

## Best Practices

**Give details of any two best practices which have contributed to better academic and administrative functioning of the University. Format for Presentation of Best Practices**

### **Best Practices:1**

#### **1. Title of the Practice (This title should capture the keywords that describe the practice):**

Introduction of Values and Social Responsibility (VSR) as a compulsory course in all the programmes

#### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

**What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?**

##### **Objectives / intended outcomes**

- To imbibe moral values and create a sense of social responsibility among the students.
- To inculcate the principle of Co- existence and Mutual Interdependence that is the very core and all prevailing feature of the nature
- All round development of the students - mental, physical, intellectual & spiritual
- To develop a sense of pride in our rich cultural heritage.

##### **Underlying principles / concept**

*A responsible and vibrant youth is asset to any society. This is possible only when moral values, sense of pride and self confidence, social responsibility and sensitization about burning issues of the society are made a part of curriculum so that students are made aware of their role in strengthening themselves, society and nation as a whole.*

#### **3. The Context**

**What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?**

##### **Challenge Ahead**

India is passing through a period of value crisis in several fields of national life. While the education system needs to keep pace with the scientific and technological developments in terms of building the skills and knowledge, it also needs to discuss the more fundamental issues of the social and moral consequences of such unregulated activities.

At present, severe crisis of peace, social values & attitudes have paralyzed the normal life of the society, nation and world. The youths of today should be trained to face all the social, political, cultural & economic challenges to build a strong India of our dreams envisioned by our constitutional forefathers. Scientific & technological inquisitiveness should be raised among our students but it is also very necessary that the students understand the fact that money alone can never bring peace, we need spirituality.

The spirit of service to the society and sacrifice are to be inculcated among the students. The basic value system of life has undergone erosion and needs to be strengthened. Learning without being cultured is a sheer waste of the resources. Commercialization of education is endangering the social integrity of the country leading to the mushrooming of private institutions with huge capitation fees creating social disparity between rich & poor. A total transformation & overhaul is required in the education system of our country.

#### 4. The Practice

**Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?**

##### **Practice and its uniqueness**

Values and Social Responsibility (VSR) is a compulsory course having a load of 2 credits (1+1) in all the programmes. It is an unique introduction in the mainstream education system and this University was the first to introduce this course. It is practiced by the students in all the semesters but evaluation is done annually in even semesters. Prarthana Sabha is held weekly for 2 periods and that consists of the following components:

- ***Sarv Dharm Prarthna*** - It teaches respect for all religions
- ***Jeevan Vidya*** – Inculcating the art of living and leading one's life to the service of the society should be the core of any education system and Jeevan Vidya helps in attaining this quality.
- ***Yoga, Meditation and talk on health*** – This component strengthens the physical, spiritual and mental well being.
- ***Shramdan*** – It imbibes a sense of respect among the students for that section of the society which is dependent on labour and at the same time is helpful in maintaining a clean and green campus.
- ***Environmental Education*** : Talks are delivered about the burning issues related to environmental degradation and their disastrous effect on the society
- ***Excerpts from literature related to eminent personalities*** : Lectures are delivered about the work done and the teachings of great personalities and this motivates the students to raise and prepare themselves to serve the society.

Besides the *Prarthana Sabha* students along with some faculty members have to go to the villages on regular basis. They interact with the rural people and undertake developmental activities like literacy, livelihood training, environmental awareness etc. *Gram Pravas* or village camps are also organized periodically where they have to stay in the villages. This helps the students to understand the problems and hard reality of the rural life which, in turn, motivates the students to serve the rural masses.

##### **Constraints / limitations:**

- Degradation of moral and social values among the youth
- Prevailing money centred aptitude in the present education system
- Judgement of the success of educational programmes by the amount of money it is able to fetch from the job market
- Lack of awareness about the intended outcomes of VSR among existing faculty that have come through the same educational system which has contributed to the erosion of value system

## 5. Evidence of Success

**Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.**

Many passed out students who were imparted social value through VSR oriented have formed Civil Societies in various parts of the country with distinctive objectives. Some of the staff of the University also left their lucrative jobs to serve the society. Some of them are listed below:

S.N.	Name of the passed out students	Programme of the University	Base Area and Field of Operation
1.	Mr Prem Singh	Master of Rural Development Management	Banda district <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value Education</li><li>• Organic Farming</li><li>• Value addition of the agri products</li></ul>
2.	Mr Bhagwan Singh	Master of Rural Development Management	Chhatarpur district <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watershed Management</li><li>• Livelihood Promotion</li></ul>
3.	Mr Sheo Vijay Singh	Master of Rural Development Management	Banda and Mahoba Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Value based education</li><li>• Propagating Sarvodaya Movement</li></ul>
4.	Er. Neelanshu Chaturvedi	B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering)	Chitrakoot <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community leadership</li><li>• Mobilisation of the Young generation towards social work</li><li>• Watershed based holistic development</li></ul>
5.	Ms. Yashi Shrivastava	B.Tech. (Food Technology)	Indore Left her lucrative job of an MNC and started social entrepreneurship
6.	Mr Raghvendra Singh	MSW	Jhansi District <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carrying value oriented social reforms</li></ul>
7.	Dr Girdhar Mathankar	Ex Head, Department of Physics And Co-ordinator, VSR	Shahdol Division Left the job and formed an NGO named SAHJEEVAN SAMITI and working in the following fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural Resource Management</li><li>• Livelihood Generation</li></ul>
8.	Dr Ganesh Bagaria	Ex Head, Deptt of IT	Kanpur district After leaving the job started propagating Value based education and Training the people in the field of Jeevan Vidya all over the country and the world

These success stories underline the effect of our programme on an individual's attitudinal and perceptual transformation for societal change.

**6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required. Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).**

S.N.	Problems encountered	Resources Required
1.	Lack of common congregation place to accommodate all the students of the University	Construction and development of auditorium and assembly grounds to accommodate 2000 students
2.	Lack of 100% accommodation to the students and staff impediment early classes in Yoga and Physical Exercises	Construction of adequate number of eco friendly hostels and staff residences
3.	Lack of adequate transportation facilities for Gram Pravas	Providing cost effective adequate transportation facility

**7. Notes**

**Optional. Please add any other information that may be relevant for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in other institutions (in about 150 words).**

- Gramodaya University may be promoted as a nodal agency for the promotion of Values and Social Responsibility (VSR) in other educational institutions
- Networking of other educational institutions is a must for promoting value based educational system and this University is ready to contribute its bit in the said direction
- Refresher course for University/ College teachers with prime focus on VSR should be organized by the Gramodaya University with the policy and funding support of UGC
- Establishing a Centre of Excellence in Value Education in this University and providing access to the other institutions.

**Best Practices: 2**

**1. Title of the Practice (This title should capture the keywords that describe the practice):**  
*Introducing Credit System Sub Committee in the University Academic System*

**2. Objectives of the Practice**

**What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?**

**Objectives / intended outcomes**

The CSSC is an academic platform to provide a participatory and barrier free platform to resolve academic issues in a transparent manner between the students and faculty members of the University.

**Underlying Principles / Concept**

To involve the students in planning, academic audit and strategic intervention in the educational system. This creates a responsive attitudes among the teaching community as well as the supporting staff with ultimate achievement of a transparent, competitive, compatible and conducive academic environment.

### 3. The Context

**What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?**

- Challenging issues before the prevailing education system is the participation of the students in shaping their own career which starts from the admission of the students in a particular course.
- The University teachers in other terms means the creator of innovations rather than the customary custodians of the outdated knowledge. The CSSC system in participation of various stakeholders provides an amicable platform to activate them
- Qualitative teaching as well as the timely declaration of the results to the satisfaction of the students community is a burning issue. CSSC provides a forum to address the said issues in satisfactory manner.

### 4. The Practice

**Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of Indian higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?**

The CSSC system is introduced to promote student led education system in the University. For this end two students – one on merit basis and the other elected – are selected to represent the student community of a particular programme. The Dean of the Faculty, HODs, Course Coordinators and the Course teachers in the presence of the VC's nominee as Chairman are the constituents of the CSSC along with the CRs. Feedback forms are filled by all the students who have 80% or more attendance and they give their opinion on the following points

- Course Coverage ( % Completion)
- Understanding level of the course
- Feedback about the Course Teacher
- Immediate Plan

The meetings of CSSC are held four times in an academic semester.

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is held just after admission and at the start of the session. The points of discussion incorporates the distribution of the syllabi among the registered students and the various formalities such as Library Card, I Card, filling of registration forms, organization of the theory and practice classes are discussed and decisions made in the presence of the Class Representatives (CRs)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is held to review the progress of the coursework as well as discuss any academic problems faced by the students just before the mid term examination.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is held to measure the progress of specific courses and to propose examination schedules.

4<sup>th</sup> meeting is organized before the declaration of the result

## 5. Evidence of Success

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

S.N.	Targets	Benchmarks	Evidence of Success
1.	Ensuring students' active participation in academic system	Constitution of CSSC and organizing 4 meetings at frequent interval	100 percent success in its formulated targets
2	Participation of CRs with feedback proforma averaged for the whole class	2 CRs and Course teachers for each class of the study	100 %
3	Feedbacks on the performance of teachers	At each CSSC meeting the feedback to be obtained for all the course teachers from the students	Qualitative achievement in the academic environment of the University
4	Organisation of examination and timely declaration of the results	Conduct of examinations as per academic schedule and declaration of results before start of subsequent semester as provided in academic calendar.	The results are declared within time frame.

## CSSC

### 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).

CSSC is a concept to provide a forum for a free and frank discussion of academic issues between the teachers and the students. As such there are no reports of any problems encountered in holding CSSC meetings. However the CSSC meetings can be facilitated further by providing congenial meeting rooms equipped with analytical facilities such as data analysis and content analysis of the inputs by the students.

### 7. Notes

**Optional. Please add any other information that may be relevant for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in other institutions (in about 150 words).**

The CSSC practices are very successful in facilitating the teaching learning environment and the model can be adopted by other academic institutions. The objectives of CSSC are to make student centric learning process promoting participative practices.

**Any other information regarding Innovations and Best Practices which the University would like to include.**

CSSC is among the many Firsts to the credit of this University.