



BEST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED BY THE INSTITUTE

Based on the recommendations of the Academic Council, the Governing Body has approved the following two best practices.

1. Industry-driven courses
2. Techno cultural symposiums

Title: 1. Industry Driven Courses

Objective:

1. To impart the latest technologies to the students, bridge the curriculum gap and make the students' industry ready.
2. To involve industry experts in designing value-added courses, add on courses, and support faculty members in imparting these courses to students.
3. To facilitate faculty and students to work on the latest technological advancements and implement academic projects.

Context:

The industry is experiencing a disruption under rapid advancements in science and technology. The students and faculty need to accept the dynamic change and stay in line with the latest advancements in the technology front. Since our institution is affiliated with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, it has to follow the University syllabus. However, the University syllabus is shared with the stake holder's viz. alumni, faculty, employers, and students, and feedback is sought to keep in view the rapid technological changes. Based on the feedback of the stakeholders, the curriculum gap is identified, and to bridge the curriculum gap, industry-driven courses are designed.

Practice:

The institution is a member of the Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK) which is a government organization providing industrial connect to academic institutions for internships, add-on courses, and placements. This is an institutional effort apart from the in-house Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIIC) and placement cell that it has in place. With the help of the TASK, the institution can identify the industry experts and seek their support in designing add-on courses, value-added courses, and skill development courses. Based on the curriculum gap, experts will suggest the courses, and the content to be delivered and also guide faculty members in preparing the course material.

With the support of industry experts, the faculty will prepare:

1. Course content with clearly mentioned objectives and outcomes
2. Course material
3. Assessment Rubrics
4. Assessment Methods
5. Evaluation Criteria

The add-on/value-added/skill development courses are factored into the timetable. At the beginning of the semester concerned faculty member will put up the request for the required infrastructure or labs and they are provided by the Head of the Department. The complete details of the course are shared with students along with the timetable. Students' attendance will be taken, periodic assessments are done using stated rubrics and summative assessment is done at the end of the course. These results are also shared with the placement cell for information that will help in pursuing placement opportunities based on the student's skill set.

In due course of time, we developed and delivered about 100 courses that improved the employability of the students with obvious concomitant results.

Evidence of Success:

1. Abilities of students to communicate sufficient disciplinary knowledge received a push.
2. Students who have got more than 70% in the assessment have secured first-rate internships.
3. Quality of placements has improved.
4. Corporate relationships established and deepened.
5. Industry collaborations increased.
6. Students have participated and won prizes in state and national level hackathons, and project competitions.
7. Ability of students to engage in public discussion on issues related to disciplinary knowledge and beyond, improved.
8. Ability to learn outside of the institution received a shot in the arm.
9. Students are seen as becoming careful consumers of scientific and technological information related to their everyday lives.
10. Skills required to enter the career of choice got a boost.
11. Students' communication and interpersonal skills have improved and the effort contributed to the round performance of the students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

As our institution is affiliated with the university, it was a challenging task to deliver these courses along with the University syllabus. Talent acquisition of skilled faculty was very tough because due to the scarcity of the same in the state. Hence, it was decided to train our faculty with industry support and they would cascade it to the students in these skill development courses. Offering student projects on the latest technologies was also found tough as there is an increase in the number of projects required every year and every project had to be kept unique. To address the challenges institution has required infrastructure in place and conducts regular faculty development programs for empowering faculty on the latest technologies and skill sets.

Title: 2. Techno Cultural Symposiums

Objective:

Apart from being aware of technological advancements and trends, students must be aware of their cultural heritage and live in communal harmony. In this connection, the institution conducts techno-cultural symposiums every year with the following objectives.

1. To promote individual and teamwork among students by participating, volunteering, and organizing the symposium.
2. To facilitate students in understanding the importance of cultural heritage through various cultural programs in the symposium and talks by eminent personalities.
3. To promote team spirit and ability to compete in various technical events conducted in the symposium.

Context:

Students in the Institution have great diversity concerning region, linguistic, and socioeconomic issues. Students from different institutions across the state and country will also have diversity concerning their curriculum and syllabus. It is very important to have a platform where our students can interact, compete and collaborate with students of other institutions which will help them in improving their skill sets and also dilute the cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversities among students. Apart from the NAAC-guided and monitored mechanism, it was also decided to invite eminent personalities such as Padma awardees to address students and motivate the students in the right direction, inculcate good values in them, and help them become good citizens. Hence techno-cultural symposium has been adopted as a best practice.

Practice:

Techno cultural symposium in the institution is driven by the student council with a faculty coordinator facilitating each activity. The theme of the symposium is decided by the patron, convener, and student council president after deliberations with the students and staff. The student council will release a brochure with complete details of the events to be conducted as part of the symposium. The publication committee will be responsible for posting the brochure and invitation letters to all institutions in the state and country both offline and online modes. For each activity, the jury members will be identified and nominated after approval from the convener. Student volunteers for each event will promote their event in surrounding institutions through a campaign. The institution also offers free accommodation in the institution hostel, for the girl students participating from outside the state. The institution will sponsor the entire event and will accept sponsorships from any outside agencies. The organizing committee will ensure all events are conducted as per the schedule and smoothly. Winners and runners of each event are rewarded with a certificate and cash incentive.

The eminent personalities who delivered their addresses in the symposiums include:

- Chintakindi Malleshram, Padma Shri 2017 acclaimed for his invention of the Lakshmi Asu machine that reduced the efforts required by weavers in Pochampally, Telangana.
- Sunitha Krishnan, Padma Shri 2016 - the well-known Indian social activist working against human trafficking.

Evidence of Success:

1. Going beyond hosting techno-cultural symposiums, our students participated in national-level technical symposiums of other institutions and bagged prizes.
2. Winning university-level hackathons and qualification for finals in Smart India Hackathon.
3. Students collaborated with students from other institutions on projects.
4. Interpersonal skills and team spirit is enhanced in students.
5. Ability to engage in public discussions saw a tremendous uptick.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

1. Identifying the theme and number of events to be conducted is a challenge every time because all departments must agree and come to single agenda.
2. Nominating event coordinators is done by the student council and respective faculty coordinators which have to be done judiciously without any bias.
3. Attracting registrations for all events is the responsibility of the student and faculty coordinators and making proper arrangements to conduct the event smoothly.
4. It is always a challenge for the jury members to pick only two winners and runners from many competing teams.
5. Handling outstation participants is a challenge because we have to ensure safe and secure boarding and lodging and a comfortable stay.