

Best Practices and Institutional Distinctiveness: AY 2021-22

Best Practice I

Title of the Practice: Imbibing professionalism in students through Industrial exposure

Objective of the Practice:

- To keep students abreast of changing technology
- To associate the students with industry culture and gaps between curriculum & industrial needs.
- To enrich students with practical insights of developing industries
- To develop and improve business skills in communication, technology, quantitative reasoning, and teamwork.

Context:

Engineering and technology are constantly evolving fields, and it is crucial for engineers to stay updated with the latest trends and technologies. The transition from being a student to a career professional requires practical exposure and industrial experience. The curriculum alone is not sufficient to prepare students for the challenges of the industry. Many students lack professionalism practiced in the industry, and there is a need to bridge the gap between the curriculum and industry requirements. Industrial exposure plays a vital role in the overall development of students.

Practice:

The institute has implemented several initiatives to provide industrial exposure to students:

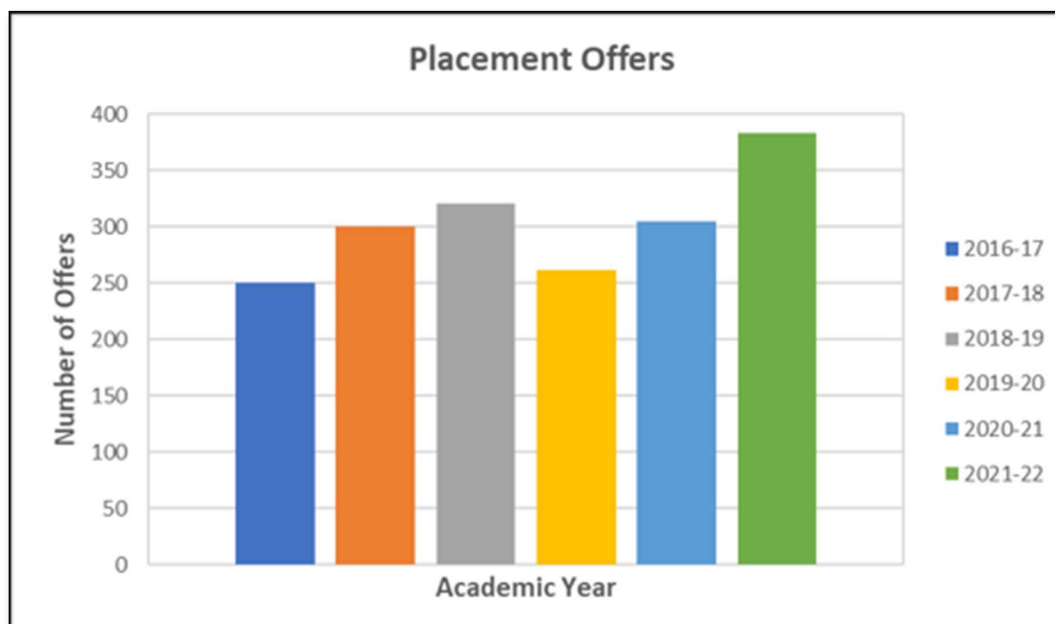
- Guest lectures, talk sessions, seminars, and workshops by industry experts are organized.
- Alumni share their technical experiences and participate in tech talks.
- Industrial visits are arranged for students to gain practical insights.
- Summer internship programs are organized for students to gain hands-on experience.

The institute acknowledges that employability is a significant challenge for engineering graduates due to the lack of required skill sets. Therefore, efforts are made to enhance both technical and non-technical skills. Amid the pandemic, online platforms were utilized for conducting talks, sessions, and virtual industrial visits. Internship programs are emphasized to provide students with training and make them job-ready. Competitions are organized where students analyze and provide solutions to real-time industry problems.

Evidence of Success:

The success of the practice is evident in the increased placement percentage and improvement in students' skills. The institute has witnessed a considerable number of placements compared to previous years. Students who were initially weak in certain skills have shown significant improvement due to the inputs provided through industrial exposure. The chart depicting the

placement percentage ratio for the last five years demonstrates the positive trend, with approximately 230 students already placed and the process ongoing.



Best Practice II

Title of the Practice: Soft skill enhancement

Objective of the Practice:

To develop various soft skills of students' to improve their overall development, this in the long run will support efforts for achieving the Outcome Based Education (OBE) objectives of knowledge, skill and attitude.

The Context:

The Institute's curriculum, teaching-learning process, and co-curricular activities play a crucial role in enhancing the technical knowledge of our students. However, in today's competitive world, technical expertise alone is insufficient for achieving success. Students need to develop a range of essential skills, including personality development, effective communication, interpersonal relations, leadership, teamwork, time management, and other soft skills. It is noteworthy that the majority of students admitted to our Institute hail from rural and tribal areas of Palghar district. As an institution, VCET recognizes its responsibility to ensure that all our students have equal opportunities and are equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in the professional world.

The Practice:

The Institute has various committees who organise seminars and competitions to develop soft skills of our students.

- We start from first year itself with the Induction program which covers sessions for physical fitness and universal human values.
- The Literati Club organises an **Kavi Sammelan, International Mother Language Day Marathi Bhasha Diwas , LitFest'22**. The event consisted of nine sub-events namely: Spelling Bee, Unscripted - The Extempore Competition, Love Letter Writing, Look into the Book, Choose your anime, Literature Quiz, Writing Prompt, Dialogue writing, and Faceoff 9.0– The Interdepartmental Debate Competition.
- The NSS organises various Tree Plantation ,Vigilance Awareness, Beach Cleaning, Surveillance of Plastic Use, Rider Safety Training, Induction Program, Gandhi Jayanti and commencing the FIT INDIA MOVEMENT, Vaccination Drive
- The Sports Committee (more than 90 members) organized the intra as well as inter-college levels competitions for various sports such as Overarm Cricket, Football, Basketball, Volleyball, and Badminton.
- The Students' Council take care of events from the cultural aspect. Cultural awareness and participation play an integral role in a student's education

All the above-mentioned events are focussing on development of one or more soft skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, problem-solving, creativity, work ethic, interpersonal skills, time management, responsibility, leadership, attitude, decision making, emotional intelligence, self-motivation and collaboration.

Evidence of Success:

Inspite of the pandemic situation we had good participation in most of the events.

Event	Student Participation
Induction Program	400
Literati Club	75
NSS	50 to 100 students per event
Sports Committee	32
Student Council	800

Web link to:

Induction Program :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t3hkGE6wXmVBQgMGVa21g6zKnbNXRsa0/view?usp=sharing>

Literati Club :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r-9XQO-wcXn1NE7_GHriotXFy0ao6Ore/view?usp=sharing

Sports:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SgSoc47cu0Gul_qHANkxK8PNQITKr3xw/view?usp=sharing

ng

NSS:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q3T3vT9XJTtYGMQSVNb1yHO7Z6zjUQjR/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117923361549712447649&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Student Council:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u3aW3iotyVxO-PzzeJ_uZLZ7QlvIZ0t0/view?usp=sharing

Institutional Distinctiveness

Vidyavardhini's College of Engineering and Technology envisions to be a premier Institute of technical education always aiming and becoming a valuable resource for industry and society. In-line with its vision, priority and thrust, we at VCET believe in strengthening the pillars of the Institute i.e. students and faculty of the Institute. Numerous efforts have been taken in this direction to groom the overall personality of students and augment the technical skillsets of its faculty members.

Student centric activities:

1. Skill enhancement: Various seminars/ workshops are regularly arranged by various departments in pursuit of skill enhancements of students. Also, national level competitions like VCET National Level Project Competition (VNPS), VCET-Hackathon, Product show case are conducted every year to provide a platform to students to show case their technical abilities. The result of these efforts could be seen by the accolades won by the students at state and national level in various technical competitions.

2. Leadership qualities: Various student committees/bodies and also chapters exists at VCET which are a way of boosting the interpersonal skills of students. Most of these committees are student-driven, faculty guided committees wherein importance is given to overall development of students. The most appropriate way of achieving the right way of learning i.e. "learning by doing" is accomplished with existence of such student bodies. It not only helps in developing their technical skills but also enriches the interpersonal skills like self-confidence, communication, team work, leadership, accountability, negotiation skills, assertiveness, collaboration, etc. The various committees and student chapters at VCET are Student Council, Sports Committee, Literati Committee, NSS, Hackathon, IEEE, IETE, SAE, ISA, CSI, ISHRAE, VMEA.

3. Research & Industry readiness: To make students industry-ready efforts are taken by the departments. During the final year, students are encouraged to take up either research-oriented projects and projects that would facilitate innovative solutions to some pressing problems.

Students are encouraged to participate in various project show cases and demonstrate their ideas. Industry Institute interaction is fostered through various events and activities like Product showcase, seminars/talks/ workshops by industry experts, activities conducted by the Industry-Institute Interaction Cell. To provide an insight regarding internal working of companies and augment theoretical knowledge with practical perspective, industrial visits are organized by the departments. These visits help the students to identify their prospective area of work and select relevant organizations for their internships, projects etc.

4. Employability: The Institute has a Placement and Training Cell with an efficient team of faculty, including a full-time placement officer to facilitate career guidance, training and placements to students and support the functioning of the cell. The cell offers guidance and support on all aspects of career planning such as aptitude training, technical training, placement opportunities and even higher studies, through structured training and placement activities. Career counselling is provided at granular level such that every student is benefitted from it. In line with its objective of aiding in placing students in competitively good companies, appropriate initiatives are taken to counsel the students with respect to career guidance and higher education. Some of them are:

- Seminars on higher/foreign studies.
- Talks on career guidance
- Talks on motivational lectures by alumni, entrepreneurs, industry guests and faculty.
- Provision of books, magazines, periodicals on Competitive/Civil service/GATE/GRE/TOEFL etc. exams in the library.
- Subscription of newspapers related to career opportunities such as Rojgar Samachar.

5. Social/Moral and Ethical values: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports provides an opportunity to the student youth of INDIA to take part in various government led community service activities & programs. The sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service. VCET has its own team of NSS. UDAAN was founded in the academic year 2014-2015 at VCET. UDAAN is now part of the NSS committee of VCET. The inception of UDAAN is a result of the responsibility of our institution and students towards the social scenario of the society. Some of the activities are blood donation camp,

6. Entrepreneurship: The entrepreneurship cell of the Institute - 'E-Cell' is formed with an objective of fostering entrepreneurship skills amongst the students. It is a student-driven and faculty-guided cell striving for channelizing the competencies of the budding engineers. It is a platform where students can exemplify their innovations, creativity, zeal, passion & entrepreneurship skills and cherish their dreams. Myriad of activities like seminars, talks & prototype building of the ideas are conducted for the students.

Faculty centric activities:

1. Enhanced Teaching Learning: The traditional black board learning is the heart of teaching- learning process. However, with the advancement in the technology it cannot be the only means in teaching-learning process. Use of modern tools and methodologies is a must to

improve the transfer of knowledge from faculty to students. The internet has exposed the students to huge repository of the knowledge. Therefore, students need to be advised to use it effectively. Every classroom is equipped with LCD projectors and internet facility to demonstrate online literature. Apart from that, faculty members have explored different ICT tools some of which are listed below:

- NPTEL Videos
- Youtube Channel/Youtube Videos
- Course web pages
- Google Forms
- E-books
- Digital library
- Google classroom
- Flipped Classroom

2. Research and consultancy: Faculty members are motivated to carry out research activities, funds are provided to attend STTPs, conferences and workshops on specialized topics of interest. Faculty members are also encouraged to carry out consultancy work. To facilitate increased industry interaction, MOUs are signed with industries.

3. Professional development: Numerous professional development schemes such as research promotion scheme, IPR support, reimbursement of conference fee, support for higher education, support for faculty training. The is also one of the remote centers for IIT Bombay through which faculty can attend certification courses.