

Best Practices and Institutional Distinctiveness: AY 2018-19

Best Practices – I

1. Title of the Practice: Social Upliftment Through Community Services

2. Objectives:

- i. To help the needy and underprivileged in our society.
- ii. To keep our Institute neat and clean under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- iii. To spread the importance of education in the society.
- iv. To raise voice against injustice done to the girl child.
- v. To spread awareness about healthy life style and diet.
- vi. To donate blood for a noble cause.

3. The Context

Contextual features and challenges faced

- i. This Institute is situated in a tribal region of Palghar district where most people are living below the poverty line. This has motivated various types of donation to help the same.
- ii. Innovative minds can emerge from healthy bodies and these dwell in a clean atmosphere this sensitized a nationwide campaign “Swachh bharatabhiyan”.
- iii. Literacy rate is quite low in the tribal region of Palghar district where this Institute is situated and that is the cause which has stimulated the teaching campaigns. One of the hurdles to this campaign is the mindset of people towards education.
- iv. In the urban areas, the younger generation is more attracted towards junk food. Unhealthy eating habits cultivated in the society has motivated to conduct health awareness programs.

4. The Practice

Our Institute follows a unique practice of paying gratitude and handling responsibilities towards the society through a committee known as **UDAAN**- whose motto is “**Flight towards change for social cause**”. Apart from technical growth, important program outcomes of any technical education are to inculcate rich ethical values and basic social awareness and our UDAAN committee targets towards achieving these goals. This committee started functioning from the academic year 2014-15.

- i. Its journey started by organizing a small event for celebrating “The Independence Day “to gratify our unsung heroes for their sacrifices and bravery.

- ii. Teacher's Day are celebrated by enhancing the importance of education to the rural area children in the remote village of Vasai. The committee visited Saraswati School, which is situated in a village known as "Parol" in Palghar district to guide them about education, their benefits and career opportunities.
- iii. During the winters, the committee organizes a camp to donate blankets to the needy and poor people staying on the roads. "Be A Young Santa This Winter" is a donation program executed to mark the real happiness of giving.
- iv. Helping the underprivileged is most noble service to the society. Udaan committee visited girl's orphanage in Vasai and donated clothes, food items and gifts.
- v. Donating is a selfless act, so giving to charity will improve our self-esteem and self-worth. To inculcate these virtues our committee organizes Mega Donation Camps. Essential commodities such as cereals, toys, stationary items, sanitary pads, books and many more are donated to financially deprived sectors of the society.
- vi. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a nationwide campaign to keep our surroundings neat and clean. UDAAN along with Student's Council organizes this campaign to keep our Institute premise tidy.
- vii. "Gift of blood is gift of Life". Blood donation is the mother of all donations. It not only saves one individual but also the entire family of that individual. Committee organizes blood donation camp to help needy patients which may be waiting for a blood transfusion to survive. Students and Faculty both volunteered eagerly to donate blood.
- viii. Despite of busy academic schedule the committee members along with the faculty in charge designs various posters on healthy eating habits and importance of various fruits vegetables in their diet. Committee organizes a Health Awareness event which enhances healthy lifestyles in budding engineers.
- ix. 'Respect Her' is a women-oriented campaign organized by the Udaan committee. Through this medium a message is spread in the society to value and respect women. Street plays are performed to depict the same.

5. Evidence of Success.

- i. Following approximate items donated in "Mega Donation Camp"

Sr. No	Items	Approximate Quantity
1	Rice	200Kg
2	Sugar	200Kg
3	Wheat	100Kg
4	Shirts	3000
5	Pants	3000
6	Note books	2000
7	Pens	2000
8	Blankets	1000

9	Toys	500
10	Stationary items	200 packets

- ii. Approximate blood bottles collected for government recognized blood banks are tabulated below

Sr. No.	Academic year	Number of blood bottles collected
1	2014-15	197
2	2015-16	142
3	2016-17	170
4	2017-18	242
5	2018-19	175

- iii. In the rural areas, teaching campaign has benefitted nearly 600 children.

6. Problems encountered, and resources required.

- Time is a major constraint for any technical Institute. Students must meet hectic day to day schedule and give additional time for this noble cause.
- Committee must convince the parents from rural areas to allow their kids for teaching campaign as they are very much reluctant to send them to schools.
- Committee must inform Institute authorities and parents as some activities are executed on Sundays and holiday.

Best Practice II

1. Title: VNPS (Vidyavardhini's National Project Showcase).

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To provide a platform for the students to interact with the Industry experts and obtain their feedback
- To build a healthy competitive environment
- To be in pace with the latest trends in technology
- To upgrade presentation skills of the students

3. Context:

Contextual features and challenges faced

- The difference in engineering curriculum and industrial technical standards has stimulated to organize the project showcase as measure to bridge the industry-curriculum gap.
- The completion is organized with intention to cultivate leadership qualities, professionalism and team work culture amongst the students.

- It is also a measure to remain in the pace with the technical advancements and industry demands.
- Institute has students from various disciplines, belonging to vernacular medium and different economic and cultural backgrounds. Some of the students lack confidence to communicate effectively. VNPS has led to an invariant platform for presentations and multidimensional growth.

The Practice:

The Institute organizes a annual national level project showcase named ‘Vidyavardhini’s National Project Showcase’ (VNPS) where in students from various technical institutes participate to display their projects. It comprises of presentation in the form of posters and live demonstration. Publicity of this event is done through posters and electronic media to register maximum.

Track 1 (Mechanical Engineering)

- 1) Thermal and Fluid Engineering
- 2) Design of Mechanical Components and Engineering
- 3) Advanced Manufacturing
- 4) Modern Automobile Techniques
- 5) Energy Security
- 6) Mechatronics and Automation
- 7) Aerospace Engineering

Track 2(Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering)

- 1) Microcontroller Embedded system.
- 2) Signal and Image Processing.
- 3) Sensor Network
- 4) VLSI Applications
- 5) Microwave and Radar Engineering
- 6) Emerging Communication Technologies.

Track 3 (Instrumentation Engineering)

- 1) Control System Design and Simulation
- 2) Latest Trends in sensor design
- 3) Process Automation
- 4) Biomedical Instrumentation
- 5) IoT (Internet of Things)

Track 4 (Information Technology and Computer Engineering)

- 1) Cloud computing and big data
- 2) Artificial intelligence
- 3) Gaming
- 4) Web security and Networking.

Track 5(Civil Engineering)

- 1) Concrete and Structural engineering
- 2) Construction Management
- 3) Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering
- 4) Water Resources and Environmental Engineering

Experts from the industry are invited to visit as well as to judge the projects, interact with the teams and suggest ideas to improvise the same. The evaluation of the project is based on presentation and demonstration of the project. A committee comprising of atleast three members evaluate the project based on the criteria such as project idea, understanding, utility, execution of the project etc. Three best projects under each track are rewarded with cash prizes and certificates. Participants and visitors both get an opportunity to enhance their technical knowledge through this event.

5. Evidence of Success

- Year by year there is an increasing number of participants and visitors. Nearly 130 projects are displayed in academic year 2018-19.
- With the advancement in the technology, an advancement in the quality of the project has been observed.

- Communication skills, team work culture, leadership qualities and professionalism of the students get enhanced through such competitions.
- It prepares the students for participation various other paper presentation/project presentation competitions. Many students have won prizes at various inter-collegiate paper presentation/project presentation competitions. Few students have also published papers in reputed journals/conferences.

6. Problem Encountered:

Sometimes students fail to understand the benefits of participating in such events. At such instances, the student committee members and concerned faculty interact with students and make them aware of the spectrum of benefits and opportunities that they can avail by being part of this event.

Institutional Distinctiveness

The vision of the Institute is to be a premier institute of technical education always aiming and becoming a valuable resource for industry and society. Inline with its vision, priority, and thrust, we at VCET have a unique practice of “Product Showcase” which would eventually sharpen the student’s technical knowledge.

Every year, the “VCET Students Chapter of various professional bodies and technical committees” organizes a technical product exhibition. The products are exhibited by students themselves. It is an event for the students, by the students. Various industries specifically industries which manufacture the electrical, electronic and mechanical products are approached. The product showcase titles and their respective departments are listed below:

Sr. No.	Department	Title of Product Showcase activity
1	Department of Mechanical Engineering	Mechexpo
2	Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering	Anveshan
3	Department of Instrumentation Engineering	Yantra
4	Department of Computer Engineering	Abacus
5	Department of Information Technology	Elixir

6	Department of Civil Engineering	Nirmiti
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Objectives:

- To strengthen Industry-Institute Interaction
- To bridge the gap between institute and industry.
- To learn about industrial practices
- To learn about work ethics
- To become aware of current market scenarios
- To gain an in-depth understanding of products and processes

The Process/Practice:

A month prior to the product showcase student committee members contact the companies stating the objective of the event and its mutual benefits. Companies then send the consent and the list of products that they could provide for display. A fortnight prior to the event, the products are collected by the students from the company and they receive an orientation on the product by the concerned technical staff and receive brochures for the same. Small scale industries to multinational companies have been a part of this event. The event is publicized through the Institute website, banners, posters, and mouth publicity.

On the day of the event, the students and faculty members from the Institute visit the stalls that are set up by these companies wherein the students give presentations and give a detailed explanation about the products on display. A competition for the best stall is organized and is judged according to presentation skills, technical knowledge, etc.

To assure the safeguard of the products, an undertaking is signed between the companies and the respective departments giving the assurance of the repair in case of any damage. The products are returned to the company after the event.

Since the students present these products to a large audience, it enhances not only their communication skills but improves overall personality. Students do these activities without affecting their academics, this way they also practice time management.

Process Flow:

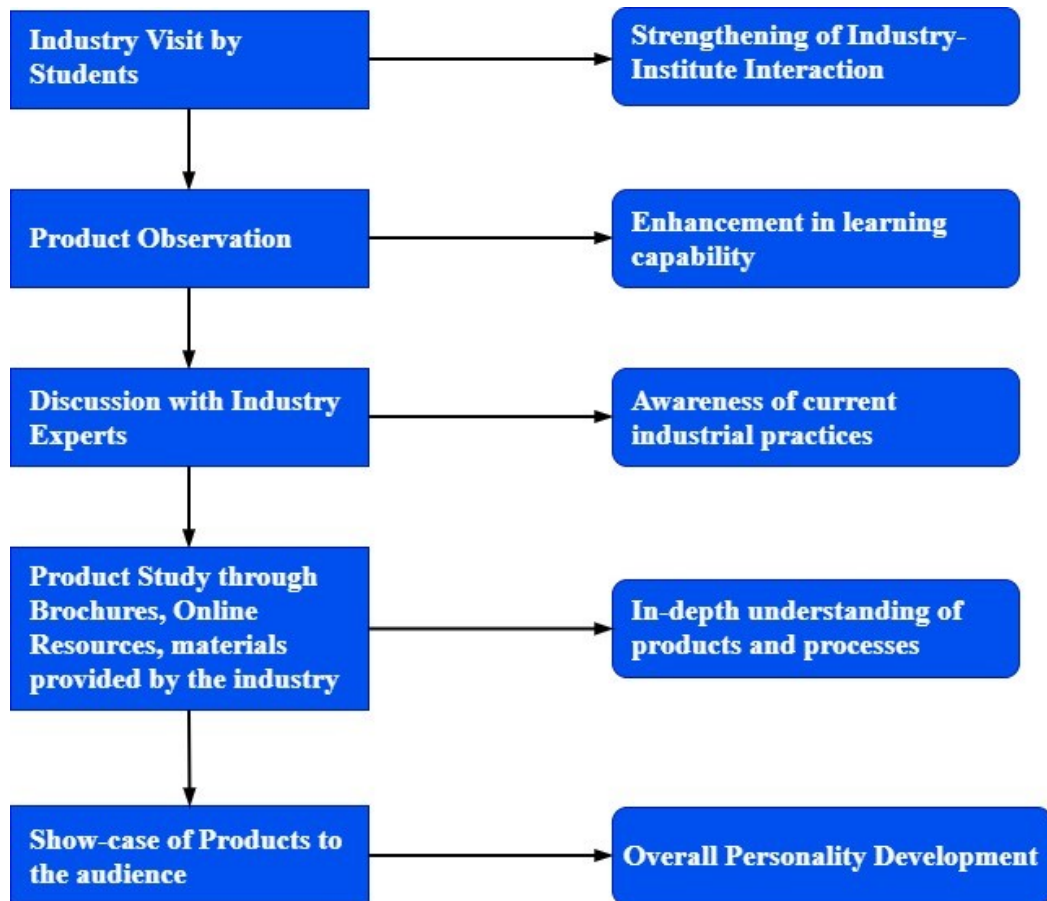


Figure: Process Flow of Product Showcase

Evidence of success:

This event facilitates grooming of students like their communication skills, technical skills, team-building skills are polished which leads to their overall development. Apart from these benefits, they are also exposed to industrial work culture which certainly helps them after their graduation.

Some facts and figures are listed below:

- i) No. of Companies visited: 85
- ii) No. of students participated/visited: 1260