

BEST PRACTICES 2017-18

Best practice-1: **Active learning through *in Xitu* and DEXIC**

1. Title of the Practice: Active learning through *in Xitu* and DEXIC

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- Develop self learning and self motivation
- Develop entrepreneurial skills
- Increase work efficiency, hone technical and soft skills

3. The context that required the initiation of the practice:

This practice began in fulfilment of the entrepreneurship component of the Vocational Biotechnology and Vocational Industrial Chemistry programmes. Internships in companies was a mode of experiencing the technicalities of working of industries. However, the internships were difficult to get and also not very fulfilling. The management and students on brainstorming came up with the idea of beginning a Simulated Unit that the students could own as a small scale industry. Thus, this experiential learning module was initiated.

4. The Practice

Students are trained during the summer in a technical skill that they adopted for production and marketing of products. The students are board members of the simulated unit and divide themselves into different departments like Research and Development, Quality Assurance and Control, Human Resource and Finance, Marketing, Production and Product Designing with a COO and CEO. Thus, there is an organogram that enables them to learn the running of a company. It is a non-profit unit with earnings only for self-sustenance. Every year, the outgoing batch mentors the juniors before handing over the Unit to the junior batch.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them

The initial setting up of the simulated units were a challenge. However, the purpose of the experiential learning module being envisaged by the management and the faculty, financial investment by the management and a coordinated effort by the students and faculty has ensured that these are fully functional activities. The students have to work before and after college hours, which they willingly do as they have strategically distributed work equally and have a defined schedule. The difficulties are in handling non-working assets (few students who shirk responsibilities), but the maturity evolved in other members ensures that the unit progresses.

6. Impact of the practice

Students who have undertaken this module have developed several life skills. The experience enhances both intellectual quotient as well as emotional quotient, which are both current recruitment requirements. The experience also enables students to realize their potential, based on which they are able to make choices in carving out their future prospects. The feedback has been very positive as the students not just learn the principles of entrepreneurship by doing but

they understand their strengths, learn communication and interpersonal skills. They are also able to appreciate science and its contribution to the society.

Some of the student have started their own entrepreneurial set ups.

7. Resources required

Laboratory space, finances and infrastructure facilities

Best practice-2: **Academic Fests: BiocalyX, BheliX, Cognizance**

1. Title of the Practice: Academic Fests/ Co curricular Fests: BiocalyX, BheliX, Cognizance

2. Objectives of the Practice

- Creating a platform for sharing ideas and knowledge, thereby building a healthy competitive spirit and giving an extension to learning beyond the curriculum (Lateral Learning)
- An experiential learning for event management for students

3. The context that required the initiation of the practice:

Building a constructive atmosphere for education and not limiting it to classrooms and labs was the main objective with the additional opportunity of building the value of volunteerism in the students. A seed needed to be sown, and the growth of which lies with the student body. Thus, the practice is an experiential learning for the students, and in knowing their standing outside their comfort zone. The competitions are a big platform for learning and communicating their subject knowledge.

4. The Practice:

The practice is now an annual event marked in the academic calendar of a department. The event is conducted by the students of the respective departments, for the student body in the state and of the subjects that they are specialization in. The practice ensures that the students have a plan, which they execute to reach out to students from other institutions. A competitive environment is created by inviting experts in the field to evaluate the various competitions.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them

The challenge is in having a good participation from colleges around the state. The departments and students ensure that the event has become more visible over a period of time. Good participation also depends on how an event is organized, and each year the planning and organizational skill have improved.

6. Impact of the practice

- Enthuses the students to understand their subject as it entails presenting original ideas and thoughts. Thus, a good learning experience.
- Enhances and hones life skills

Volunteerism builds social responsibilities in students