



SYMBIOSIS COLLEGE OF ARTS & COMMERCE

An Autonomous College | Under Savitribai Phule Pune University

Reaccredited 'A+' with 3.51 CGPA For Third Cycle By NAAC | College with Potential for Excellence

Best Practices I

Title of the Practice:

Interdisciplinary: Essence of Liberal Arts

Objectives of the Practice :

The increasing connectivity, diversity, scale, and rapidity of change anticipated for the first half of the 21st century will interact to create a world in which the defining characteristic is complexity. Interdisciplinary studies are the only game in town for understanding and addressing this complexity, making it a necessary and important component of today's liberal education.

The objectives of interdisciplinary education are:

- To comprise a liberal education that includes a general education curriculum providing broad learning in multiple disciplines and ways of knowing, along with more in-depth study in a major.
- To develop a strong sense of social responsibility as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as analytical, problem solving abilities, communication and the ability to apply knowledge in a real world setting.
- To expose students to social sciences, humanities, language and literature and performing arts.
- To help students see the real-world relevance of the various academic disciplines their comparative strengths and weaknesses, their power and their blind spots.

The Context:

The hallmark of liberal arts education is small class sizes, close access to professors and intern opportunities. The approach to teaching and learning at the Liberal Arts Centre aims to develop the students from all angles. It is a wholesome program which takes care of intellect, emotions and ethics. The thirst for knowledge and understanding of the student is enhanced in classroom sessions through various methods.

The Practice:

It is open for all. We believe that learning has No AGE bar. Every class has got a proper mix of students from different age groups, state and sex. There are limited number of students; the minimum and maximum intake of a class is 8 to 15 respectively. This enables a faculty to give close attention to each and every student and class interaction and discussions becomes more meaningful. Education imparted through the following methods:

- interactive seminars
- outdoor sessions

- group discussions
- team learning through projects and assignments
- Faculty and students exchange program,
- brainstorming, art and music
- self-learning through library reference
- Internships, audio-visual, guest lectures and workshops.

Highlights of the Best Practice:

- Keeping a track of attendance: Attendance is compulsory.
- Students are not allowed to miss more than two classes. Strict actions are taken against those who miss more than two classes.
- Evaluation Method: Evaluation methodology is such that it checks all dimensions of a students' personality.
- Learning Methodology: Rote learning is not a criterion. Students are evaluated continuously on the basis of their class performance, assignments and research.
- Exposure: Exposure of reality outside the world through outdoor sessions, research and interaction.
- Student Exchange Program: We organize Faculty and student exchange programmes. International learning and knowledge propels students towards acceptance and understanding of an array of different cultural and community perspectives. Language acquisition is achieved through practical immersion.
- Open to All: The liberal arts education is not confined to the students of Symbiosis College
- Interdisciplinary Approach: Engaging students and helping them to develop knowledge, insights, problem solving skills, self-confidence, self efficacy, and a passion for learning are common goals that educators bring to the classroom, and interdisciplinary instruction and exploration promotes realization of these objectives.
- Types of Courses: There are courses which focus on survival skills through different programmes such as environment outdoor studies.
- Feedback forms: Feedback forms are collected from the students on completion of a subject and the faculties are given a feedback of the same.
- Faculty Meetings: Faculty meetings are conducted to take feedbacks and suggestion so as to bring in the necessary changes and modifications.
- Syllabus: Faculties are given the liberty to frame the syllabus according to their area of interest keeping in mind the relevance of the topic to the current scenario.
- Course Audit: Individual Courses are audited by experts. Suggestion and feedbacks are taken and are incorporated in the course outlines.
- Student- Centric: Student-centred learning aims to develop learner autonomy and independence by putting responsibility for the learning path in the hands of students by imparting them with skills and basis on how to learn a specific subject. E.g.: Environmental Outdoor Studies.
- Workshops, Field Visits and Guest Lectures

Evidence of success

- The Degree with Honours programme commenced in the year 2014 with 219 students. In a span of two years the strength has scaled up to a total of 431 students. Thus enrolment has almost doubled.

•The Symbiosis Centre for Liberal Arts which started with six courses in 2006. Since 2011-12, the number of courses has increased from 29 to 58. The student enrolment has also increased. Students not only from our college but also those from neighbouring college have been enthusiastically enrolling for the courses. It has been so successful that parent body was inspired to start a four-year degree programme in Liberal Arts by establishing new Institute viz. 'Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts' under the aegis of Symbiosis International University (SIU)

Problems encountered and Resources required

Problems encountered In the age of specialization and a utilitarian attitude towards higher education it is a challenge to motivate students and parents to explore areas and fields of knowledge beyond their chosen fields.

Resources required

- 1.Physical infrastructure
- 2.Qualified, versatile and dynamic faculty
- 3.Administrative and financial support

Best Practices II

Title of the Practice:

Internationalisation: International Initiatives

Objectives of the Practice :

International Initiatives have been encouraged at the Symbiosis College of Arts Commerce since its inception, as the dream of our founder director Dr. S.B. Mujumdar has been *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakkam*. With this mandate before us, we at Symbiosis believe that International Initiatives will give exposure to our faculty and students to look at education from a global perspective. The objectives of this practice are:

- To promote international education as a core value of the college and to integrate internationalization into current and future strategic institutional objectives and initiatives.
- To expose students to multicultural diversity and consequently enrich the living and learning experience in the college.
- To help international students and faculty bring their own global experiences to Symbiosis, while enjoying the many benefits that Symbiosis education has to offer.
- To expand study abroad opportunities, interest and awareness.
- To help students develop a global perspective.
- To facilitate faculty exchange programme.
- To undertake joint research projects

The Context :

A globalised approach to education is the need of the hour with the advancement in the field of technology. The world has come much closer virtually creating a global village and Symbiosis, therefore, endeavours towards internationalisation of resources curriculum and collaborations. Since the college went in for autonomy from the academic year 2012 onwards. Autonomy gives us greater freedom in terms of designing curriculum from a global perspective, offering courses that appeal to foreign students, arrange for faculty and student exchange programs as also granting of credits.

The Practice:

- The college welcomes international students from different countries.
- The college has created an International Initiative Cell which organises programmes that promote inter-culturalism; exchange programmes for students and faculty that helps in the exchange of ideas between scholars from various geo-cultural backgrounds.
- Under the scholars-in-residence programme, Professors from foreign universities visit the college and engage lectures and conduct seminars for the students and faculty.

- Seamless admission to Master's Programme at the Kedge Business School, Marseille, France.
- The college library has a subscription to the international database, JSTOR, EBSCO etc.
- Faculty members have been invited as chairpersons, resource persons and presented papers in international conferences abroad. Faculty have been nominated to international bodies and are on the editorial board of international journals.
- Faculty has received an international fellowship; to provide international exposure to teachers, they are given incentives to attend workshops/conferences/seminars abroad including duty leave and registration fees.

Highlights of the Best Practice:

In the academic year 2018-19, a lot of encouragement was given not just to outbound programs but also to inbound programs. Following are the gist of activities during the year Outbound:

- New Memorandum of Understandings signed Kutztown University, USA Westchester University, USA
- Memorandum of Understanding in progress Synergy International, Moscow
- Seamless admission to MSC Kedge Business School (Vineet Agarwal for MSC in International Trade Logistics)
- ACCA Integrated program was flagged off leading to a degree of BCOM with specialization in Accounting Finance (91 students enrolled)
- Student Exchange programme Hildesheim University (3 students) • Inbound • Melange under Make a Difference (MAD): A program to get to know the foreign students
- Workshop on Firefox, 08-Apr-20, 1:54 PM South Korean Culture, Conducted by students of South Korea
- Workshop on African culture, Conducted by the students of Africa
- Personality Development, Career Guidance, Communication skills workshop and village visit Panchgani - Natventure
- Community Outreach programme, Bus Stop transformation.

Evidence of Success:

- In last five years (2011-16) the college admitted 859 students from 42 countries, with the maximum students from Afghanistan, Iran, Nepal, and Yemen.
- Student-exchange programme have been successfully executed in collaboration with the following French Schools:
 - Lycee Felix Le Dantec (Lannion)
 - Lycee Emile-Zola (Aixen Provence)
 - Lycee Marie Laurencin (Mennecey)
- Two undergraduate students have been admitted to two universities in Pennsylvaniastate.
- Five students have completed Masters in Finance from Kedge Business School, France.
- In the last five years, faculty have presented 87 papers in international conferences, seminars, and programmes held in India and abroad.

- Faculty have published 80 research papers in international journals and have 2 books published by international publisher.
- Two faculty, Dr.Sharayu Bhakare and Ms. Sarika Wagh, have designed and will deliver a course at International seminar week in Kedge Business School, France.

Problems encountered and Resources required :

- To raise funds to meet the cost of the educational programme offered by International Universities and Institutions.