

Report: Value Added Course on “Introduction to Algorithmic Thinking and Programming”

The Department of Computer Science conducted a VAC on “Introduction to Algorithmic Thinking and Programming” from **20th October till 30th October, 2021** in online mode. The sessions were of 45 mins in duration and were taken by Bertrand Dkhar, faculty member, Department of Computer Science.

Registration for the VAC was open to all students, except those from Computer Science and Computer Applications. There were 57 students who registered, out of which 30 were chosen, on a first come first served basis. A good number of students were from Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW), some were from the departments of Economics, Chemistry, Electronics, Mathematics, Political Science, Environmental Science and Khasi.

The primary goal of the VAC was to introduce students from various disciplines to computer programming. Hence, there were no prerequisites required to attend the course, only a willingness to learn. Students were also given appropriate and self-contained handouts to augment the online classes. For the evaluation of students, assignments and objective tests based on class discussions and material covered were given, along with a cumulative end-of-course test. It may be mentioned that there was no fee taken from the students.

The course content of the VAC was as follows:

-> Algorithms:

- Understand the need for algorithms
- Write effective algorithms for small problems

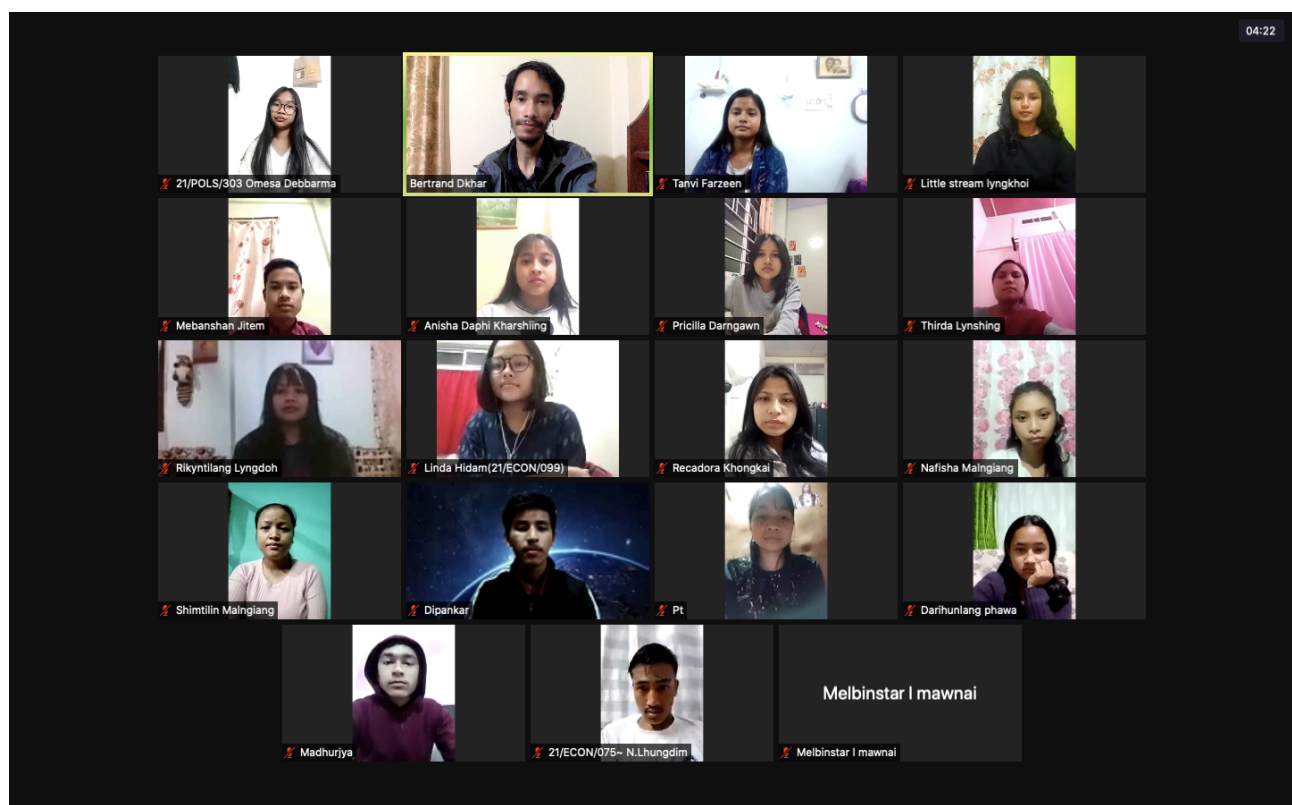
-> Flowcharts:

- Translate algorithms into flow charts

-> Programming using C

- Taking user input
- Making decisions
- Looping / repetition
- Compartmentalisation of processing using functions

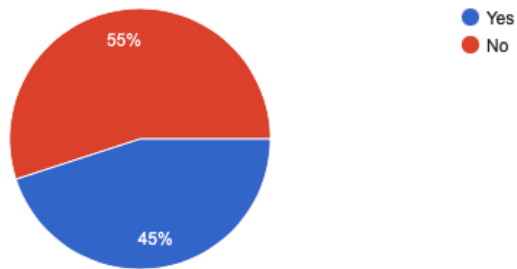
At the end of the VAC, 27 students qualified for a graded proficiency certificate, with 13 students getting the highest grade of A+.



Student Feedback from the VAC was good and encouraging.

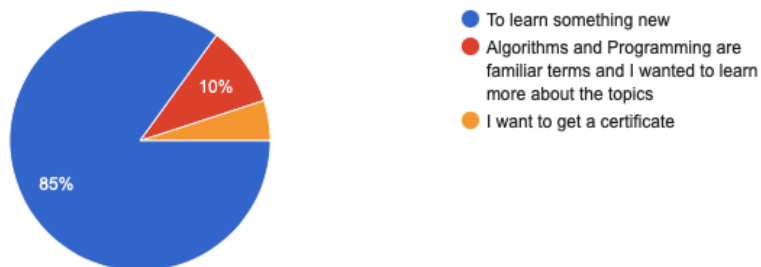
Have you ever taken Computer Science / Computer Applications at any level?

20 responses



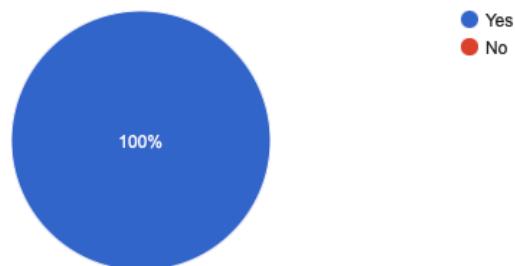
What made you want to attend the VAC on Intro to Algorithmic Thinking and Programming?

20 responses



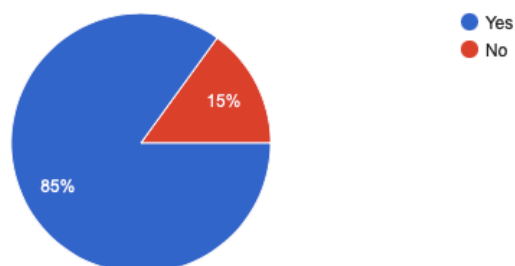
Did you learn something new and interesting during the VAC?

20 responses



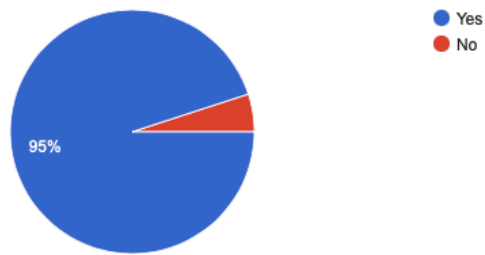
Will the topics that were taught will be useful and applicable in your (honours) subject?

20 responses



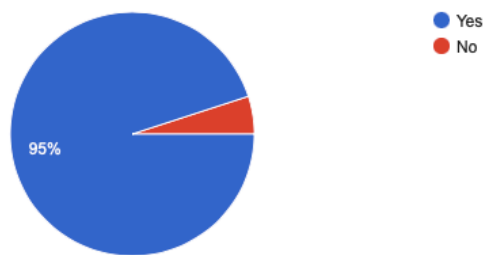
Are you now able to look at a given problem from the algorithmic point of view?

20 responses



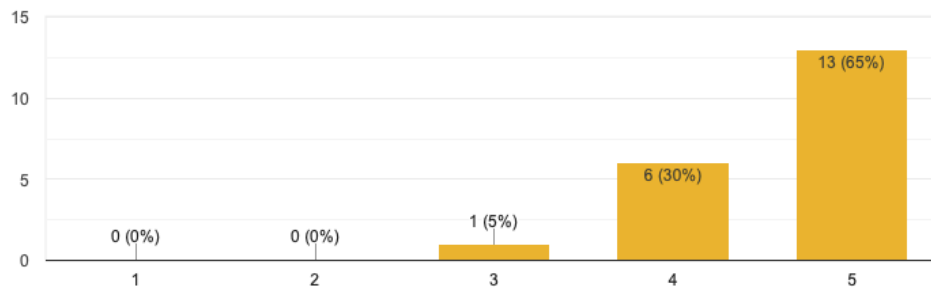
Were the topics taught with examples that you were able to understand (during the online class)?

20 responses



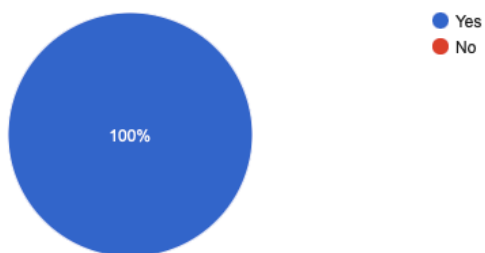
Was the reading material provided by the instructor easy to understand?

20 responses



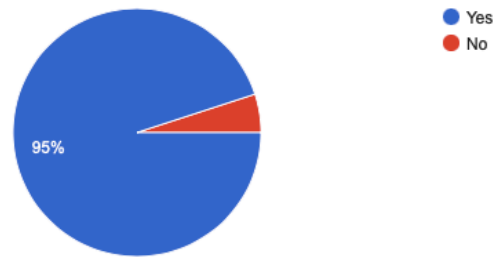
Was the instructor able to take all classes as given in the schedule?

20 responses



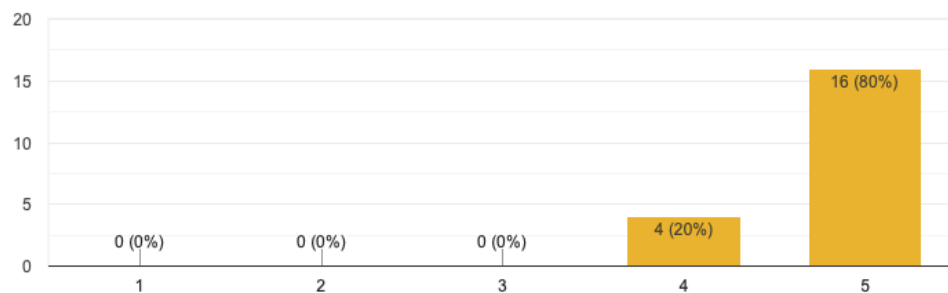
Was the instructor able to effectively communicate the subject material?

20 responses



What is your overall rating for the instructor?

20 responses



What improvements can you suggest to the instructor in conducting future VACs (or any other suggestions / comments).

17 responses

The entire VAC session was informative . Dkhar sir really made algorithm and programming easy to understand and it built a confidence within us as well . We hope to be a part of more such VACs in the future .

It was great and I've actually learned a lot so there's nothing to improve on. Thank you.

The instructor is perfectly perfect in teaching. Well- teaching. It's wonderful to have a session with an instructor.

We can see by observing that the instructor put an effort to make the students more understanding in V.A.C virtual classes. Thank you so much, sir.

No

There seems to be no problem, the classes are just fine exactly as I preferred , as my only intuition is to intake basic steps into Algorithm n Programming..and to receive the certificate at the end of the course, since most students require such basic training, kindly keep up the V.A.C on Algo n program to the set of upcoming batch also, who will require and enjoy the way it has been taught by you sir, we all really appreciate it Sir. Bertand dkhar..

We can continue with such VACs in offline mode too.