

## **Best Practice 1: Green Practices**

### **Objectives:**

- Educate the new generation about the importance of conserving air, water, soil, and the environment.
- Initiate eco-friendly activities for environmental protection.
- Conduct anti-plastic and anti-noise campaigns and promote E-waste management.
- Address pollution concerns and instil environmental ethics.
- Promote clean energy and sustainable energy resources.
- Conduct extensive tree plantation drives.

**Context:** The planet faces severe environmental challenges, including global warming and climate change, leading to natural disasters and altered weather patterns. As a higher education institution, we play a critical role in educating students about sustainable practices that consider the environment, people, and sustainability.

### **The Practice:**

- We prioritize environmental conservation in both academic and co-curricular activities, encouraging awareness among students and the community.
- Regular tree plantation activities are conducted by NSS and DLLE.
- We promote resource conservation through principles of reuse, recycling, and reduction, alongside wet and dry waste segregation.
- Canteen water is reused for watering campus plants, and age-old trees are preserved.
- We encourage paperless communication, utilizing college websites and WhatsApp groups.
- NSS projects focus on electricity conservation and reusing old materials for notebooks, alongside awareness drives for environmental issues.
- Craft activities highlight reusing waste materials, and encourage creativity in making quality products.
- We host various environmental-themed competitions, such as elocution, photography, and essay writing.

### **Green Initiatives (2023-24):**

1. Tree plantation in association with GTT and Barclay on 24th June 2023 with 22 students participating.
2. A session on “Conservation of Mangroves” was held on 21st July 2023, attended by 89 students.
3. An awareness campaign on “Respect the Flag” was conducted on 14th August 2023 with 26 students participating.
4. A workshop on “Making of Eco-friendly Ganpati Idol” was held on 23rd August 2023, attended by 95 students.
5. Distribution of sanitary pads at Chendani Koliwada, Thane on 17th February 2024, with participation from 17 students.

**Evidence of Success:** Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, our college successfully implemented a range of environmentally focused initiatives, significantly contributing to both awareness and community engagement. The Tree Plantation Drive on 24th June 2023, in association with GTT and Barclay, saw enthusiastic participation from students, resulting in the planting of numerous saplings across the campus, enhancing our green cover and promoting biodiversity.

The session on “Conservation of Mangroves” on 21st July 2023 educated students on the critical role of mangroves in coastal ecosystems, fostering a sense of responsibility toward their preservation. The “Respect the Flag” awareness campaign on 14th August 2023 emphasized the importance of treating the national flag with dignity, further instilling a sense of patriotism and respect among students.

The Eco-Friendly Ganpati Idol Making Workshop on 23rd August 2023 demonstrated creativity and environmental consciousness, with students crafting idols using sustainable materials, promoting eco-friendly practices during the festival season. Additionally, the sanitary pad distribution initiative at Chendani Koliwada on 17th February 2024 addressed a crucial health and hygiene issue, benefiting the local community and promoting awareness about menstrual hygiene.

Collectively, these initiatives not only enhanced student involvement but also fostered a culture of environmental stewardship within and beyond the college, marking a successful year of green practices and community engagement.

### **Challenges Encountered:**

- Organizing field visits is challenging due to logistical constraints.
- Language barriers among students; faculty provide support in multiple languages.
- Safety concerns during community programs; parental consent is prioritized.

### **Conclusion**

In the academic year 2023-24, our institution demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering environmental awareness and sustainability through a variety of impactful initiatives. By educating students about the importance of conserving natural resources and promoting eco-friendly practices, we have successfully created a culture of environmental stewardship within our campus and the surrounding community.

Efforts such as tree plantation drives, mangrove conservation sessions, and workshops on crafting eco-friendly Ganpati idols not only enhanced environmental consciousness but also empowered students to take active roles in sustainability. The “Respect the Flag” campaign and sanitary pad distribution initiative further reflected our holistic approach to combining environmental ethics with social responsibility.

Despite challenges such as logistical constraints, language barriers, and safety concerns, our initiatives achieved significant success, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental ethics among students. By addressing these challenges and continuing to prioritize sustainability, we aim to instil lasting values that prepare students to contribute meaningfully to environmental conservation and societal well-being in the years to come.

## **Best Practice: Skill Development Initiatives**

### **Objectives:**

- Equip students with industry-relevant skills to enhance their competency, independence, and employability.
- Bridge the skill gap between industry expectations and the competencies of graduates.
- Prepare students to meet the challenges of the global job market with confidence.
- Encourage entrepreneurial initiatives, innovative thinking, and problem-solving abilities among students.

**Context:** In alignment with the Indian government’s focus on skill development, especially in the education sector, our institution places significant importance on providing students with practical skills that align with industry demands. Many students in our institution come from economically modest backgrounds, and we strive to empower them to become valuable contributors across various sectors. The need for skill-based education is greater than ever, given the rapid changes in global markets and industries. Through carefully designed training modules, workshops, and collaborations with industry leaders, we aim to encourage self-reliance, employability, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

**The Practice:** Our institution employs a multi-pronged approach to enhance students' skill sets and bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application. The following initiatives were undertaken to cater to a diverse set of students and disciplines:

#### **1. Expert Lectures and Industry Interactions:**

- o The Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Thane branch of ICAI, organized a Career Counselling Session on September 8, 2023, attended by 66 commerce students.
- o The Department of Economics conducted a session on “Up-Skilling” on February 2, 2024, promoting career readiness and personal growth among participants.

## **2. Skill-Oriented Short Courses:**

- o The Department of Mathematics conducted a Bridge Course on August 2, 2023, with 77 students participating to strengthen foundational skills.
- o The Department of Accounting and Finance organized a Webinar on Technical and Fundamental Analysis of the Stock Market on July 15, 2023, providing students with valuable insights into the world of finance.

## **3. Workshops on Digital Skills:**

- o The B.Sc. IT Department conducted a hands-on workshop on Data Science, which attracted 45 students, equipping them with essential tools for data analysis.
- o A three-day Workshop on Advanced Excel was held from September 14 to 16, 2023, engaging 33 students in mastering advanced tools for data handling.
- o The Department of Accounting and Finance conducted a workshop on ChatGPT on October 10, 2023, with 47 students participating, exploring AI tools in modern education.

## **4. Career Guidance and Competitive Exam Preparation:**

- o The Department of Bachelor of Management Studies hosted a preparation session for the CAT competitive exam, with 52 students participating.
- o A special lecture on Resume Writing and Interview Skills drew 100 attendees, equipping students with essential professional skills.

## **5. Seminars on Emerging Topics:**

- o The Department of Accounting and Finance organized a Seminar on GST on February 9, 2024, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of taxation systems.
- o A Seminar on the Cloud Internship Program attracted 50 participants, offering insights into cloud computing and career opportunities.

## **6. Industry Exposure Visits:**

- o A visit to the Bombay Stock Exchange on March 19, 2024, offered students practical exposure to financial markets and trading systems.

## **7. Promoting Entrepreneurship and Sustainability:**

- o In line with our focus on entrepreneurial development, students are encouraged to create and market eco-friendly products. These activities not only foster innovative thinking but also raise awareness about environmental sustainability.

**Evidence of Success:** The various initiatives under the skill development framework have yielded positive outcomes, reflecting the effectiveness of our approach:

**1. Improved Employability and Job Placements:**

- o The success of our annual placement drives is evident, with many students securing employment in leading national and multinational companies. Graduates have found roles in sectors ranging from finance and IT to hospitality and marketing, underscoring the relevance of our skill-focused programs.

**2. Soft Skills Training for Holistic Development:**

- o Recognizing the importance of communication and interpersonal skills, we have conducted over 60 hours of soft skills training. These sessions, focused on areas such as teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and effective communication, have significantly enhanced students' employability.

**3. Showcasing Creative Talent:**

- o Add-on courses in areas like beauty therapy have given students the opportunity to explore their artistic and creative skills. These programs not only build competence in niche fields but also encourage students to think innovatively about their career paths.

**4. Revenue-Generating Initiatives:**

- o Programs like Ananda Mela and Annapurna have been highly successful in teaching students culinary and entrepreneurial skills. Through these initiatives, students not only honed their cooking abilities but also earned income, fostering self-sufficiency and practical learning.

**Challenges Faced:** While the outcomes of our skill development initiatives have been encouraging, several challenges remain:

**1. Language and Communication Barriers:**

- o A significant number of students come from modest backgrounds and face challenges related to language and communication. To address this, the institution has initiated soft skills training and language development programs, though continuous efforts are needed to build proficiency.

**2. Conservative Mindsets Toward Employment:**

- o Some students and their families harbour conservative attitudes towards certain career options, preferring traditional employment paths. Changing these mindsets requires ongoing career counselling sessions and exposure to non-traditional but lucrative job opportunities.

**3. Family Reluctance to Support Skill-Based Learning:**

- o Despite the benefits of skill-based programs, some families are reluctant to allow students to participate, fearing that it may detract from their academic performance. Extensive counselling and awareness programs are conducted to help families understand the importance of holistic education that combines academic knowledge with practical skills.

**Conclusion:** Our institution's commitment to skill development reflects a broader vision of empowering students to thrive in a competitive and ever-evolving job market. Through expert lectures, hands-on workshops, certificate courses, and entrepreneurship initiatives, we aim to build a generation of self-reliant, competent, and innovative graduates. The challenges we encounter only reinforce the importance of our mission, and with continued efforts, we believe that our students will be well-equipped to meet the demands of the future.

