

## **Best Practice: No. 1**

### **Title of the Practice :**

Setting up Departmental Advisory Panel

### **Objectives of the practice :**

To enhance Curricular aspects by providing inputs for value addition from advisors from industry. The aim is to:

- To understand the contemporary issues pertaining to industries,
- To select the relevant contemporary issue among them for inclusion as supplement to existing curriculum.
- Equip the students with the knowledge about current practices/trends followed by industries by arranging necessary programs.

### **The context :**

The higher education needs to be relevant with the current trends and practices being followed by the industries. As the course syllabus is set by the University and does not get updated every year students may not get them to know and understand contemporary issues. Hence it is needed to have a mechanism which can supplement the syllabus with the inputs necessary for keeping the students updated with latest and relevant information/knowledge.

In this context every Institute has to design and implement a separate mechanism which can fulfill the requirement of value addition to the curriculum. It can be done in the form of formation of committee consisting industrial experts and getting inputs on time to time basis. The inputs in turn will be introduced to the students in the form of curricular supplements.

### **The practice :**

The institute has formed an Academic Advisory Panel consisting of 5 members selected from different industries. The role of this panel is to provide suggestions so as to enhance curricular aspects. The suggestions shall be based on contemporary issues/practices being faced, implemented by the industrial world. The nature of the suggestions are to be in the form of implementable modifications in line with and supporting University Syllabus. The idea is to understand the latest trends being followed by the industry as stakeholders and equip IMER student with the current practices. The suggestions provided by the panel shall be passed on to the students in the form of additional teaching sessions/practices/workshops/guest lectures etc.

The formation of the panel is done by the Director IMER along with the HODs of both Departments. The selection of the members is valid for three years. The training and placement coordinator is the convener of this Departmental Advisory Panel.

The meetings are conducted prior to the beginning and after completion of every semester.

Meetings in last week of July and the last week of December are conducted for suggesting modifications/enhancement features in curriculum. Whereas meetings in last week of November and last week of April every year are conducted as review meetings.

The nature of the meetings is offline as well as online depending on availability of Panel members. The suggestions finalized by the members are then put up before the Director and the HODs for further actions. The Director along with HODs take the final call about ways of implementation of the suggestions. Accordingly plans are chalked out and implementation is carried out through the

selected methods like change in pedagogy, arrangements of additional lectures, workshops etc. The Academic Advisory Panel is kept in loop during this exercise of finalization of plan.

The review meetings aim at monitoring the performance and fulfillment of predefined action plan.

The Director, HODs participates in the review meet.

A proper record is maintained for understanding the developments carried out for value addition in the student's academic progress.

### **Evidence of Success**

One of the outcome of the evident success is conducting value added programs for MCA and MBA students of the institute. The committee in consultation with alumni designed various value added programs for the development of our students, these programs were chalked out based on the cotemporary knowledge and experiences of our past students helped in brining current issues before the student community. This has certainly helped them in understanding the pressing issues faced by the industries and how to overcome them. We could also arrange various guest lectures based on the extensive brainstorming carried out during the meetings of Departmental Advisory Panels.

### **Problems encountered and Resources Required**

Though the practice has a lot of merits, there are certain challenges in administrating the practice: During some of the meetings of the panel it is realized that the syllabus provided by the University needs certain updating as it does not cover the cotemporary issues witnessed by the industries. Though we decided to fill the gap by introducing the value added programs sometimes it was not possible address all the issues for lack of recourse persons or other constraints.

## **Best Practice: No. 2**

### **Title of the Practice :**

Experiential Learning through ISR (Institutional Social responsibility)

### **Objectives of the practice :**

The aim of this practice is to develop understanding, knowledge, skills and attitudes of students through the active participation in activities which aims to analyze and solve societal problems. The institute has designed the objectives as follows:

- To educate the students about the social responsibilities,
- To providethe students necessary opportunities for carrying out ISR projects through collaboration with government, semi government, private, industrial organizations.
- To involve the students in designing the projects which can help them understandthe societal needs and how to solve the societal projects with the help of managerial skill learnt.
- To assist the collaborative organization in understanding, solving societal issues selected for the project.

### **The context :**

Experiential learning is, quite simply, learning by doing. The uniqueness of the "Experiential Learning through ISR" practice lies in the involvement of society itself in the problem solving.

We at Kit IMER understand the role of educational institutes in shaping society. As we being a part of the society we take it as our responsibility.

It is observed that many a times various problems/issues faced by society are outcome of lack of understanding, knowledge and lack of willingness to accept the reality by the participating stakeholders such as government, semi government, private, industrial organizations.

Through the ISR projects we KIT IMER, pinpoint the pressing areas and furnish the lacunas, data to the stakeholders so that they can take the appropriate action to understand, solve the issues. This is done with the active involvement of students.

**The practice :**

We at KIT IMER have a well structured research committee headed HOD which access identifies the needs of society. The issues range from implementation of administrative policies to percolating the stakeholders policies to the last strata of public. This does not limit the scope and any others relevant issue is taken up before the committee.

The committee after scrutinizing the proposals received from the faculty, students, and stakeholder. The pro and cons, administrative obstacles, resource needed etc are discussed in detail.

After the scrutiny the final decision is made on selection of the problem and the task is assigned to group of faculty and students. This group is authorized to contact the concerned offices, form procedure for implementation of the project, carry out surveys, data collection required if any. The group is also assigned the task of data analysis and finally coming to the suggestions. This is a research process and all the key points are followed.

The final findings and suggestions are furnished before the committee and the concerned stakeholder. Presentations made if required before the involved societal bodies.

**Evidence of Success**

The institute has witnessed overwhelming response from many Government and non government organization and we have carried out various societal projects through Experiential Learning through ISR (Institutional Social responsibility)

To name few we have conducted research:

- Analysis of effect of pandemic on industries in and around Kolhapur. This was done on behalf of Goods and Service Tax Department, Central Government.
- Study of customers expectations from local online retailers with special reference to Kolhapur city. This research was carried on for Kolhapur Chamber of Commerce,
- Study of customers opinion about digital banking with reference to Kolhapur city. This was carried for State Bank of India,
- Study of online food delivery market for advanced learners. This project was funded by Shivaji University.
- Currently we have been carrying out a road safety project which aims at providing valuable suggestions to Regional Transport Office.

**Problems encountered and Resources Required**

It is observed that many a times the involved stakeholders are not aware or willing to delve in such projects because of time and resources constraints. But eventually they do get involved considering the importance of the outcomes. So as such we have not faced any major obstacle.