

Best Practices

- **Title of the practice: The nurturing of entrepreneur talent by the Entrepreneurship Development Centre and Skill Hub**

Goal: To motivate and facilitate students to be ‘Entrepreneurs’ and help in economic growth and contribute to the development of the nation

The Context: India is currently one of the few countries rich in human resources as the number of youth who would be seeking employment in the next 5 years will cross 70 million. Thus, the emphasis on nurturing students to be employers rather than employees.

- **The Practice:** With the establishment of the Mithibai Entrepreneurship cell in 2017, the college ventured into entrepreneurship awareness amongst the students. Under the RUSA-2 grant the Prime Minister of the country virtually launched the Entrepreneurship Development Centre and Skill Hub.

The centre has created a conducive environment to create awareness amongst about student entrepreneurship, through orientation sessions, motivational sessions and guest’s lectures by experts from relevant fields. Not only students but even faculty members have benefitted from the above mentioned activities and faculty members are now mentoring students in the development of their business ideas. Activities as ‘Elevator pitch’ wherein students were trained to pitch their ideas within 3-5 minutes; ‘Mixer sessions’ in which students of different faculties interacted with each other and developed interdisciplinary ideas together, with varied skill sets. Under this program, interested students/learners of the college who have entrepreneurial ambition are nurtured, mentored and guided to venture into Entrepreneurship. Students with prospective business ideas are encouraged and supported with inputs for participating in various B-Plan competitions and E-summits. Further, the centre has been instrumental in developing a platform for networking and team building amongst student entrepreneurs, which has helped them to taken their partnerships into initial viable start-ups.

Evidence of success: The efforts by this centre has led to budding entrepreneurs who are transforming their business ideas into viable ventures. One of the students Mr. Sanyam Jain, started a venture ‘QC Trip LLP’, which is a subscription model based discounted travel facility start up, while studying in S.Y.B.Com. This start-up was recognised by the Department for promotion of Industry and internal trade , Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in 2019. The barrier that entrepreneurs can be only form commerce faculty was squashed by Ms. Madiha Shaikh, a M.Sc-Biotechnology student, whose venter ‘Diagnostics Inc’ was adjudged the best business idea at the Chancellors challenge a B-Plan competition by NMIMS university for all institutes under the SVKM trust. She has been awarded with a financial grant of Rs. 5 lakhs and is being incubated at the Atal Incubation Centre.

Problems encountered and resources required: Encouraging students to participating in this programme and skill enhancement is challenging as the students are more keen in pursuing professional courses and further academic development. Further, in many cases the students are oriented by family members to look for employment rather than venture into entrepreneurship at this young age.

- **Title of the practice: Enriching Curriculum via mapping and benchmarking institutes**

Goal: At Mithibai College, innovation in higher education, leading to opportunities is the prime mission. To help develop global employees and employers, the college has undergone curriculum enrichment in a very professional manner

The Context: Mithibai College has always been in the forefront so far as the curriculum development is concerned. Introduction of Flexi Syllabus, Open Unit etc are the innovative initiatives, initiated at the college. On attaining autonomous status, the college was entitled to follow a curriculum designed taking into consideration the needs of its major stakeholders- the interest of the students. As our students are meritorious and are inclined towards moving boundaries of not only the country but across the globe, the college put in a systematic and professional approach towards redesigning its curricula. Seeking views of all the stake holders viz. Industry, students, Alumni and of course teachers always practised. Experts from other University and researchers have been the members of the syllabus committees. Protocol was defined with checkpoints to ensure scientific framing of the syllabi. Applicability enhancing employability was primarily attempted. It is for the first time that Honor's program was introduced reviving the concept in the University after several decades.

The Practice: Mithibai College has state of art infrastructure with immense use of ICT in the teaching-learning process. A wide range of teaching methodologies are practiced from experiential learning are practiced. Hence the designing of the curriculum laid emphasis on use of innovative pedagogical tools. The curriculum was designed in a very professional manner wherein; the following steps were followed:

- 1) Lacunae, if any, in the curriculum were listed
- 2) For every course/ program, the Universities excelling in the concerned field were bench marked and their curricula was critically studied.
- 3) A mapping was done to preview the curricula being followed at these bench marked national and international universities.
- 4) The Management appointed academic and industry experts in various field in the professional programs being offered by the college to bridge the industry-academia gap
- 5) Renowned academicians and industry experts like Prof. Dr. Rajshankaran Pillai, Ex-Chairman UGC, interacted with faculty members to enrich them on the design of curriculum. Further, sessions were conducted to evolve the evaluation system under Blooms and Anderson taxonomy.

Thus, the curricula were enriched through several brain-storming sessions held with experts nominated and members of the Boards of studies (constituted as per Gazette 2018).

To deliver the revised curricula, the faculty too needed to be trained and so faculty development program on use of pedagogical tools was also conducted.

Evidence of success: The incorporation of new trends in the various areas, as per the need of the course is very well taken by the students. The experts nominated as well as members of Board of studies as well were much in appreciation of the new curriculum designed. The students are being trained to sharpen their analytical skills as well as nurture creative thinking. In the first year of change in curriculum itself, the feedback received on the changes incorporated in the curriculum was encouraging.

Problems encountered and resources required: The inclusion of recent trends involved the training of the trainer. Initially, there was reluctance from a few faculty towards incorporation of new pedagogical tools and the input expected to deliver the upgraded curricula. However, the same was overcome in due course with counselling and motivation.