

Best Practice 2017 -2018

7. Give two Best Practices of the institution

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1. Title of the Practice: Enhancing employability quotient of students through academic-industry linkages

Goal:

Our institutional mission is the empowerment of our women students. Economic independence through employment is an integral step towards financial and emotional empowerment. The aim of our college is to develop employability skills of our students by networking with the Industry at various levels. We have therefore worked upon establishing linkages with the intention of enhancing critical and innovative thinking of our students, subject related technical skills and the requisite soft skills required for the global market place. This practice is sustained by coordinating and interacting with industry experts in order to assist students to get a better understanding of a professional work environment, work ethics and corporate etiquette. Students are exposed to latest trends through discussions with industry experts and also hands on experience through internship, field and industrial visits. They therefore gain specialization- related knowledge that goes beyond conventional classroom teaching.

The Context:

Our first challenge in implementing the practice was to establish a rapport and build up the trust of relevant Industries/potential employers despite the fact that we are exclusively women's institution, primarily offering undergraduate courses. The B.Sc. program has an internship component in the 6th semester, and one faculty member of each department was delegated as a liaison to establish a rapport with places of internship. In this manner we have been successful in developing positive interactions with companies such as Marico, Britannia Foods, Enviro Care Pvt. Ltd, Four Points Sheraton, Shoppers Stop, Thomas Cook and Grasim Industries. The BCA placement cell was also assigned the task of reaching out to companies like Wipro, Tech-Mahindra, Capgemini, Infosys, and Cognizant for campus placements. Another challenging issue is that a large number of our students come from conservative socio-cultural backgrounds with very little exposure to the expectations of the global workplace. We therefore have had to develop institutional mechanisms wherein we can effectively motivate and mentor women students for the world beyond the college, in terms of employability. This included strengthening the soft skills value added course in the 5th and 6th Semester which has been made compulsory for all students.

The Practice

Our practice and its implementation had a three pronged approach. First we have involved experts from the industry in adding value to the curriculum taught. Secondly we invite experts on an ongoing basis to interact with the institution and students at various levels. We also involve experts from the industry in assessment practices, thereby inviting their feedback

on students' performance. Thirdly, we have initiated and sustained a number of collaborative ventures with the industry.

The following practices have been established, and sustained:

From 2011 onwards, each department was asked to plan their academic calendar so as to invite subject experts from the industry for guest lectures as this would give them an added perspective of the requirements of the industry. For example BCA department has initiated a move to invite experts from industry to conduct 5% of their syllabus.

From 2013 onwards, it was decided that each department would invite at least 2 experts from the industry as members of the panel/ jury constituted for evaluating internship reports in the 6th Semester. They offer invaluable feedback to students on the expectations of the market place.

From 2014, it was decided that each major would invite experts from industry to speak on career possibilities in the respective specialization as part of the B.Sc. orientation for major selection at the end of the second semester, and various job opportunities available after BCA course.

Members of the industry have also been invited as external experts of the LMC committees .For example Mr. Milind Rane, Deputy General Manager HR at Hardcastle Petrofer Pvt.Ltd, is a member of the LMC of BCA and Dr. Prabodh Halde, Head (International Regulatory Affairs) Marico Industries is the subject expert for the LMC of M.Sc. CND. Two alumnae (Ms. Trupti Kini, Research Analyst, IIT-Powai and Ms. Kanchan Gupta, Senior Software Developer, Morgan Stanley) are part of the LMC for BCA.

Eminent members of industry have been invited as Chief guest for events such as the inauguration function of the intercollegiate technical festival Tekzone, and National level seminars for e.g. Ms. Sunita Bhaskaran (Head – Oracle Practice, ATOS India), Mr. Sankar Ghosh (MD at Solution Architecture, Accenture), Mr. Nanasaheb Shendkar (Environmentalism and Chairman at Aartist group of companies)

From 2014, at least one expert per specialization from industry is invited to be part of mock interviews which are conducted at TY Level, as part of the soft skills course.

In 2015, we signed a MoU for Aptitude Training in collaboration with SEED Infotech in order to improve students' logical reasoning, quantitative math, Stress and time management. In 2015, we also signed a MOU with Carepox Ltd for starting a certificate course in Entrepreneurial skills for 25 SY and TY RM students.

The M.Sc. CND department was given the responsibility of exploring linkages with the food industry and has successfully established linkages with companies such as with Marico, PepsiCo, Chini Kum, Pawaak and Easy to eat Foods which has led to collaborative projects.

Evidence of Success

As a result of our concerted efforts, the number of companies with which we now have associations have increased, and likewise the number of campus placements for courses like BCA has also increased by ---- percent. Importantly, we have been able to sign 6 MOUs for collaborative projects involving our M.Sc. students with companies like Marico and PepsiCo. The industry has taken interest in starting an 'Incubation project' for mentoring students who have innovative ideas for research projects and start up. We have been able to sign an MOU with Carepox Ltd. for an entrepreneurial skill development course, as well as with SEED Infotech for aptitude and soft skill training. SAS India Ltd has shown interest in our

institution and has awarded our parent body a CSR for 30 lakhs to enhance our ICT infrastructure. Important intangible results is a marked improvement in the communication skills and confidence levels of our students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

We have had to face initial challenge of low motivation levels and lack of professional attitude amongst students who are sent to the industry, as they do not have the required socio-cultural impetus. We also had to work on improving English language skills which is a requirement of today's global sector. Often the rigid schedules of the Industry made it difficult for professionals from the Industry to give a commitment in terms of their time and effort

2. Title of the Practice: Inculcating a sense of social responsibility in students

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

The Home Science program has ample possibilities for social outreach programs. Keeping this window of opportunity in mind, our institution decided to focus on inculcating the values of social responsibility in our students through a systemically designed plan of action. Our main objective is not only to create social consciousness among students, but also to guide them on how to take a more proactive role in society, and thereby transfer their learning from the classroom to the community. It was decided that we would implement our objectives through specially designed curriculum based activities, as well as specific extension activities that go beyond the curriculum. We took up the thrust area of gender based issues and issues related to underprivileged women and children.

The Context:

In 2012, the IQAC reviewed the extension activities undertaken by the institution at various levels. While there were ongoing activities conducted at different levels, the committee decided to systematize the processes so as to make extension activities more goal-oriented. A decision was taken to apply to the UGC for a grant to start a Gandhian Centre in the college. We received a UGC grant in 2013 and this gave us an institutional mechanism wherein we could plan activities to impart good citizenship through value education programs. Our Principal also instituted a 'value education endowment lecture series' in the name of her late father. A major impetus to our initiative was the 'Jagar Janivancha Abhiyan' program to promote gender sensitization which the government of Maharashtra introduced in 2012. A college level committee was formed to implement gender sensitization events for all students on campus. At the same time, each specialization was asked to focus on at least one activity in order to engage students in activism. The main challenge was to ensure participation of as many students as possible and to also sustain community- neighborhood -networking. The total beneficiaries per year on an average were 300 students.

The Practice

In order to implement the institutional goal of creating socially responsible citizens who will consciously contribute to the society, the college took the following steps:

Activities related to gender sensitization were allotted to a committee specially constituted for the same, named as Jagar Janivancha Abhiyan. The committee worked with the Adipaath Foundation to conduct sessions on personality development, legal rights of women,

self-defense workshops and workshops against domestic abuse. A calendar of events was planned and implemented in advance with the target audience of all students on campus.

The Seminar workshop committee was asked to take up the responsibility of conducting the value education lecture series. It was decided that there would be at least one lecture each semester for FY and SY students.

The Gandhian Studies Center took up the theme of promotion of pluralism on campus and stressed upon the need to respect diversity and practices of social inclusion through a range of activities.

It was decided that the focus on health aspects would be undertaken by the NSS unit.

Each department was asked to focus an area related to their specialization. For instance, the Department of Food Science and Nutrition built up a rapport with the Chota Sion Hospital wherein students conduct nutrition awareness programs for mothers of young children, and the students of Textile Science and Apparel Design have conducted training programs in embroidery for underprivileged girls at the Ashadeep Association. 90 students under the mentorship of 10 teachers worked on a project to bridge the gap between generations as conceptualized by the NGO THRED (Trust for Human Resource Enrichment & Development). Students of the Human Development have been organizing an integrated Program of the Prangan Experimental Nursery school and socially disadvantaged children of Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram. Another successful venture is the annual 'Balmela' in February. This is a unique theme based fair for fostering creativity in children. Apart from schools in the area, welfare organizations are also invited to send children to participate in the event. In this manner, students are directed towards transferring skills they have imbibed from the college to the community. In time, they develop a sense of bonding with the community. They improve upon their communication skills, time management skills, problem solving skills, team work and leadership qualities, organization skills and analytical skills. The focus on community oriented activities has contributed towards the holistic development of students.

Evidence of Success

The success of our performance can be gauged from the number of community linkages which we have established and sustained. We have had ongoing activities for the last four years with Chota Sion Hospital, Stree Mukti Sanghatana, Ashadeep Association and Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram among others. We have received recognition for the extent of our gender outreach programs at State and District levels. The college received the 2nd prize at District Level and 1st prize at University Level for the academic year 2012-2013. and 2nd Prize at State Level, 1st prize at District Level and 1st Prize at University Level for 2013-2014 from the Government of Maharashtra. We consider it a mark of the success of our best practice that we are continuing with the program despite the government discontinuing the scheme. Another marker is the MOUs signed with Stree Mukti Sanghatana and the sustained relationship with social service organizations such as Lions club and , Rotary Clubs who have expressed a keen interest in engaging our students in their activities.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The main challenge that we faced was to draw up a structured plan wherein all students on campus could be beneficiaries of this project in some way or the other. It was also a challenge to motivate faculty members to spare time for organizing such activities in addition to their existing workload. As we follow a hectic semester system, we had to find out as to how to

cope with the time constraints and also to work out a chain of continuity. Students also had to be motivated to volunteer given the pressure of the curriculum. We worked towards getting financial support for the various activities and managed to do so mainly through human resources which we got from collaborating agencies.

7.4 Contribution to environmental awareness / protection

Environment Sensitization:

Activities:

Date	Activites
15.06.2017	To mark the World Environment Day (5 th June), Newspaper clippings on Environmental Issues were displayed on notice boards
11.07.2017	Talk by Mrs. Shamal Matange from Urjaa Foundation on Reuse-Reduce-Recycle-Refuse as a philosophy for the future for students of FY.B.Sc
31.07.2017, 03.08.2017& 10.08.2017	Lecture series on Bio-diversity by Dr. Meenal Mokashi, In-Charge Smt. HMN Junior College of Home Science
08.08.2017	Lecture on “Developing Home Gardens” by Ms. Yashvi More, faculty from Department of Interior Designing for students of second year BCA and B.Sc.
09.08.2017	Workshop on dry and wet garbage segregation by Global Green Foundation for non-teaching staff
August and Sept. 2017	Awareness campaigns on Hygiene and Sanitation. Save Electricity by students of Green brigade
28.07.2017& 03.08.2017	FY B.Sc. students from batch 5 & 6 conducted a survey on ‘Cleanliness and green habit practices at BMN College. The purpose was to study the lacuna in these areas and to work on improving the same.
26.09.2017	Skit presented by FYJC for FYB.Sc on ‘Health and Hygiene’.
25.09.2017	Talk by Mrs Darshana, Asst Prof Smt MMP Shah Women’s College of Arts & Commerce for FYBSc on ‘Population and Environment’
29.09.2017	Organized a Plastic collection drive for all students and staff of BMN and sent the same for recycling ECO- ROX
27.11.2017	Inauguration of the sanitary napkin vending machine sponsored by Inner wheel, Mumbai and Rotary Club of Mumbai Uptown in the 5 th floor washroom
15.12.2017	10 Students of BCA visited the 5th Mega- Exhibition of Minerals, Fossils, Antiquities & More conducted by the Centre for Extra Mural Studies, University of Mumbai & INStucen, Kalina campus
23.01.2018	Ms. Uma Iyer (Permaculturist & Alumni) conducted a lecture on Sustainable Living & Permaculture for SYND students
16.01.2018	Guest Lecture on ‘Waste Management and Waste Segregation’ by Mrs. Joshi, ECO-ROX for class IV employees.
27.01.2018	Group activities carried out by FY & Sy Jr College students in class for Swach Bharat
01.02.2018	Dr Meenal Mokashi attended the Principals conclave on teaching sustainable development goals and climate change education for safer planet at Kirti M Dongursee College, Dadar

02.02.2018	BSc & BCA students attended the 10 th year Anniversary on “In Conversation with Globalization” at St. Xavier’s College , Mumbai
02.02.2018- 04.02.2018	Prof. Mala Pandurang coordinated the Plenary session of Climate change & energy Options & 2 nd regional network meeting of Asian alumni of the International Climate Fellowship Programme, Aurangabad
03.02.2018	Lecture on ‘The Study and Scope of GIS – Geographical Information System’ by Ms. Francina Thapa (Alumina) for FYBCA students
09.02.2018- 12.02.2018	30 BCA students and 50 B.Sc Students visited the Kala Ghoda Festival to observe the installations

26.02.2018	Ms Adithi Muralidhar of Homi Bhabha Insitute of Science, Mumbai conducted a session on “ Environmental Friendly Lifestyles” for FYBCA students
26.02.2018	Post Card Designing Competition was held on the theme “ Waste segregation – Dos & Don’ts” for the students on the campus. Winners are Ms Sneha Jatoliya (FYBCA I) won 1 st Prize, Ms. Anjuman (FYBA) won 2 nd Prize, Ms. Yelina Miranda (FYBA) won 3 rd Prize, Ms. Bhavin Sangare (FYBCA I) and Ms. Nafisa Kapasi (FYBCA I) won Consolation Prize.
03.03.2018	Dr D.B.Naik , BARC conducted a lecture on “ Reusing Thermocol” for BCA students
17.03.2018	Under ‘Paging A Smile’ activity, a workshop was conducted by Mrs.Vidya Subramanian on ‘Recycling paper to books’ for FYBCA students
25.03.2018- 28.03.2018	Organized an ‘E-waste Collection Drive’ in collaboration with Stree Mukhti Sanghatana. FYBCA students collected a total 66.72 kgs of E-waste and donated the same to Stree Mukhti Sanghatana