will be losing huge sums of finances in terms of paying penalty or losing rebates, since the Finance Branch is not allowed to function. The potential danger lies in the fact that construction of the new hostels that are in pipeline will either be delayed or scrapped due to inability of JNU to meet the financial deadlines and myriad clearances.

The administration yet again appeals to these striking students not to use “social justice” as an instrument of politics for narrow gains and requests them to uphold “social justice” by ending cruel and unlawful occupation/blockade of the administration building.

The lies that are being spread by some about procedural lapses in adopting the 2016 UGC Regulations must stop. There has been no bypassing of statutory bodies of the university. The Academic Council, the Executive Council, the Standing Committee on Admission, have all been consulted through due process and these bodies have endorsed/approved the admission policy.

The flimsy argument on “seat cut” must stop as well. Like myriad other universities, including the University of Delhi, that have followed the UGC rules, JNU also needs to follow the rules. Call for “Rejection of 2016 UGC Regulations” is unconstitutional and illegal. Any obstruction that may cause difficulty in holding entrance test for admission will be greatest violation of social justice and the agitating students will be solely responsible for this!

Actually, a very small number of students, led by JNUSU and a few student organizations have failed to recognize the voice, interest and pain of a vast number of more than 8000 silent students and hundreds of teachers, officers and staff who are suffering in various ways since February 9 last.

The JNU administration appeals to the entire JNU Community to proactively offer its good offices to convince the striking students that their mode of protest is highly undemocratic and extremely harmful to the cause of “social justice” and that the administration must be allowed to function normally.