

Best Practice-I - LAKSHYA

ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE – KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT

Objective:

The motto of the College is ‘**Rise with Education**’. So, the College strives to raise responsible, good human beings by offering a conducive environment. The objectives of the College are to:

1. Improve the intellect and skill development of students through innovative methods of teaching and learning.
2. Enable learners to acquire knowledge through practical exercises.
3. Shape the students into individuals of positive character.
4. Motivate students to realise their optimum potential.
5. Provide platforms of experiential learning to students.
6. Adopt and encourage ‘*You Attitude*’ in teaching learning.
7. Create an environment of collaborative learning.

Context:

The College admits students from diverse backgrounds. It, therefore, becomes imperative to impart knowledge in a customised manner rather than a standard one. Accordingly, the student centred framework adopted by the College includes practices like interactive learning, participatory learning, ICT enabled learning and innovative practices of learning. All of these bring about an all-encompassing growth in the students’ knowledge acquisition.

The essence of participatory and interactive learning is to actively engage students in the learning process. It enables to break the monotony of classroom teaching. It raises a student from being a mere recipient to a contributor to the learning process.

Implementation of ICT enabled teaching learning becomes the most appropriate response to the demands of the generation in a digitalized era.

Innovative practices rejuvenate interest in learning and help in better retention of the learned content. Ability to put into practice what is learnt is an important skill.

Practice:

1. Interactive learning:

This practice focuses on developing the intellectual skills of the students.

- Bridge course is an initiative that enables to bridge the gap between the academically weak and strong students by solving subject specific problems of the former.
- Problem solving sessions between student clusters of the aforesaid nature also allows weaker students to acquire knowledge through cooperative learning.
- Intensive coaching conducted on inter-departmental level is another approach to address the subject specific issues of the students.
- Initiatives like guest lectures by industry experts, seminars, workshops are also conducted to expose the students to advanced levels of information.

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2. *Participative learning:*

- Departmental festivals are organised keeping in mind curriculum related needs. This becomes a creative platform of learning that encourages students to transform classroom knowledge into quizzes, debates, games and technical exhibits.
- Inter-departmental debate competitions like Expressions, power point competition, bring students groups together whereby they research on subject specific topics and gain knowledge about current market conditions.
- In courses like BMM and BMS, industry oriented case-studies are incorporated as part of teaching learning.
- BMM students organize Media Rush to interact with journalists and media professionals.
- Students of courses like B.COM, BAF, BBI and BFM hold exhibitions on topics like investment, insurance and other contemporary topics.
- Students from M.COM act as tutors and explain concepts of accounts, budget, etc., to the UG students.

3. *ICT enabled teaching learning:*

This encompasses three angles:

- a. *Faculty:* The College organizes workshops for teachers to upgrade their knowledge and implement it. It also encourages faculty to develop reading material and other e-content.
- b. *Students:* Students are trained in PowerPoint presentations, given assignments involving ICT and are also part of Google classroom, flip classroom, technical exhibitions, etc.
- c. *Infrastructure:* There is a constant endeavour to upgrade the facilities in response to changing demands.

4. *Innovative methods:*

The College introduces new techniques of learning to augment the performance of the students through activities inside and outside the classroom.

- Some of the practices include open book test, subject wise assignments, etc.
- Students of BMM are included in designing the College magazine, e-newsletter and SIESNET TV.
- Students of BSC.IT and MSC.IT manage the College website and design the feedback software of the College.
- College enables learning beyond campus through field visits to institutions like SEBI, RBI and IT industries.
- Training programs for students are conducted by industry experts from LIC, Bombay Stock Exchange brokers' Forum, etc.

Evidence of Success:

1. The success of the learner centric approach is testified by the performance of the students at University examinations with most of the courses achieving passing standards of over 90%.
2. The scores of the toppers are very close to university ranks.
3. Efforts taken to groom students for employability have resulted in success in campus recruitment with reputed companies in banking, finance, marketing and Information technology.
4. Live projects implemented by students are proof of successful application of knowledge to practice.
5. Workshops conducted for staff and students for on-line courses/NET-SET exams/competitive exams have fetched desired results.
6. The student centric approach leads the students to the best of their potential through skill development process. Students learn to organize programs in the College which enables them to develop communication, team building and organizational skills. The variety of committees and clubs and the events organized bear testimony to this. The annual fest SIESONS conducted with a budget of a few lakhs puts to test all capabilities of students.
7. Beginning at the first year level of undergraduate programme, such efforts bear fruits not just at the end of graduation or post-graduation but continue to show effect in creating established alumni.

Problems encountered:

1. Curriculum is at times complex and time provided to complete syllabus is short.
2. Generating interest amongst students of professional courses who have joined without understanding the nature of the course.
3. A majority of students are marks oriented rather than knowledge oriented.
4. At times difficult to convince students to participate in academic activities.
5. Attendance in the classroom is a problem for a small percentage of students.
6. Reading habit and utilisation of library resources are in the decline.
7. Coordination between various programs for conduct of events is time consuming.
8. Continuous follow-up is needed to arrange field visits to institutions like SEBI, RBI.
9. Getting students to register for ADD-ON courses is a challenge.
10. Sometimes disciplinary issues arise, either with reference to exams or other social issues.
11. Some technical issues are experienced in on-line teaching.

Best Practice- II – VASUDHAIV KUTUMBKAM Social Outreach

'If you want to find God, serve man'. – Swami Vivekananda.

Objective:

The motto of SIES is to '**Rise with Education**'. As an institution, SIESASCN believes that a student should rise in character through the education imparted to her/him.

Objectives:

1. To inculcate social responsibility among the students.
2. To develop an empathetic attitude in students towards the underprivileged sections of the society.
3. To help the students hone their organizational and communication skills by consciously choosing events/projects with NGOs.
4. To facilitate students to experience the joy of learning and sharing through initiatives like 'each one teach one' and social internship.

Social outreach programs are an integral part of all activities of the College.

Context:

Imparting value based education is enshrined in the vision and mission of the Institution. The institutional social responsibility helps the College to build relationship with society. The ISR activities give our students an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the less privileged sections of the society. The College strives to inculcate in students, values of sharing and caring for senior citizens and members of marginalized classes. The organizational skills of the students improve as they actively contribute towards planning and coordinating different ISR initiatives.

ISR activities are organized in the College at various levels.

- The College has constituted an ISR Cell.
- Every course organizes social initiative activity where students undertake entire responsibility of organizing events.
- Committees like Students Council, NSS, Rotaract and DLLE are also at the forefront of organizing community based activities.
- Students are trained to be proactive in responding to distress due to natural calamities.

Practice:

1. *The Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR) Cell:*

The ISR Cell was formed in the year 2018-19.

M.I.T.R (MEET.INVOLVE.TRANSFORM.RETAIN): **M.I.T.R** was constituted under Institutional Social Responsibility as a functional committee to help the ones who do not have proper support to pursue their goals.

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With this aim, the College partnered with Kotak Education Foundation (KEF), an NGO which caters to the education and livelihood needs of the underprivileged sections of the society. A few of such activities are:

a. *'Each one, teach one'*:

This activity was undertaken in underdeveloped schools situated in the downtrodden areas of Govandi and Mankhurd. The student volunteers formed groups and visited a few schools to do their bit for the society. Noorul Islam School, Shivam School, Dnyansadhana School and DNS are some of the schools where the volunteers took part in educating the students.

This experience added value to their personalities which no formal education could have ever provided.

b. *School wall painting activity*:

This activity involved creating awareness of various topics through creativity. Basics in certain subjects, general knowledge, etc., were depicted through colourful paintings on the wall. This drew students' attention easily and conveyed lessons effectively.

2. DEPARTMENTS:

As a part of the departmental fests, students interact with children from different NGOs and organize activities for them. Students have also been actively involved in organizing rallies and visiting orphanages. Students and faculty members organize appreciation ceremony for our house keeping staff. Students of MSc arrange one week training program for them on certain basics of operating mobile phones, spoken English, etc.

3. COMMITTEES:

Committees like Student Council, NSS, DLLE and Rotaract are also at the forefront of supporting community based activities like

- Celebration of various festivals with senior citizens,
- Donation drive during natural calamities,
- Undertaking projects where students interact with underprivileged people. NANHI MUSKAAN by Rotaract and UDAAN by DLLE are two samples of such projects
- Providing a platform to NGOs in fests and other events. MAQSAD by B.Com and BAF was such an event.

4. OTHERS:

- The Navi Mumbai branch of ADHATA Trust was inaugurated in 2016 and the College has offered its classrooms to the members for conducting their activities.
- The College has also contributed to the fund raising activity of the SIES Management, which was designed to benefit the society at large. Students of BMM were entrusted with digital promotion of the project 'Hymn Humanity'.

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Evidence of Success:

This response is presented under 3 heads:

1. **STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT:**

In the 'Volunteers Appreciation and Celebration Programme' organized by The Kotak Education Foundation, Bharath Iyer, Neha Vaid and AyushVerma from BMS received certificates for leadership skills and Bharath Iyer received the 'Best leader' award.

2. **COLLEGE FACILITIES:**

- a. Infrastructure facilities for differently abled students. (ramp, wheel chair, lift and railings along the staircases).
- b. Physical and moral support to students with learning disability.
- c. Financial assistance to deserving students.

3. **FOR COMMUNITY:**

In the last five years, the various courses and committees have undertaken many ISR activities. To name a few :

Year	Committee/Course	Event
2015-16	Student Council	MAQSAD
2016-17	Student Council	Vatsalya
2017-18	Cultural Committee	Dandiya Night
2018-19	DLLE	Donation to leprosy patients
2018-19	NSS	Sangli flood donation drive
2019-20	BAF	AABHAR
2019-20	ISR	Girija Balgrih food donation
2019-20	BSc IT	Visit to Karuneshwar Old Age Home

Problems encountered:

1. Motivating and involving large number of students in these activities is a challenge.
2. In activities outside the College campus, maintaining discipline of the students is a huge responsibility.
3. The semester pattern of examination imposes time constraints on the staff and student volunteers.
4. Limitation of funds / resources.