

7.2 Best Practices

Title of the Practice 1

Organizing Dr. V.N. Bedekar State-level Intercollegiate Debate Competition

Goal:

To make available a platform to discuss and debate the issues of contemporary importance

The Dr. V. N. Bedekar State level Intercollegiate Debate Competition has been started by the College to commemorate the academic and social contribution made by Late. Dr. V.N. Bedekar who was instrumental in proliferation of our parent body namely Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane. To keep the lamp of knowledge burning Dr. V.N. Bedekar worked tirelessly and diligently. As part of the academic endeavour to disseminate the wisdom, Dr. V.N. Bedekar State level Intercollegiate Debate Competition has started in 2015 to mark his 100th birth anniversary.

The context:

The College believes in the philosophy of 'From information to knowledge and from knowledge to wisdom'. It entails the fact that students should be sensitized towards the current trends of understanding the pursuits of life.

The real motive behind this academic endeavour is to give platform to the young minds to discuss and debate the relevant and contemporary issues surrounding them. The winners are given prizes ranging from 2000 to 5000 along with a memento and certificates.

The practice:

The College has been organizing Dr. V.N. Bedekar State level Intercollegiate Debate Competition from 2015 on 20th February every year.

The details of the year and topics are as follows:

Sr. No.	Year	Topic	Participants
1	2015	Clean India Movement: Dream or reality Gender Equality only on the paper! Social Media: Communication or miscommunication	24
2	2016	Award Wapasi: Right or Wrong	22
3	2017	Demonetization: Right or Wrong	20
4	2018	One nation one Tax: Right or Wrong	16
5	2019	Is there necessity of Marathi Sahitya Sammelan?	20
6	2020	Citizenship Amendment Act : Right or Wrong	18

The implementation of the practice involves the following stages:

1. Appointment of teacher in-charge
2. Appointment of Student leader and student in-charge of various committees
3. To enroll the students for the competition
4. To reach almost all the colleges of Maharashtra
5. To invite renowned scholars and experts to judge the competition
6. To make necessary technical arrangements

Evidence of Success:

In the wake of social media and electronic communication the art of logical exposition of thoughts is diminishing at higher speed. People are misled easily. The student fraternity at large is facing this challenge of logical expression of relevant and contemporary issues. The topics selected for the competition are relevant and students try to attempt solutions to the same. The students from almost all the districts of Maharashtra such as Pune, Dhule, Satara, Aurangabad, Beed, Latur, Yavatmal, Jalgaon, etc. have been participating in the competition.

Following are the benchmarks of the success:

Students from almost all the districts of Maharashtra attend the competition and a fair amount of churning of ideas takes place every year. Renowned orators, editors, journalists have graced the competition as juries. Stalwarts like Noted Anchor Vasanti Vartak, Political analyst and senior journalist Abhay Deshpande and many more have judged the event.

Problems encountered and resources required:

1. It becomes challenging to attract students from the colleges of remote areas of Maharashtra.
2. Difficulties in motivating large number of students
3. It is difficult to handle the large group of students in limited span of time and with availability of limited resources.

Resources required:

1. Robust mechanism to shortlist the relevant topic for the conference and to reach almost all the colleges of Maharashtra
2. Expert judges
4. Auditorium with Power Point Presentation facility
5. Informed audience

Note:

It is advised that the colleges should sensitize students towards the need of socially and culturally relevant issues. The abundance of social media and its negative impact is leading to the individualistic attitude of younger generation. The colleges should encourage students to inculcate reading and logical speaking habits among students.

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice 2

Organizing Intercollegiate career guidance seminar for the students of TYBA Psychology, named 'Step Forward - towards the Goal'

Goal:

1. To provide students with comprehensive information about career paths in Psychology after graduation.
2. To provide students with a glimpse of professional world of Psychology as per specialisations, through the interactions with different professionals.

Vidya Prasarak Mandal has always kept the goal of overall development of students. Choosing a career that suits one's personality, interest and ability is an important part in student's life. More than often when some guidance is provided, students are able to make a suitable career choice. While Psychology is a popular subject of Arts faculty, it requires M.A. in some or the other speciality, in order to practice. Step Forward was designed to facilitate this choice for students who are about to complete their graduation.

The Context:

In recent years awareness about mental health is on rise. Many people are becoming more open about seeking help from mental health practitioners when required. This changing scenario demands the availability of trained professionals who can provide help to different strata of society as per the unique challenges faced by them. Students graduating today would be professionals after 2-3 more years. Thus, it is immensely important that they choose a super speciality which matches their interest, ability and potential. Often it has been observed that although students wish to make careers in psychology, they are confused about the further specialisation. Although, ample information may be available on internet, a thorough understanding of the each sub field may not be available, which poses the danger of choosing a wrong profession.

Hence Step Forward program was designed to give them an idea of many sub fields from the people who are working in those.

The Practice:

During these years, various resource persons were invited to guide students.

Sr. No.	Year	Resource Person	Expertise
1	2017-18	Dr. Anuradha Sovani	Clinical Psychology
2		Ms. Deepika Attawar	Industrial Psychology
3		Ms. Amruta Shaligram	Counselling Psychology
4		Dr. Asmita Huddar	Special Education
5		Dr. Vandana Deshmukh	Opportunities in foreign countries
1	2018-19	Ms. Alpa Alure	Clinical Psychology
2		Ms. Deepika Attawar	Industrial Psychology
3		Ms. Amruta Shaligram	Counselling Psychology
4		Ms. Yukti Gupta	Special Education
1	2019-20	Ms. Alpa Alure	Clinical Psychology
2		Ms. Manisha Pandey	Industrial Psychology
3		Mr. Chinmay Shivalkar	Counselling Psychology

Unique Feature:

We have always invited professionals from 3 dominant specializations of field viz. Clinical psychology, Industrial psychology and Counseling psychology to interact with students. It is beneficial for students to get a glimpse of the field they may choose as their profession.

In the year 2019-20, few alumni of department were also invited to interact with students. This interactions helped students to clarify their doubts.

Evidence of Success:

The program was designed to facilitate career choice of students in the field of Psychology. Success of program is indicated through the number of students and participating colleges throughout 3 years. Feedback of participants too indicate the benefits that they have experienced.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The program was well received by Mumbai and suburban colleges students. However students outside Mumbai could not attend the programme due to travel difficulties.

Resources required include the following:

- Auditorium,
- Conference room for conducting various programmes and activities
- Audio system,
- Photographer
- Funds for arranging the program

Note:

It is advised that students be provided with knowledge of functioning of each subfield as thoroughly as possible. They should be able to meet and discuss professionals in respective fields. An activity like this is not only helpful in reducing their confusion but also in providing them confidence to embark on the journey of their dream careers.