

## **Best Practice 01**

### **Title of the Practice: Sharpening Soft Skills for Job Success and Career Guidance**

#### **Objectives of the Practice:**

- To maximize students' success in interviews through comprehensive preparation.
- To improve students' resume writing abilities.
- To boost self-confidence and enhance communication skills for group discussions and interviews.
- To cultivate and refine students' soft skills through a variety of training programs.
- To foster event organization skills and leadership qualities among students.
- To train students for Competitive exams , MBA- CET, Banking sectors and Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics Process Automation.

#### **The Context:**

The college recognizes the importance of preparing students for the challenges of post-graduation life, including the job search process. To address this, career guidance and soft skills training have been proposed to help students navigate interviews, improve resume writing, and understand industry standards. These initiatives aim to boost students' confidence, equip them with essential skills, and broaden their awareness of potential career paths. By providing practical support and guidance, the college seeks to empower students for success beyond academia.

#### **The Practice:**

The College's Students Career Guidance and Placement Cell has introduced training sessions aimed at enhancing students' personalities to provide the following benefits:

- Strengthening soft skills through comprehensive training to enhance employability.
- Offering career guidance from prominent professionals in banking, Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics Process Automation.

- Providing preparation for MBA CET and other competitive exams through lectures.
- Training students

To accomplish the goal, BrightWayz experts led by Mr. Niketan Tawre and team, alongside Kotak Education Foundation professionals, conducted extensive training sessions totaling 50 hours and 270 hours, respectively. These sessions encompassed lectures covering essential skills for excelling in MBA CET and other competitive exams, as well as providing in-depth knowledge about careers in Banking, Insurance, and Mutual Funds. The training also included comprehensive sessions on resume writing, group discussions, Prezi, Powtoon, Excel and personal interviews, as well as meticulous sessions to enhance personality and aptitude test performance. Special attention was dedicated to improving students' spoken English skills.

### **Evidence of Success:**

- Most programs received overwhelmingly positive feedback.
- Students were inspired to prepare for competitive exams like MBA and banking examinations and for Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics Process Automation industry.
- They were able to create effective resumes tailored to different companies and institutions' needs.
- Students embraced advanced software such as Excel, Prezi, and Powtoon to improve presentation quality.
- Sessions on personal interviews and group discussions enhanced students' confidence levels.
- Student volunteers recognized the importance of active participation and learned aspects of event management.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

The dedicated efforts of SCGPC were crucial for organizing skill enhancement workshops and career guidance seminars. However, students from a vernacular background struggled to grasp the concepts during the sessions. Some resource persons faced language barriers and had difficulty connecting with students. Due to limited proficiency in English, students encountered challenges during group discussion and personal interview sessions.

To successfully conduct seminars and workshops, renowned experts from various fields were needed. Adequate infrastructure, such as audiovisual rooms, was essential for effective sessions. For group discussions and personal interviews, classrooms were necessary to set up the required environment.

## **Best Practice- 02**

### **Title of the Practice: Enhancing Experiential Learning through Field Visits and Excursions**

#### **Objectives of the Practice:**

- To provide students with hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom environment.
- To supplement theoretical knowledge with practical exposure related to their respective fields of study.
- To encourage interdisciplinary learning and collaboration among students and faculty members.
- To enhance students' observational, analytical, and critical thinking skills through real-world applications.
- To foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of the subject matter through experiential immersion.

#### **The Context:**

In the current educational landscape, there is a recognized need to go beyond traditional classroom teaching methods and incorporate experiential learning opportunities into the curriculum. Field visits and excursions offer students the chance to engage directly with real-world contexts, apply theoretical knowledge, and develop practical skills. This practice aligns with the objectives outlined by NAAC to promote holistic and outcome-based education.

#### **The Practice:**

- **Coordination and Planning:** Heads of the different departments collaborate with the other faculty members to identify suitable field visit destinations that complement the academic curriculum and learning objectives.
- **Student Participation:** Students from relevant classes are encouraged to participate in field visits based on the alignment with their selected courses and the educational significance of the destination.
- **Guided Tours and Activities:** Faculty members or expert guides lead students through guided tours, interactive sessions, and hands-on activities at the field visit destinations to facilitate learning and engagement.
- **Reflection and Evaluation:** Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences and learning outcomes through post-visit discussions, a detailed report, or component of practical journals. Faculty members assess

students' understanding and application of concepts observed during the visit.

- Continuous Improvement: Feedback from students and faculty members is collected and analyzed to identify areas for improvement and optimize future field visit experiences.

### **Evidence of Success:**

- Enhanced Learning Outcomes: Increased understanding, retention, and application of subject matter concepts observed among students who participated in field visits compared to those who did not.
- Positive Student Feedback: Students express satisfaction with the experiential learning opportunities provided through field visits, citing increased engagement, motivation, and practical relevance.
- Academic Performance: Improved academic performance, demonstrated through higher grades and project outcomes, among students who engaged in experiential learning activities.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among students and faculty members during field visits contribute to a richer learning experience.
- During the period under review, several departments of the institution organized field visits, contributing to the holistic development of students across various disciplines. The Botany Department conducted two notable excursions, with the first occurring from June 2 to September 9, 2023, to Mahabaleshwar. This excursion, catering to SY, TY, and MSc students, provided them with an immersive experience in exploring plant biodiversity in a natural setting. The second excursion, held on November 18, 2022, took FY students to Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan in Byculla, fostering an appreciation for botanical specimens and conservation efforts.
- The History Department facilitated a visit to Titwala Museum in Titwala on January 13, 2023, benefiting UG and PG students. This visit enriched students' understanding of historical artifacts and local heritage, aligning with the department's focus on historical narratives and cultural appreciation. Similarly, the Marathi Department organized an educational tour to Nashik on February 26, 2023, engaging UG and PG students in an immersive experience of Marathi culture and literature.
- The Microbiology Department conducted two insightful visits aimed at providing students with practical exposure to their field. On February 12, 2023, MSc students visited the Advanced Centre for Training, Research, and Education in Cancer in Khargar, gaining insights into cancer research and education. Another visit, on February 20, 2023, took SY, TY, and MSc students to GO Cheese in Pune, offering them a firsthand experience of industrial microbiology applications in the food industry.

- The Science Association and Department of Physics organized a visit to Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai on February 15, 2023, for TYBSc students. This visit exposed students to advanced medical technologies and research applications of physics in healthcare, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications.
- Finally, the Zoology Department conducted two excursions and a visit during the analyzed period. On January 10, 2023, MSc students embarked on an excursion to Mandwa, delving into marine biodiversity studies. Another significant excursion occurred from June 2 to September 9, 2023, to Mahabaleshwar, benefiting SY, TY, and MSc students. Additionally, MSc students visited Sassoon dock in Colaba on December 17, 2022, gaining insights into marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- These field visits reflect the institution's commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities that complement classroom education, fostering a well-rounded academic experience for students across disciplines.

### **Problems Encountered:**

- **Logistics and Coordination:** Challenges related to scheduling, transportation, and coordination with external agencies for field visit arrangements.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited financial resources may restrict the number and scope of field visits, impacting the diversity of student experiences.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Aligning field visit experiences with academic learning objectives and curriculum requirements to maximize their educational value.

### **Resources Required:**

- **Financial Resources:** Funding for transportation, entry fees, accommodation (if applicable), and other logistical expenses associated with organizing field visits.
- **Human Resources:** Faculty members, departmental coordinators, and expert guides to facilitate and supervise field visit activities.
- **Infrastructure:** Access to suitable transportation facilities, educational institutions, museums, natural reserves, and other relevant sites for field visits.