

Best Practice - I

1. Title of the Practice:

Student Support and Career Counselling

1. Goals

Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Mention the underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words

- To improve the Employability of students
 - The college organizes several capacity-building programmes such as personality development programmes, soft skill training, certificate programmes.
 - The college also organizes industry expert lectures to provide information on career options available for the students.
 - The college encourages students to undertake internships.
 - The college encourages students to undertake IT software development projects that would help them identify future potentials.
- To enhance capabilities of students
 - The college facilitates training for cracking competitive exams such as CET, CAT.
 - The college organises training for building awareness regarding various government exams such IBPS, SSC, UPSC.
 - The college offers value-added and add-on courses related to BFSI – BDEETATA, and facilitated courses through NPTEL- SWAYAM, Google etc.

1. The Context

Describe any particular contextual features or challenging issues that have had to be addressed in designing and implementing the Practice in about 150 words.

Most of the students coming to the college belong to varied social backgrounds, and very few of them are inclined towards higher academic pursuits. Financial constraints limit the capacity of students to go for higher education in prominent institutions, and most of them are inclined towards earning rather than going for higher education. In this situation, it is a challenge for the college to develop basic skills in them which will make them employable. It is also challenging to ignite in them, the value of pursuing higher education and becoming academically qualified. On the other hand, corporate organizations have become extremely professional in hiring employees, and expect candidates to be skilled and qualified. The college tries to bridge this gap/address this need by uplifting the skill of these students so that they can get absorbed in the job market and face the challenges of the professional world comfortably.

1. The Practice

Describe the Practice and its implementation in about 400 words. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian higher education. Please also identify constraints or limitations, if any.



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The college has identified the needs of the students entering the campus, and devised various programs and activities for their benefit, as listed below:

- **Basic Communication Skill Program**

The college organizes various courses on improving communication skills of the students at the first-year level, as they belong to socially diverse backgrounds, and many of them are not able to communicate comfortably in academic or professional discussions.

- **Industry Academia Interface (IAI) Lectures**

Industry experts are invited to guide students regarding the needs and requirements of the professional world, which provides insights to the students on how to mould their personality to adapt to the changing needs of employment market.

- **Internship Programs**

Once the students become aware of the needs of professional world, internship opportunities are provided where they can get real-time exposure to the working of professional organizations, and they can equip themselves with required skills and expertise before they complete their studies.

- **SIA-Techlink**

Students of BSc IT are given the opportunity to create live projects and software that are used in the college, which gives them hands-on experience at creating software.

- **Coaching for Competitive Exams**

Students are given guidance regarding cracking competitive exams like CET and CAT as well as banking exams and other exams related to government jobs.

- **Career Counselling and Personality Development Programs**

Career counselling sessions are organized for the students to counsel them about the various possible avenues in the job market where they can get employed. These sessions help build the information source of the students, and make them aware of diverse alternatives available for them. In addition to empower the students for their career, several certification courses are either offered directly or facilitated through the campus.

- **Placement**

The college has tie-ups with reputed institutions like ICICI bank, Reliance Jio, and Kotak Mahindra Bank through Tata Techno-serve which provide placement to the students of the college.

These activities and programs are carried out regularly for the benefit of the students, which is a best practice of the college.



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1. Evidence of Success

The implementation of all the above-mentioned activities has benefitted many students, who have been able to improve their skills and become employable.

- The basic communication skills program is organized for all first-year students. All students attend this program. At the outset, the program helps to break the ice among the students and make them comfortable with each other. Thereafter, the experts improve the communication skill of the students through various activities. Parallely, the experts also work on personality development of the students. Majority of the students have benefitted from the course, and they are of the opinion that these programs have improved their confidence and personality.
- The college has invited many industrial experts, who have guided the students regarding potential future prospects. These sessions have improved the awareness level of students, and many have set goals regarding their future after guidance from experts.
- More than 100 students have benefitted from various internship opportunities provided by the college over the years. This has provided financial independence to students, as well as helped them gain experience about the working of the industry.
- SIA Techlink has provided opportunity to develop software, and students of IT have developed many software including examination, admission, website, and library software which are currently in use in the college.
- The training for competitive exams has helped many students crack these exams successfully and get employed in reputed organizations.
- Even after providing training and support, students require additional guidance for becoming corporate-ready. Personality development programs organized by the college have benefitted many students who have learnt the skills required to excel professionally.
- More than 200 students have been placed in various institutions from the campus interviews over the years. All of them opine that placement opportunities and training given by the college has helped them become professionally successful.

1. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- The major challenge faced by the college is motivating students to undertake supplementary course to make them employable, and to build focus about importance of choosing a good career option as well as higher education programmes.
- Most of the students belong to financially weak families, hence are unable to pay additional fees for enrolling in add-on courses
- Many students are unable to undertake internships offered by the college due to reluctance and restriction from family to work while studying.
- Corporate companies expect certain basic skills among candidates applying in their companies, but students and parents are ignorant of this fact, hence they do not give importance to courses and programs offered by the college for betterment of the students.

1. Notes (Optional)

Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution (about 150 words).NIL



Best Practice - II

1. Title of the Practice:

Community-Centred Extension activities

1. Goals

Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Mention the underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words

- To Sensitise the students towards community related issues
- The students are oriented towards community related problems such as women health, safety, environmental issues, support to the vulnerable and weaker sections of the society
- They also learn to understand the issues affecting the society and their role in mitigating the same.
- To involve the students in promoting awareness regarding environmental sustainability
- The students identify ways to handle issues related to environment, waste management, water management, recycling of waste, pollution prevention, and so on.
- To create awareness regarding importance of maintaining cleanliness and prevention of spread of communicable diseases
- The students participate in various activities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan to promote importance of maintaining cleanliness.

1. The Context

Describe any particular contextual features or challenging issues that have had to be addressed in designing and implementing the Practice in about 150 words.

- The growing demands of the society, the competitive environment and the upbringing of the students in the community with varied economic and social background has brought forth the need for sensitising the students towards various issues related to vulnerable sections of society, environmental concerns, and importance of cleanliness. In the present scenario, students need to be socially sensitized so that they can volunteer their services when the need arises. In addition, empowering women of socially backward classes of society is also important to make these sections economically independent. The NSS unit creates awareness regarding these social issues, and participation in various activities helps students imbibe the value of service to humanity.

1. The Practice

Describe the Practice and its implementation in about 400 words. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian higher education. Please also identify constraints or limitations, if any.

The NSS unit of the College plays an active role in conducting various community centred activities, which can be classified into following heads:



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- **Activities related to environmental conservation:**

We undertake distribution of cotton and paper bags to replace plastic bags within the community. Ganpati is popular festival celebrated for 10 days across Maharashtra, where lot of flower waste gets generated. This waste needs to be disposed off in a proper manner. In this regard, nirmalaya collection drives are organized to collect nirmalaya and dispose it off safely in a way that does not harm the environment. In addition, waste management drives are organized to create awareness regarding segregation of waste in to wet and dry, and proper disposal of both to protect environment. Efforts are also taken to help RTO manage traffic during Ganpati visarjan and avoid congestion.

- **Activities related to health and wellness:**

Vaccination drives for Covid 19 have been organized for the benefit of community. In addition, various health check-up camps have been organised where people from the community can come and take benefit. Pulse polio vaccination drive is also organized regularly.

- **Activities related to Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan:**

Various activities have been organized under Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan to promote cleanliness in the community. Swach Bharat Pakhwada is also celebrated where students take up the responsibility to clean targeted surroundings and also conduct street plays and road shows to promote awareness regarding maintenance of cleanliness in nearby areas.

- **Activities related to Social Concerns:**

Various activities are conducted to sensitize students towards social concerns, such as relief fund collection drive for victims of Sangli floods, supporting Adivasi women become financially independent by selling rakhis made by them, organizing visits to old age homes, orphanages, and schools for specially-abled to promote a sense of social belongingness and make students aware of the challenges faced by these sections of society.

- **Activities related to promoting literacy in community:**

The NSS unit organizes activities like book donation camps, computer literacy programs and setting up library to promote literacy in the community and encourage students to read and write.

1. Evidence of Success

The implementation of all these activities has played a significant role in the lives of all student participants, who have inculcated a sense of social responsibility and sensitivity towards various issues in the community.

1. Many paper bags and cotton bags have been distributed to nearby communities, encouraging them to replace plastic with eco-friendly bags.
2. The nirmalaya collection drive has witnessed students collect more than 20,000 Kg of nirmalaya and more than 5000 kg of plastic periodically during Ganpati, and this waste is disposed off in a way that does not harm the environment.



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3. Further, student volunteers also help police manage traffic at various checkpoints during Ganpati.
4. Students encourage community to segregate waste in dry and wet, and create awareness regarding proper disposal of both. These life lessons are also practiced at home by the student participants, which creates a sense of social responsibility where they are learning by doing.
5. Many students as well as members of the community have benefitted from rubella vaccination drives, pulse polio drives and check-up drives organized by the college.
6. The cleanliness drives organized under Swachh Bharat Pakhwada has created many beneficiaries at the community level, along with sensitizing student participants towards the importance of clean surroundings.
7. Visiting orphanages, old-age homes, and schools for specially-abled children has not only made students aware of the problems and challenges faced by these sections of society, but also inculcated a sense of gratitude and satisfaction in their personal lives. Collecting relief funds for flood-affected victims of Sangli district creates a value of humanity in them. Selling rakhis made by Adivasi women to make them economically independent helps students understand the importance of women empowerment among the underprivileged sections. This has made students socially sensitive and empathetic to needs of society.
8. Book donation, setting up library, and computer literacy programs have helped students of nearby communities learn basic skills and develop the habit of reading regularly.

Two students of the college have bagged best NSS volunteer award in the year 2018-19. Subsequently, in 2019-20, the college was awarded for best district level program officer, the college was awarded district level and university level best NSS unit – these awards reflect the efforts taken by NSS unit towards the service for humanity.

1. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Implementation and success of community-centred activities largely depends on the outlook of the community towards these activities, the interest and passion of student volunteers and time required to conduct them. Finance is another limitation. It is observed that many members of the community are not aware regarding the importance of these activities, which leads to lesser beneficiaries. Student volunteers are extremely hardworking and passionate, but sometimes lack the family support required to undertake these activities on a regular basis. Many times, financial restrictions also affect the implementation of any activity.

1. Notes (Optional)

Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution (about 150 words). NIL



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