

BEST PRACTICES 2018-2019

Practice-I

Title: admissions of Foreign Students from SAARC and Non-SAARC countries under ICCR(Indian Council for Cultural Relations, a Central Government Body), as well as NRI students.

The Practice:

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has a mandate of administering scholarship programmes of Government of India annually to foreign students from about 140 countries. The courses offered are for under-graduation, post-graduation and M.Phil/Ph.D.

University of Mumbai also admits some of these foreign students who apply under this ICCR scheme. Saraf college was happy and proud to be a part of this exercise and from the academic year 2018-19, we have admitted a total of 21 students under this scheme. 5 students come from SAARC countries and 8 from Non-SAARC countries and the remaining 8 were NRI students. The courses chosen range from B.Com, BMS and BMM to Masters in Commerce (M.Com), MCJ (Masters in Communication and Journalism) and M.A. in Film Television and New Media Production). Accommodation was provided in the Hostel (Boys' Hostel came up in the same year and the Girls' Hostel was already there). Besides these, Saraf college has admitted 8 NRI students to various courses, bringing the total to 21.

The Objective of this initiative is to be a part of this scenario in higher education, where India, as a rapidly-growing country on the cutting edge of the technological revolution, has become a well-known education hub attracting students from all over the world. Saraf College is happy to be able to contribute to this laudable exercise even in a small way.

The Challenges/s & the Measures taken: It was both a challenge and a unique opportunity to tackle the issue of language barriers and overcoming issues of cultural stereotyping encountered by foreign students in the classroom. Faculty members and class facilitators dealt with these issues very creditably. Extra lectures engaged for some students who struggled with certain subjects. These students were encouraged to take part in our extra-curricular activities, which helped to overcome cultural barriers and make them comfortable.

Conclusion: This initiative has proved very rewarding for not only the foreign students but also our institution. Students from countries as diverse as Afghanistan and Ghana or Tanzania were assimilated successfully into our programmes and made to feel comfortable. We have carefully followed their academic progress and facilitated it and the outcome has been promising.

Practice- II

Title: Multifarious schemes for Capability Enhancement, Skill Development and awareness programmes undertaken for students and staff.

The Practice (The Context)

The challenge in teaching today is largely concerned with going beyond the curriculum and enabling the students to learn practical skills and develop a preparedness for the real-life situations they would face outside the campus. Faculty members also need to update their knowledge and keep themselves sensitized to the needs of the students in the present scenario.

The Practice – (Description)

With these issues in mind, Saraf College undertook several different kinds of programs, including add-on courses, workshops, awareness programs and more. The response from students was also very positive. Some major programs were as under:

- 75 students completed a course in E Taxation
- 68 students completed a government certified Certificate Course in GST practices and procedures in association with SDVTII (Skills Development and Vocational Training Institute of India)
- 42 students took Preparatory classes for Banking sector exams organized in association with SSB Educational Trust
- 101 students completed the Youth Employability Skill Program by Technoserve
- 60 students took a three day training course in ABC- Appearance, Body Language & Communication skills conducted by Pathshala
- 23 students took the CASI Global Certificate course in CSR
- 90 students attended a 2 days workshop on GST in association with ICAI Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
- 47 students completed a certificate course in Financial Markets, Sales and Operations offered by BSE Institute (Bombay Stock Exchange)
- 24 students completed training for NISM- National Institute of Securities Management module related to Mutual Funds in association with Financial Planning Academy
- 343 students participated in interviews conducted by 14 different firms including Tech Mahindra, Karvy, HDFC Bank, Tata BSS etc, in a first ever Job Fair organized by the college in our campus.

Besides these, there were awareness sessions in Financial Literacy, Yoga and Detox, and a session for faculty conducted by an eminent psychiatrist on how teachers should deal with addition among students.

A notable program was an IQAC- conducted One Day International Inter Disciplinary Conference in collaboration with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants- ACCA, a UK based body for financial accountants. 157 research scholars including our own faculty members presented research papers.

The Challenges/s & the Measures taken:

The challenge faced while conducting the above programs and courses was mainly to create awareness among the students. This was taken care by the faculty members by informing as many students as possible and addressing their doubts.

Conclusion:

This practice to provide multifarious ways and means to expand the scope of knowledge and skills by providing students with maximum exposure to maximum number of students has met with great enthusiasm from students and staff. We intend to carry forward such initiatives in future as well.