

BEST PRACTICE 1

“Innovative Dynamic Initiatives for Quality Sustenance and Enhancement”

St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women is an Institution par excellence having its primary goals as academic Excellence, Erudition and Quality Promotion.

The achievements of the college in various categories are a true reflection of the dedication and concerted efforts of the management, Faculty and the students. The quest to excel and not compromise with the success achieved made the Institution develop innovative initiatives that cater to the quality enhancement.

The Best Practice is inspired by Sir Albert Einstein’s philosophy

“Education is not the learning of facts but training of the mind to think”

Objectives:

- To be abreast with the trends in the education policy and plan the activities accordingly.
- To organize knowledge enrichment programmes that create a platform for the faculty and the students to interact with the experts in the field
- To encourage faculty, register for the training programs that help in improving their pedagogical skills
- To introduce novel programs that explicitly fulfil the demands of the heterogenous group of students and make them globally competent.
- To motivate the faculty and the students to conduct innovative research by granting incentives
- To identify the resources available and if needed collaborate with the other organizations to conduct the programs successfully

Context:

The institution believes innovation as a primary requisite for excellence and the action plan is made accordingly to achieve its primary goals of quality promotion and academic excellence.

The programs are devised that transcend academic needs that help in imparting holistic education to the students. The college is a self-financed Institution but makes profound efforts by collaborating with the other organization and conducts the programmes successfully.

The lockdown period could not reduce the learning spirit of the piousians and helped in discovering new avenues to keep the process of learning continuous.

The Institution believes in using its resources to mould the students into innovative thinkers and adequate care is taken in planning, executing and monitoring the programmes.

Practice:

Programmes organized by IIC -Institution’s Innovation Council

- In the year 2019 – 20, IIC 2.0 was constituted by following the new guidelines of MHRD’s Innovation cell. Accordingly, the activities were conducted in four quarters. In each quarter the activities were organised under three categories; IIC calendar activity, MIC driven activity and self-driven activity. In quarter I II and III, 10 activities on Innovation and Entrepreneurship development were chosen from the IIC calendar and organised successfully. This includes; visit to Industry, talk by successful women entrepreneur, workshop on Entrepreneurship and

Innovation as career opportunity, workshop on design thinking, Presentation on Innovation of the college, visit to Tinker's lab and Technology transfer centre, Business plan competition and lecture series on start-ups.

- 10 departmental activities of various departments were selected for self-driven activity which includes International conference and workshop on Research and Innovation, Entrepreneurship Development workshop, Project and training program for school children, idea development through field visit and survey and Handloom expo to support the weavers.
- The important MIC driven activities organised during 2019 – 20 were the workshop on National Innovation and Start up policy and Internal Hackathon.
- Our students actively participated in all the webinar sessions organised by MIC during lock down period.

Programmes organized by IQAC

- The Internal Quality Assurance Cell Organised Faculty Development Program on “**Emerging Perspectives in Teaching & Learning**” from 15th-19th June 2019
- On 4th July 2019 the IQAC organised a state level workshop on Outcome Based Education (Formulation and Attainment). The resource person was Dr. Ajith Kumar Reddy from NIT Warangal.
- **Paramarsh**
Our college is recognised by UGC under “Paramarsh”, a scheme initiated by UGC to mentor aspiring colleges for NAAC accreditation. Orientation Programmes were arranged for the Mentee Colleges on the Preparation of SSR.
- **Global Education Fair**
On 27th August 2019 IQAC Organised Global Education Fair for the students who desire to pursue overseas education. Career guidance was given to students who aspire to study abroad in countries like Australia, USA, Canada, Europe, UK and New Zealand.
- **A Faculty Development Program** was organised by the IQAC on 16th October 2019 to orient the staff on the concepts of ‘Micro Teaching and Design Thinking’ to develop a mindset and approach to learning, collaboration and problem solving.
- IQAC organised **faculty convention** for IQAC members on 11th November 2019 in association with Audacious Dreams Foundation, Chennai. Mr. Danesh Basil, Member of Royal commonwealth Association, UK, Director Youth affairs RCS Malaysia addressed the faculty and gave the necessary inputs to collaborate with various common wealth countries for student and faculty exchange programs.
- **International Conferences**
An international conference was organized as IQAC initiative on 6th and 7th December, 2019 by the Departments of Physical and Life Sciences on “**Innovations and Applications in Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2019**” in collaboration with IMRF Institute of Higher Education and Research, India
- The second International conference was organized also as an IQAC initiative on “**Impact of Digitization on Language, Business and Social Sciences, 2019**” by the Departments of Languages, Commerce, Business Administration and Social Sciences on 6th and 7th December, 2019. The motto of the conferences was to create a platform for teaching fraternity, research scholars to exchange their contemporary research and meet the experts in the field.

- **Ignite 2019: 16th to 18th December**

The IQAC organized a Three-day Residential Science Workshop for 9th and 10th Standard School Students. The objective of the workshop was to kindle young minds with scientific temper and enhance their inquisitiveness in the latest developments in Science and Technology

- On 11-03-2020 IQAC organised an interactive session with Tirupati Senthil Kumar, Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General, for orienting staff and students on opportunities to have linkage with US Consulate for Research and Higher Education
- **SUSI: US sponsored Student Exchange Programme** 10 students were nominated for selection of Student Leaders on 'Women's Leadership, Education and the future of Work, Religious freedom and Pluralism' under 2020 Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI).

Innovative Activities by the Departments

Innovative Interaction

LET'S TALK

- Let's talk, an upcoming talk show that held a philosophical discussion between Physics and Philosophy in association with St. Pious X Degree & PG College, Nacharam on 26th October 2019, was organised by Dept of Mass Communication
- A certificate course was organized on Medical Coding for 82 B. Sc and M.Sc students by Department of Microbiology in association with BRP technologies
- Students enrolled for online certificate course NPTEL Courses-2019 (Sept/Nov) and Spoken tutorial- IIT MUMBAI-2019
- Department of Chemistry successfully conducted an UNESCO led 'IYPT 2019 International on-line short term Certification Course' organized by ICUN (Centre for United Nation, India) during August, 2019 to December, 2019. It was organized on the occasion of International Year of Periodic Table. 123 candidates, both students and faculty enrolled for the course.
- Department of Mass Communication and Journalism introduced one month Certificate course on PR & Corporate Communications for B.A. III MPML. The lecture sessions were taken by professionals affiliated to Public Relations Society of India.

Student Exchange Program

- 17 students of Economics under the mentorship of Dr.Malathi attended a student exchange program to Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), Gujarat, from 18th to 28th January 2020
- The Department of MBA published a Book with the title – *Indian – Start-up Ecosystem – Opportunities & Challenges* in which 22 research articles were published with the ISBN Number: 978-93-89652-62-8 in association with 'Himalaya Publishing House'.

Learning during Lockdown

- **GSuite**, formerly called as Google Apps is a collection of web application tools provided by Google. The management realized its significance in teaching and purchased it and created domain ids for all the faculty members to conduct online classes without interruption.
- **Coursera:**The Institution registered with Coursera and created a wonderful opportunity to the students, faculty and the neighbourhood community to learn online courses from international universities.

Evidence of Success:

- Our IIC 2.0 scored 91.6 out of 100 and had been graded with 4.5 stars by MIC
- Our Institution identified 6 Institutions for mentoring under Paramarsh for NAAC accreditation. Orientation programs were arranged for all the mentee Institutions.
- 10 Teams from the college participated in Smart India Hackathon
- Ms Vaishnavi Akula – II BA EPP who was selected for the SUSI Student Exchange program for the year 2018-19 attended the programme from 22nd June to 27th July 2019 at Washington DC
- 4 Students G. Prakruthi Reddy, Lydia Sharon, Ritisha Deshpande and Lily Palaparthi were shortlisted by the US. Consulate for SUSI Student Exchange Program and were called for an interview on 8th January 2020. The results are awaited.
- The response towards both the conferences was overwhelming. 180 academicians and research scholars from different International and National - Academic and Research Institutions participated in the conferences. In addition to them, 288 students also attended the conferences. 16 experts of national and international reputation, from different disciplines in India and abroad, delivered lead talks. 35 sponsors utilized the platform to promote their respective organizations and extended their wholehearted support. 28 faculty presented papers in the International conferences.
- International Publications: "Impact of Digitization on Language, Business and Social Sciences" and "Innovations and Applications in Life Sciences" were the two books compiled and published with ISBN by the Institution in collaboration with IMRF.
- Dr. Mala Das Sharma, Head Department of Chemistry received the **Best Coordinator Award** for successfully conducting the IYPT course
- A total of 2129 candidates comprising both the students, faculty and neighbourhood enrolled into coursera online courses and successfully completed them.
- Students proved their mettle during the placements, more than 500 students got placed into various prestigious organizations like Infosys, Blue Ocean Reliance etc.

Awards are reflection of the Institution's efforts in achieving Academic excellence through innovative activities. Some of the awards received during 2019-20 are

- St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women - "**Torchbearer for excellence in Education & Training**" by India Didactics Association, 2019.
- St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women - "**Academic Excellence Award**" by International Institute of Organized Research (I2OR) Awards 2019.
- Brainfeed
- Higher Education Awards-2019 is awarded to St. Pious X Degree & PG College in the category of **Difference Maker Award** of the Year for achieving excellence in providing skill-based programmes to foster academic and career success for students

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- More Faculty and the students need to be motivated to participate in research activities and devise innovative programmes.
- Whenever a new programme is initiated the faculty and the student council members had to propagate the concepts continuously and encourage the students for more participation as students expressed their apprehensions due to hectic academic schedule in the semester wise system.
- The Institution is a self-financed organization and mobilization of funds towards innovative programmes apart from the expenditure on the regular academic programmes was a challenge.

- The pandemic attack was an unforeseen and unexpected event and posed many challenges before the management and the faculty about the management of the academics and other consequences.

Strategies adopted to overcome them:

- Before beginning the programme, various motivational and orientation lectures by the expertise in the field are organized to inculcate the positive attitude.
- A strategic planning was deployed and through persistent efforts by the management and the organizing departments funds were procured through sponsorship by other organization.
- The mentors were guided by the senior faculty members and the management regularly during the staff meetings to encourage students participate in all the endeavours of the college willingly.
- Constant efforts are made by the mentors to impart rationale attitude and analytical abilities amongst students by constantly enlightening them about the significance of the knowledge enrichment programmes.
- The faculty arranged virtual meetings with the students regularly and kept the spirit of learning always positive.

BEST PRACTICE -2

“Promoting Philanthropy through Institutional Social Responsibility”

The vision of the college is a true reflection of its firm belief in social consciousness as the essential element for the holistic development of the students. The college formulated the goal of social responsibility, outreach and extension activities for the years 2018-2023. The annual objectives are drawn in accordance with this goal. Various activities that promote the spirit of Philanthropy are strategically designed and executed to accomplish the objectives in real terms.

“We make a living by what we get, But we make a life by what we give”- Winston Churchill

In the context of the above philosophy, the college believes that the philanthropic activities that manifest the social responsibility will surely inculcate values and habits among the students and mould them into better citizens of the nation.

Objectives:

To focus on the dwindling economic status of the rural India and devise a strategy to uplift them

To strengthen the concept of good Samaritan by sharing the resources with the needy in the society

To motivate the students to be sensitive to the unforeseen calamities’ situation like the present pandemic and be prepared to render a helping hand to the downtrodden

To instill in the minds of the students the idea that the nation’s progress is reflected in the citizens well being

To motivate the students about the motto of NSS “Not Me But U” and encourage their enrolment into NSS and PEARL.

Context:

The Institution aims to accomplish the goals on social responsibility to promote the spirit of philanthropy by devising strategies to support the weak sections in the society. The students are given various opportunities to get trained and render their service to the society. It identifies the prevailing needs of the society and raises awareness on the issues that demands attention like girl child education, pathetic economic conditions of the farmers and handloom weavers in Jangaon, arranging health camps etc. Today some sections in the society are impoverished due to the pandemic COVID-19 to an extent that they are struggling for basic needs like food shelter and education. Our institution decided to fulfil its social responsibility and strategically designed various extension activities that cater to needs of the society.

The Practice:

The various Institutional Social Responsibility Activities organized to promote the philanthropy are as follows:

Support to weavers

On 7th and 8th August 2019 Department of Economics organized handloom Expo for two days to encourage the weaver community.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

The college applied for **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**, on 30th October 2019, a flagship program of ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Government of India through a challenge mode application and received the selection letter on 25th November.

UBA is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge Institutions to help build the architecture of an inclusive India.

The activities conducted by the college under UBA include:

- Orientation for the students on UBA and their enrolment on 14th Dec 2019
- Household survey in five adopted villages of Jangaon district (Yashavanthapuram, Banapuram, Yellamala, Peddaramcharla & Shamerpeta) by 12 faculty and 122 student volunteers to identify the problems.
- Republic Day Celebrations at Pedda Ramacharla village
- Two faculty members attended the workshop organized by MGNCRE Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education Department that focused on creating a better quality of life in Rural places on 15th February 2020
- Volunteers comprising 2 faculty and 45 students attended the 2 day Rural Immersion Training program on 18th and 19th February during which they were trained on how to interact with the villager's and identify the problems.
- Promotion of Women Empowerment by creating self-employment opportunity through distribution of sewing machines.
- The female handloom weavers were enlightened about the various government schemes and also about the importance of girl child education.

DOBARA

Neighbourhood Elderly Action Teams (NEAT)

Team DOBARA, an outreach service which inspires individuals to make a difference in the lives of socially isolated and lonely elderly. It is a registered Trust in Hyderabad, focused on social and mental well-being of older adults, with the interns blazing a new trail in promoting social and mental wellbeing

in lives of older adults across Neighbourhoods and Bonding Generations through NEAT, a flagship program from DOBARA. Our students interned with this outreach service.

Support to the under privileged

- A Free Medical camp was arranged on 3rd and 4th September in collaboration with Lions Club.
- Students raised a fund to help a widow set up a tea stall for her living.
- The dwellers of the Murukula basti Slum were provided with basic needs like clothes food and stationery.
- On the occasion of World food Day in collaboration with Humanity First foundation , food was distributed to the people at koti hospital

VOICE4GIRLS

The volunteers of Voice 4 girls were trained to conduct activity based micro teaching to impart knowledge on social realities and managerial skills to the girl students at Mudigonda government school. 29 UG students took internship with Voice4girls NGO that works for the welfare of marginalized adolescent girls at various KGBV government residential schools of Telangana.

Hair Donation Camp

In association with Green trends, a hair donation camp was organized on 14th march towards making wigs for the cancer patients

Help to the Needy Senior Citizens

The college Management initiated a new scheme to help the needy elderly citizens in the neighborhood by providing financial help worth 350 rupees and a bag of rice every month.

Covid 19 Services “Small Alms with Great Love”

The management, Catechist Sisters of Society contributed Rs 50,000.00 district collector, Warangal towards COVID-19 Relief fund

Essential commodities in the form of kirana kits were distributed to the needy migrants and slum dwellers and financial aid was given to the orphanage.

Various Awareness programs and tele counselling services through Snehitha counselling cell were offered during the lockdown.

The students also came forward to offer their service during the lockdown by donating the necessities like rice, oil, soaps etc., to the neighborhood underprivileged people.

NSS Activities

The extension activities of the NSS committee include health awareness camps, campaigning programs on environmental consciousness, Swachh Bharath Abhiyan etc.

NSS volunteers prepared Sanitizer and distributed them to the dwellers of slum.

Evidence of Success:

- The generous service of the Institution rendered in the adopted villages of the Janagaon district for the upliftment of the weaver's community were recognized by the AICTE and felicitated with the Uthkrishta Sansthan Vishwakarma Award.
- The weaver community expressed their gratitude to the management for creating a platform to market their products in the urban market by arranging the expo and for the financial gain they had after a long time.
- The volunteers of the Dobara assisted the elderly citizens during the visit to Nampally Exhibition and visited them to spend some quality time with them to bring hope in their dejected lives.
- The various philanthropic activities conducted throughout the year and especially during the lockdown helped the students to realize their role as more responsible citizens of the nation and how collectively through team spirit they can play a prominent role in building a better society.
- The students started recommending more strategies to raise funds for social causes and promised to render complete support for such programs in the future.
- The neighborhood community and the vegetable vendors were overwhelmed by the kind gesture of the college in providing space for the local market during the lockdown which was the need of the hour.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- The apprehensions of the faculty and the students associated with the adoption of the villages needed to be addressed and convinced by the management.
- Since the students had to stay at the remote area for ten days, convincing the parents was effortful for the voice 4 Girls Internships.
- Persuading the students during the NSS camp for the laborious activities in the rural premises was challenging.
- Stimulating the young minds towards community development programs planned by PEARL was slightly effortful as some students were hesitant to participate due the academics.
- Since the Institution is a Self-Financed Organization, mobilization of funds was the limitation and additional strategies had to be planned meticulously.

Strategies adopted to overcome:

The enthusiasm of the of the faculty and the students in volunteering their participation made the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan a successful program

Periodical counseling by the mentors and the coordinators and expert talks helped in making the programmes successful.

The coordinator for Voice 4 Girls at the college was continuously communicating with the organizers at Voice 4Girls to ensure the safety of the volunteers.

The relentless efforts of the Student Council in motivating their peer groups in participating the various philanthropic activities was praise worthy.

Thanks to the social media, the students and the faculty were well connected and the repercussions of the lockdown were seldom conspicuous in the activities of the social responsibility of the Institution.
