

Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's

# Loknete Vyankatrao Hiray Arts, Science & Commerce College

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Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade Best College Award 2017 (S.P. Pune University)

# **Best Practice 1**

# Developing R& D Culture Through Research-Oriented Activities

## **Objectives of the Practice**

- 1. To communicate the significance of research and innovation to the students.
- 2. To create a supportive ambiance for the research.
- 3. To sensitize students to the relevant research areas.
- 4. To motivate students to undertake research.
- 5. To make students aware of the job opportunities associated with research.
- 6. To impart new insights into research and development.
- 7. To promote good quality research.
- 8. To expose students to good-quality research.
- 9. To acquaint students with Research Methodology.
- 10. To make them aware of the significant research areas.
- 11. To develop abilities like analytical and critical thinking.

#### The Context

In an age of science and technology research has a unique significance. R & D stands for the creation of new knowledge, we continuously need new knowledge for growth the development. The existing knowledge gets outdated very soon and it does not meet the requirement of the new age. It is the research that has solved our problems and given us ease and comfort. We need socially relevant research to find out solutions to the issues of modern life. Research is very much associated with higher education. Even NEP 2020 has underlined the significance of research in higher education. For the students at UG, and PG levels research appears to be an abstract idea. To explain to them the concept of research the institute undertakes research- oriented activities to cultivate the research aptitudes of the students. Thus, the mindset of the students is prepared gradually by making them think critically and analytically.

#### The Practice

The institute at large as well as various departments undertake different research-oriented activities to develop R&D Culture. To develop critical and analytical thinking in the students the Department of Mathematics has undertaken an activity of book review. The students were asked to write a review of the books that they have studied. Since the book review is evaluative in nature and brings out the full meaning and significance of the given work, it requires a lot of effort on the part of the students. As the National Eligibility Test is mandatory for employment and research in higher education, the department has conducted a NET-SET workshop for the students and compiled the notes of the workshop in book format. It is also a motivation for research in higher education.

Exposure to Research Journals is the first step toward research. The Department of Mathematics conducted a survey of the Journals. The survey has exposed students to quality research articles. They came to know what goes into the making of a good research article, how to frame a research problem, how to introduce and develop it, and how to acknowledge the references, bibliography and other technicalities of the Research. The faculty in the Department of Physics guided students in the publication of articles in reputed Journals.

The Institute has organizes seminars and webinars on Research Methodology. These seminars and webinars are for the targeted group. Many renowned research scholars and Scientists contribute to these seminars as Resource Persons. They acquaint students with the discipline- specific research methodology, the recent research trends and relevant research areas in the respective subjects. At the same time, the Institute conducts webinars on Intellectual Property Rights. Thus, the students are sensitized to the concept of Patents at an early stage. The seminars on Research Methodology and Intellectual Property rights lay down the foundation for the future research endeavor of the students. The institute also motivates students' participation in Avishkar, the research project competition conducted by affiliating university.

In the academic year, 2021-22 the institute organized the late Loknete Vyankatrao Hiray Innofest competition. In fact, Inno-fest was a platform availed by the institute for innovation, incubation and linkages for a start-up in all fields. It was also an attempt to engage scholars, inventors and innovators in dialogue for the effective solution to our problems. The college has a tie-up with C- MET Pune which is a government project for R&D. Through this tie-up various seminars, workshops have been arranged in collaboration for the promotion of R&D culture.

#### **Evidences of Success**

The practice has its outcome as the students got the concrete idea of research. They are trained in writing the book review. They are exposed to research journals through surveys of journals. Their mindset is cultivated for the research work and they can undertake research activities like writing a research article or presenting a research paper in seminars and conferences. Five students in the Department of Physics could publish their research articles in international journals and UGC Listed Journals. Another four students from the Department of Physics attended International Conference and presented their Research Papers. Late Loknete Vyankatrao Hiray Innofest competition was responded to spontaneously by the researchers and innovators. There were 460 students who participated in the competition from all over Maharashtra Due to the promotion of R&D Culture there are 11 Research Centers functioning in the college in which more than 112 scholars are pursuing research. There has been a considerable increase in research publications by the faculty as well as the students. The research of these scholars is going to contribute substantially to society by resolving a number of challenging issues. Students participate in the workshop organized by C-MET and got an opportunity to do internship in C- MET Pune.

# **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

The students admitted to the institute are from rural and tribal background. Their target in higher education is limited only to acquire degrees in the respective discipline. It seems to be difficult to make the students think beyond the traditional syllabus and evaluation patterns. Some of the students even believe that it's too early to think about research while others take it as if research is not their area of interest It seems to be difficult to convince them about research and development. Most students pursue higher education while doing some part-time jobs. Naturally, research becomes their secondary priority. As there is no prescribed syllabus for research students are confused and hesitate to pursue research. As an impact of the pandemic students seems to be scattered and distracted from higher education. Due to a lack of job opportunities earning a livelihood has become their priority. On this background, it has become challenging to inculcate and promote research culture among the students.

## **Notes (Optional)**

The institute has appointed Academic Research Coordinator (ARC) who works as a mediator between the affiliating University and the institute and updates the faculty about different research schemes and projects. The institute has a Research Advisory Committee and renowned scholars from various disciplines and scientist are the member

of the Research Advisory Committee. The college is going to organize the late Loknete Vyankatrao Hiray Inno-fest every year to get new ideas for research and development. The college is going to compile Inno-fest Magazine and the best 100 shortlisted innovations and projects from the inno-fest competition will be published in it.

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