

7.2.1 Best Practices

PRACTICE 1.

1. Title of the Practice – Nurturing social responsibility through club activities.

2. Objectives of the Practice

The College takes efforts to make students and faculty to be aware of their responsibilities towards the societal issues. The Institute is strongly committed to become a socially responsible organization and works to support the community for high standards of social responsibility. The institution takes effort to nurture the social responsibilities among the students. The following are the objectives of the college for Nurturing social responsibility

- To encourage and enable the students to excel in the social services by providing guidance and support.
- To foster an environment for involving in social activities.
- To act as a harbinger of social activities.

3. The Context

Sethu Institute of Technology encourages the students to participate in the activities that promote awareness of the social issues by volunteering through club activities. The college has several clubs and associations like NSS, YRC, Young Indian club, Red Ribbon Club, Rotaract Club, ECO Club, Women Empowerment Cell etc., for promoting social activities. The Students are structured through awareness campaigns on regular time intervals. The participation of the students in those activities that promote the communal harmony and environmental sustenance is being encouraged. The institution also promotes sustainable lifestyles by encouraging the use of environmental friendly products and practices.

The institution believes that by instilling these values and providing the opportunities, our students can be developed into morally and ethically responsible citizens.

4. The Practice

At the beginning of the odd semester, the coordinator and volunteers of each club approach the students for membership drive, explaining and advertising their goals. The club has coordinators who share their objectives of the club and provide guidance for developing healthy attitude towards social responsibility. The club is allocated with a particular time for regular practice and meetings,

which happens after the regular classes. Many seminars, awareness programs are organized for the students to create better rapport with the community.

The clubs have organized various programs like, tree plantation, rural development, awareness on health, cancer, usage of tobacco, energy conservation programs, right for women in the society, etc.,. The following social attitudes are strongly inculcated among the students through above mentioned club activities.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

The Students responsibly volunteer in local community service activities to create a better world.

EMPATHY:

The Students are encouraged to participate in the social projects that improve the lives of the needy.

INSPIRATION:

Inviting guest speakers who speak about the important issues related to social responsibility. The speakers talk about their own experiences and inspire students to be more socially responsible.

SYSTEMATIC:

Organize field trips to the areas where the communal interaction, liability and responsibility are promoted. In this way, students are systemised to learn more about the importance of social responsibility.

PEER GROUP LEARNING:

Social clubs at college often strive to build a strong network by connecting the students with their peer group and keeping them informed about the clubs' activities and events. This makes them to have peer learning.

AVAILING ONESELF:

College social clubs offer students a great opportunity to develop their leadership qualities by availing oneself by means of committing himself for social service.

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT:

The above mentioned personality and social development are inculcated among the students through the mandatory course “**Personality and Social Development**” which impacts the factors on individual and group functioning. The involvement of students in the activities addresses importance of personality and social development and their application to real-world contexts. The course draws on qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods to evaluate the social and personality development of the students.

5. Evidence of Success

- Included Personality and Social development , Skill development course as mandatory courses in R2019 and R2021 curriculum
- Organized Blood Donation Camp and has been awarded as *the best institute in blood donation* continuously for a **period of five years**.
- One of our students got selected for NSS parade to participate in the Republic Day parade for five times in *State Level* and one time in *National Level*.
- Received *the best NSS Program Officer award* in the honour of the social services done by our NSS.
- The NSS coordinators of the college have been awarded as *the best Motivators Award* by the Meenakshi Mission hospital.
- Our institute conducts awareness programs on cancer, health, fire safety to the public and the students.
- Organised and participated in rallies such as tobacco awareness, ban of plastic and voter awareness.
- Under the scheme of *Miyawaki forest*, **10,000 trees** were planted throughout the nearby areas, outside the campus. Through the above mentioned program, 1000 trees were planted inside the campus of our college.
- The College-neighbourhood network has been promoted by signing a MoU with Panchayat Presidents of Kambikudi and Kalkurichi Panchyats which consists of 14 villages. Several outreach programs are conducted towards community development and the students are engaged in these community development programs through the NSS.
- A batch of alumni of our college established an NGO named ‘*Padikattugal*’ which is actively involving in various community development activities and they also help the economically weaker students in their education.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Due to the large number of students, even with the numerous options, there are untapped talents and potentials of the students.
- Time constraint is a major limitation to conduct various development programs.
- Creating awareness among rural folk remains a huge challenge due to lack of interest, cooperation and support since they are highly resistant to new ideas/changes.
- Involving girl students in social responsibility activities is also difficult.
- Most of the rural folk value employment more than education.
- Since the students are engaged throughout the day in class rooms, extra-curricular activities need to be conducted only after working hours.
- Students participated with zeal and enthusiasm in large numbers for such social activities. It was observed that to arrange and assign tasks to such a large group of students was a challenge.

Notes

The college strives to make students and faculty aware of their responsibilities towards the society. The Students experience the rural lifestyle and understand the social problems of villagers through the camp. The Students are encouraged to enroll and participate in the clubs during the first semester. Each year, an induction program is organized for those who are new to NSS and other clubs. In addition, the college encourages club volunteers to participate in various social activities by providing them with a free vehicle to reach the camp location and also their hometown. These clubs are made up of dedicated students who are willing to share their time, knowledge, and experiences to support and promote the society. Each club is managed by a committee or steering group.

BEST PRACTICE 2:

1. Title of the Practice – Promoting online learning and industry linkage for knowledge and skill enhancement.

2. Objectives of the Practice

The mission statements of the Sethu Institute of Technology which emphasize the industry based knowledge and skill development are:

- To provide quality technical education to fulfill the aspiration of the student and to meet the needs of the Industry.
- To impart skills leading to employability and entrepreneurship
- To establish effective linkage with Industries

From the mission statement of the College the following objectives of the best practice have been derived:

- To enhance knowledge and skills of the students through effective online educational platforms like NPTEL, MOOC, Coursera etc.
- To provide credits to the students who earn them through online courses by credit transfer facility.
- To cope up with the Industry oriented curriculum that meets the requirements of the industry and incorporates recent technologies in the curriculum.
- To create an environment of research and innovation for the students through curriculum.
- To develop a mentorship program to help the students get advice from industry experts.
- To compile a system for disseminating industry information to the faculty and students.

3. THE CONTEXT:

To promote online and industry designed courses for knowledge and skill development of students in our Institution, a comprehensive system has been created. This includes access to a range of quality- assured learning resources that meet the needs of the students. The College also provides specialized support services such as mentoring, facility for online resources to encourage the students for online learning. Additionally the College developed partnership with leading organizations in the field of education and technology to ensure the students have access to the latest tools and resources available in the market. Through consistent efforts and involvement of the Institute, the relationship with reputed industries is

enhanced. Through these initiatives, the College strives to foster an environment that is conducive towards the success of the students in their academic pursuit while simultaneously equipping them for the necessary skills that are required.

4. THE PRACTICE:

The students of Sethu Institute of Technology has been benefited through various self-learning online courses offered by SWAYAM and other reputed online platforms.

- ✓ Online courses provide the students with flexibility in learning, allowing them to learn and develop skills at their own pace and in their own time.
- ✓ This helps the students to access knowledge and skill from the experts around the world, broadening the scope of learning.
- ✓ The students also can register an additional professional elective course or open elective course from the list of courses available in the curriculum as self-learning courses with the support of online resources.
- ✓ The UG students can also select their elective courses prescribed in the PG curriculum with the additional support of online resources.
- ✓ The industry designed courses are offered by the department to the students. The industry designed courses are designed with the help of industry experts and also the industry provides necessary training/resources and materials for the courses.
- ✓ Credits are assigned based on the number of lecture and practical hours. Credits are assigned for the internship based on the number of days of industrial internship. The credits earned through internship can be used as additional credits.
- ✓ Field training in reputed Institutions (or) organizations are organized for the students and the students can earn the credits for the field training.
- ✓ The students are involved in innovative project which can be done by the individual and group of students. This can be sent for National/International level projects contest conducted by the reputed Institution. This promotes the ability of the students to develop start-up industries.

- ✓ Credits are also assigned for Rural Development Project which can be taken up by a group of students who can be accompanied by a faculty

supervisor to guide them. The projects done by the students are useful to promote village and small industries.

- ✓ Faculty members are trained in industry to meet the requirement of students as well as the organization.
- ✓ Guest lectures, seminars, workshops and technical Symposiums are continuously conducted with the help of industry experts.
- ✓ Industry supported labs are established.
- ✓ The online and industry designed courses enhance the technical expertise of faculty and students by signing MoUs with various organizations/industries.
- ✓ Industry experts are nominated for Board of Studies and majority of the courses are introduced based on the industrial requirements and expectations.
- ✓ The placement cell of our College has been associating with many industries and inviting them for placement in our College.
- ✓ The College participates in the AICTE CII survey regularly in order to enhance the industry linkage with our College.

5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- Industry designed courses were approved in board of studies of R2019 & R2021.
- MoUs are signed with various organizations to implement the industry needs.
- Around 900 students per year register for the industry designed course and get the benefit of it.
- Approximately 307 online certification courses were done by the students.
- Nearly 350 students per year have undergone internships in various organizations.
- About 450 students are benefited through these course and have replaced their credits.
- The students got placed in reputed industries.
- The Institution organizes various guest lectures with the experts from industries.
- Industry supported lab was established to bridge the gap between industry and academia.
- Industry representatives were included in Board of Studies to incorporate the industry updates in the curriculum.
- The Institution receives high ranking in AICTE CII Survey for Industry Linked Technical Institute

6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Establishing relationship and entering into MoU with reputed industries takes at least a year. Follow up activities to retain the partnership becomes a challenging one. Finding slots with industries for student /faculty training during summer and winter vacations and for field visits are becoming difficult. All industries are not ready to pay stipend during internship period for students. Establishment of industry sponsored research laboratory is a constraint for a rural based Institution. Sometimes online courses results in lack of hands-on experience.

7. Notes:

Sethu Institute of Technology offers Knowledge and Skill Enhancement Courses to the students to promote and enhance their technical and skill-based knowledge to increase their employability. These courses help the students to enhance their knowledge and skill from the experts around the world, broadening the scope of learning. Industry designed and online courses help in empowering the students to become industry-ready. These courses also equip the students with the skills-set required for the industry which helps them in building their self-confidence.