

'JIGNYASA' – Research Hub

Objectives of the Practice

Research Hub' – 'Jignyasa' (curiosity) serves as a platform/forum to encourage research scholars/students to participate, discuss and share their views on ideas, concepts, research articles, research papers, book reviews, current affairs among others. It also enables a healthy interaction amongst faculty and students representing different disciplines thereby inculcating an interdisciplinary/cross disciplinary approach in pursuing higher education. The relevance of this forum is to inspire and motivate students especially undergraduates to be innovative, creative, explore topics/subjects beyond the curriculum, stimulate 'out of box' thinking, brainstorm over ideas/concepts, propagate the news of current scenario in different fields etc.

The context

The idea of creating this 'Jignyasa' was to

- ✓ Motivate students to ask questions and create inquisitive culture among them
- ✓ Generate awareness about current scenario in different fields of education and other emerging areas in their subjects
- ✓ Promote an interdisciplinary approach towards education.
- ✓ Help them ICT tools to make posters and presentations.
- ✓ Enable students to present ideas concepts and research findings confidently before an audience.

However, the challenges faced while implementing this practice were:

- ✓ To get the student from all faculties (Arts, Science and Commerce) together on the same platform for all the activities planned, due to timetable constraints.
- ✓ To organize guest lectures and activities that would be appealing alike to students from all disciplines.
- ✓ During the academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22 the activities had to be shifted to an online platform which saw a reduction in active participation

The Practice

Teachers have been long relying on traditional classroom lectures in educating students. It is unrealistic to expect students to understand all things by listening to them for the first time. To improve students' learning, the teaching methods may be changed from teacher-centred paradigm to student-centred paradigm, as students will be able to remember and understand more things when they are actively involved in the learning process. Hands-on lab work, seminars and project-based learning are among the teaching methods that lead to active learning. This would enable learning by giving control of the process to the learner.

To promote critical thinking and problem-solving ability, we encouraged our UG and PG students to try out small research projects and present its outcome in the form of a poster presentation. Inter-collegiate research meets have been held regularly under the aegis of Jignyasa regularly for this purpose. During the years when the pandemic swept the country, we were successful in keeping the young minds ignited by taking Avishkar Research Convention of Mumbai University under the wings of Jignyasa.

The difficulties incurred while teaching research methods to undergraduates primarily lies in engaging the students in a subject which they are not basically interested in. Exposing

undergraduates to research can increase the likelihood of creating successful researchers in the future. Some undergraduates are unsure of their future goals and proceed to graduate school thinking that it is the only next logical step after their undergraduate studies. Exposing them to undergraduate research helps them to understand their aptitude for research. In some cases, the passion for research is kindled, which otherwise would have remained unknown. Facilities are provided like Skill hub, Centralized Incubation centre to explore . They get motivation through National Eminence award function organized by society, interactions with research scholars and eminent scientists and vibrant alumni. The implementation of this varies across programs, in general. As an iterative process it moves from a problem analysis phase, a period of self-directed learning and lastly, a reporting phase.

Evidence of success

The implementation of this best practice led to the following outcomes:

SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion (W) bagged Overall Championship Award in Avishkar-2019-2020 from Mumbai university in Zone-II.

As mentioned above, during the years of pandemic, an online competition on research-proposal writing was conducted, and the winners were selected for zonal round of Avishkar Research Convention of Mumbai University 2020-21. Four students were successful in reaching the final round.

During the year 2021-22 also, an online competition on research- proposal writing was conducted, and the winners were selected for zonal round of Avishkar Research Convention of Mumbai University 2021-22. A total of eight Research Proposals were selected for the Zonal Level Final rounds, and the following students secured ranks in the final round. Ms. Mansi Rawat secured third rank in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry category, PG level and Ms. Akshaya Ajay Bhosale secured third rank in Pure Sciences category, PG level.


SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion (W) was awarded Overall Championship in the 16th Avishkar Research Convention 2021-2022 from Mumbai University in Zone-II.

Well placed Alumni is a valuable evidence who constantly support the students at present The results clearly indicate that the students are benefitted and equally motivated to write as well carry out independent research proposals.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Project based learning, as clearly demonstrated above has an impact on the learner with respect to improving their abilities pertaining to critical thinking, oral and written communication skills which eventually would help them in their studies ahead. However, students need motivation and incentives in terms of credit for their constructive contribution to the activity along with the use of new technological pedagogies. To encourage increased and dedicated participation we require to increase the credits associated with project-based learning. A significant number of undergraduate students are overwhelmed by the academic process and not aware of research as an option for them. Therefore, project-based learning is a tremendous challenge for the teacher mentor to ignite a passion for research. Hence, Jigyasa needs to be revamped in the coming years shall include debates, quiz seminars etc. it is also observed that overall declining input for core science programmes which is very disheartening




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