

7.2.1 Describe two best Best Practices successfully implemented by the institution as per NAAC format provided in the manual.

Best Practice 1:

Title: Green Practices

Objectives:

- To educate and sensitize the new generation about the importance of conserving air, water, soil, and environment in general.
- To initiate eco-friendly activities for environmental protection.
- To conduct anti-plastic and anti-noise campaigns and sensitize students on E-waste management.
- To address pollution concerns and instill environmental ethics.
- To promote clean energy, sustainable energy resources, and energy conservation.
- To conduct extensive tree plantation drives.

Context:

The planet's environment is currently experiencing the adverse effects of global warming and climate change, affecting nations through natural disasters and changing weather patterns. Unsustainable agricultural practices, urbanization, and resource exploitation have altered Earth's dynamics. As a higher education institution, we play a vital role in educating the next generation about adopting consistent green practices for environmental conservation that considers the environment, people, sustainability, and our surroundings.

The Practice:

- We are committed to sustainable development and prioritize environmental conservation in both academic and co-curricular activities, fostering awareness and sensitization among students and society.
- Our academic year commences with **the celebration of World Environment Day**, organized by the Department of Environmental Studies and Nature Club, motivating students to engage in year-round environmental conservation activities.
- **Tree plantation** is a regular activity conducted by NSS, DLLE and Nature club.
- We encourage students to reduce resource consumption and embrace the **principles of reuse, recycle, and reproduce.**

- **Segregation of wet and dry waste** is encouraged.
- **Canteen water is re-used** for watering plants in the garden.
- **Age-old trees are preserved** on the campus to create a lush green environment.
- At the institutional level, we promote **paperless communication** and encourage students to utilize college websites and WhatsApp groups for information and education.
- The Department of Lifelong Learning conducts activities related to **E-waste management**. The unit creates awareness about environmental issues through various activities like E-waste collection drive, Anti plastic drive, Paper bag distribution in local areas, Best out waste activity, reuse of plastic water bottles.
- The NSS unit raises awareness through projects such as '**Save Electricity, Reuse of old notebook pages for making notebooks and their distribution to needy students**'. The unit conducts awareness about the environment through various activities like **Flag pick-up drive** on the next day after Independence Day and Republic Day celebration and **Waste-to-Compost** awareness.
- **Best-out-of-waste** craft ideas are most suitable for reusing waste materials and decorating one's house or office. Organic waste such as kitchen waste, vegetables, flowers, and leaves can be used as fertilizers. To instill the idea of reducing waste and making the best out of waste, **exhibitions and competitions** are organized. The activity helps in making the girls conscious of environmental protection and re-using the waste material to bring out quality products and handicrafts using creativity.
- The college organizes various **activities that incorporate environmental themes**, including elocution, photography competitions, and essay writing competitions focused on environmental and sustainable development topics.

Evidence of Success:

Our green initiatives are seamlessly integrated into our academic calendar, with substantial student participation. Some notable activities include:

Activity	Date
Anti-Plastic Drive and Paper, Cloth bag Distribution	23-07-2018 08-09-2018
Anti-pollution and Anti-noise drive during Diwali festival	29-10-2018 to

	31-10-2018
Solar panel installation on the campus to save electricity	
Creation of Compost pit	
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	1 st May to 31 st July 2018 July to October 2018
Tree plantation drive	03-06-2021 14-07-2022 06-08-2022
International Environment Day celebration	05-06-2019 05-06-2020
Visit to Flower exhibition	09-01-2020
Intercollegiate Monsoonography competition	10-08-2019 17-09-2022
Best out of waste exhibition	01-10-2019
E-waste drive Collection and Donation	01-06-2019 to 30-07-2019 23-03-2022 11-04-2023
Anti-plastic awareness and Paper bag distribution drive	10-02-2020
Webinar on 'Mangrove ecosystem'	09-09-2020
Webinar on 'Marine Pollution'	11-09-2020
'Say No to Crackers' - Awareness drive	10-11-2020
Talk on 'E-waste management'	27-03-2021
Talk on 'Green initiatives for Healthy Life'	05-06-2021
Awareness campaign- 'Respect to Flag'	14-08-2021 12-08-2022
Poster making competition on Go Green and E-waste	02-10-2021
Demo lecture on 'How to make seed balls and eco-bricks'	18-03-2022
Environmental Project on 'Seed balls and Eco-bricks making'	23-03-2022
Distribution of Paper Bags, Cloth Bags and Masks made by the students	29-03-2022
Eco-Friendly Ganesha Idol Making Workshop	26-08-2022
Awareness drive on 'Ganesha Idol Immersion'	17-08-2022
Paper Bag and Cloth Bag Distribution	22-07-2022
Ozone Festival	16-09-2022
Awareness on Waste Segregation at NSS adopted village	19-01-2023
Study Tour to BMC Bio-Diversity Exhibition at Byculla Zoo	04-02-2023
Practical demo session on 'Home Made Compost Pit'	25-04-2023

The Covid-19 time was invested in empowering students' mental health by conducting the following activities:

- Certificate Course on Yoga- 23-11-2020
- Lecture on Stress management
- Three days Immunity Enhancement Programme- 01-06-2021

- Online talk on "A balanced life is a solution to all problems"- 20-08-2020
- Online webinar on 'Building a fairer, healthier world' - 07-04-2021

Problems Encountered and Resources Provided:

- Field visits for environmental education are challenging due to Mumbai's suburban location, but we motivate students for maximum participation.
- Finding time for door-to-door awareness campaigns can be difficult in the busy lives of Mumbaikars, so we organize events and campaigns on weekends to maximize outreach.
- Language barriers exist as many students are not fluent in English, but faculty members proficient in Marathi, Hindi, and English help the students in understanding.
- Safety and security concerns may arise during community awareness programs. Parents' restriction on the girl students limit their participation, but the institute takes the consent of the parents and take utmost care of the students.
- Despite these challenges, our commitment to environmental conservation remains unwavering.

Title: Skill Development Initiatives

Objectives:

The institute recognizes the paramount importance of skill development courses alongside traditional degrees in today's fiercely competitive world. In alignment with the new education policy, our practice is designed with the following objectives:

- To equip young students with market-relevant skills, improving their competence and self-reliance.
- To bridge the gap between industry-demanded skills and those possessed by recent graduates, creating opportunities for talent to thrive.

- To prepare students to confidently face the global job market's challenges and opportunities.
- To cultivate skill-oriented competencies rather than limiting education to curricular knowledge.
- To provide a platform to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, sparking innovation and new ideas.

Context:

Initiated by the government of India and various state bodies, the skill development program is seeping into various sectors including the educational arena. The significance of skill development programs extends across various sectors, with a particular emphasis on soft skills, organizational skills, technical prowess, and effective communication. These proficiencies are indispensable in the corporate and service sectors, where refined personality attributes contribute to organizational success. The institute works tirelessly on this agenda by nurturing young individuals, especially those from modest backgrounds, into effective personalities through an array of skill development programs. Our commitment is to empower students realistically, whether by securing comfortable placements or pursuing their talents with financial independence, enabling them to face the competitive world.

The Practice:

Our institution has created an enabling ecosystem to promote skill development, encompassing both academic and non-academic pursuits. Key aspects of our practice include:

- Promoting paperless communication through institutional channels.
- Organizing career guidance sessions throughout the year, covering industries such as aviation, hospitality, tourism, education, banking, entertainment, and retail, to guide students in their educational choices.
- Conducting NSDC certified skill development courses in collaboration with Citibank, Techno-Serve, and Edu-Bridge, with the aim of enhancing employability skills.
- Organizing annual placement drives, both on and off-campus, featuring companies like TCS, COPPERGATE, ICICI Lombard, national and international BPOs, Kotak Mahindra, HDFC and numerous banking and non-banking financial companies.
- Initiating programs like Annapurna and earn-and-learn schemes, which help students develop marketing, advertising, and accounting skills while contributing to institutional revenue. The regular feature, Anand Mela, provides a platform for young

girls to showcase their culinary skills, teamwork, financial planning, and marketing acumen.

- Recognizing the symbiotic relationship between entrepreneurship and environmental consciousness, our initiatives include crafting paper, cloth, and jute bags, creating Rakhis and eco-friendly articles out of waste materials, conducting jewelry-making workshops, and promoting stitching and tailoring, offering long-term employment potential.

Evidence of Success:

- Our relentless efforts to empower students with skills, innovation, job opportunities, and entrepreneurial zeal have yielded notable outcomes.
- Efforts of entrepreneurship development cell has benefited students over the years to cultivate their skills and think outside the box.
- Placement drives in the college enabled the students to be placed in various national and multinational companies. Over the last five years, several students have secured positions in banking-related organizations, like COPPERGATE Pvt. Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and back-office roles through campus interviews.
- Many students have opted for careers in unorganized sectors or pursued post-graduation or skill-based education, underlining the positive impact of our skill development initiatives.
- Techno -Serve and Edu -Bridge conducted soft skill development module-based courses for more than 60 hours for B com students. Another skill development program was conducted by Techno- Serve for 80 hours to enhance employability skills and job effectiveness. Professional courses also offered opportunities to the students by conducting workshops on career guidance.
- The students showed their artistic skills like nail art, Mehndi, beauty therapy, hairstyling and sari draping by attending training courses.
- In the times of green practice, young girls not only made money by making paper, cloth and jute bags but created consciousness about the green environment.
- Ananda Mela and Annapurna scheme not only polish their cooking skills but help them to earn money whenever they want.

Challenges Faced and Resource Requirements:

- Our students predominantly hail from humble backgrounds, with many being first-generation learners, often facing language and communication challenges.
- Meeting many challenges in both academic and extracurricular domains necessitates comprehensive training to prepare students for corporate and service sector roles and overall personal development to face the world confidently.
- Various committees, including training and placement cell, Women Development Cell (WDC), student council, extension unit, NSS, and cultural committee, collaborate extensively to arrange career counseling, skill development programs, personality development initiatives, and career guidance.
- Overcoming the conservative mindset of parents and guardians requires ongoing communication and counseling. Family culture norms may also pose challenges for younger students, especially concerning night duties, shift work, and field assignments.
- Efforts to persuade students and their families to pursue add-on courses, especially due to conservative family attitudes, often require extensive discussions and persuasion. Faculty takes extra measures to ensure the safety and security of female students in all aspects of their education.