

SHIVAJI SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, MUMBAI**Science & Commerce College (Night)***(Affiliated to University of Mumbai)*

Dr. Ankush Shankar Gawade Marg, Pantnagar, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai -400 075.

B.Com**B.Sc Computer Science**

Fax & Tel. No. :91-022-25011450 Tel No.: 25011379 E-mail :shivaji.shikshan.sanstha@gmail.com

Ref. No.:

Date: _____

7.2 Best Practices**7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual****Best Practice – 1****Title of the Practice:****Higher Education Opportunities for the Working Youth****Objectives of the Practice:**

- 1. Accessibility and Flexibility:** Provide a flexible schedule with evening classes to accommodate the diverse work schedules and commitments of working professionals.
- 2. Inclusive Education:** Extend educational opportunities to the working youth, particularly targeting those dropped out at the higher secondary level.
- 3. Reducing Dropout Rates:** Address the common challenges of economic constraints and dual pressures of work and study by counselling such students.
- 4. Financial Accessibility:** Facilitate ease of access to education by offering instalment-based fee payment options.

Context:

Most of our students are the first generation learners from economically poor background and therefore, they start working at a very young age and discontinue their studies. Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha's Science & Commerce (Night) took up the task of bringing such children to the mainstream by counselling them and their parents.

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Ref. No.:**Date:** _____**The Practice**

The College started 2 UG programmes since its inception and proposes to start more as per the demand to cater to the higher education needs of the working youth. Further to enable students to complete the basic requirement of successful completion of higher secondary degree. The College also provides short duration certificate and diploma courses for developing employability skills of students. The College is poised to grow rapidly in the post-NAAC period with a proposal to start new programmes and certificate and diploma courses under the NEP, 2020.

Problems Encountered:

Starting a new night college in the commercial city like Mumbai was a challenge indeed. However with the cooperation of all stakeholders, the College has not merely survived, but has also grown in terms of number of programmes and students over the period of time.

Resources Required:

Physical infrastructure, furniture and fixtures and teaching and non-teaching staff. Services and staff training.

Best Practice – 2**Title of the Practice:****Faculty exchange program:****1. Objectives of the Practice**

- **Enhancing Teaching Quality:** To introduce innovative teaching methods and diverse perspectives into the classroom by exposing faculty to different educational environments.
- **Professional Development:** To provide faculty with opportunities for growth and development through new experiences and insights gained from teaching in different institutions.
- **Curriculum Enrichment:** To incorporate diverse pedagogical approaches and subject matter expertise into the college's curriculum.

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- **Student Exposure:** To broaden students' educational experiences by exposing them to various teaching styles and academic perspectives.
- **Building Networks:** To establish and strengthen academic partnerships and collaborations with NKES College and Shree GPM Degree College.

2. The Context

Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha's Science and Commerce College (Night) operates in a competitive educational landscape where continuous improvement and innovation are essential for maintaining academic excellence. The college serves a diverse student body with varying needs and aspirations. To stay relevant and provide high-quality education, the college seeks to integrate new methodologies and perspectives, which the Faculty Exchange Program aims to facilitate.

Faculty exchange Program was conducted with two colleges:

1. **NKES College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Wadala**
2. **Shree GPM Degree College, Vile Parle**

3. The Practice

- **Partner Institutions:** Establishing collaborations with NKES College of Arts, Commerce and Science and Shree GPM Degree College, Vile Parle
- **Faculty Placement:** Temporarily assigning faculty members to teach at associated colleges and hosting faculty members from these institutions
- **Teaching and Learning:** Facilitating exchange sessions where faculty members teach courses and engage in professional development activities.
- **Feedback and Integration:** Gathering feedback from exchanged faculty and students to integrate new ideas and practices into the college's curriculum.

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4. Evidence of Success

- **Improved Teaching Practices:** Faculty members report adopting new teaching strategies and methodologies learned from their exchanges.
- **Enhanced Student Experience:** Students have expressed increased satisfaction and engagement due to exposure to varied teaching styles and perspectives.
- **Positive Student Reactions:** Students at all participating universities have reported feeling more content with the richer learning opportunities and variety of teaching pedagogies.
- **Professional Growth:** Through the exchange, faculty members have broadened their academic networks and acquired insightful knowledge.
- **Curriculum Enhancement:** Updates to the curriculum reflect innovative practices and fresh perspectives gained from the exchanges.
- **Academic Partnerships:** Established and strengthened partnerships with other colleges have led to further collaborative opportunities and resource sharing.

5. Problems Encountered

- **Logistical Coordination:** Careful organisation was needed to schedule, make travel plans, and handle administrative duties in order to successfully organise the exchange. There were occasionally delays and issues as a result of the difficulty of matching various components across several universities.
- **Institutional Differences:** There was an initial time of adjustment for both staff and students due to differences in institutional cultures, teaching approaches, and academic procedures. It took time and effort to properly negotiate these distinctions.
- **Allocating Resources:** It was difficult to strike a balance between the ordinary academic obligations and the resources required for the exchange program. Careful administration was needed to make sure the program did not take away from the institution's main functions.
- **Communication Barriers:** Effective communication between institutions and among exchanged faculty members may be challenging

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- **Evaluation and Feedback:** Gathering and analysing feedback to assess the program's impact and make necessary adjustments can be a lengthy process.

Resources Required

- **Administrative Support:** To ensure that the exchange program ran smoothly, specific administrative staff members were needed to take care of scheduling, paperwork, and inter-institution contact.
- **Communication instruments:** To guarantee efficient coordination and information exchange amongst the involved institutions, sufficient platforms and instruments for communication were required.
- **Feedback procedures:** To guarantee that the program's efficacy could be accurately evaluated and improved, resources had to be allocated to the development of strong procedures for gathering and evaluating participant feedback.

Overall, while the Faculty Exchange Program presents several challenges, its benefits in terms of professional development, student engagement demonstrate its value and contribute to the ongoing improvement of Shivaji Shikshan Sanstha's educational offerings.