SIES COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE, AND COMMERCE (AUTONOMOUS), SION WEST, MUMBAI - 2022-2023

BEST PRACTICE 1: Faculty Empowerment as an IQAC Initiative

Goal:
To empower faculty to reach their fullest potential, foster teamwork in institutional processes, and contribute to quality education.

Context:
Creating a learner-centric environment conducive to quality education and skill development. Encouraging innovative teaching and learning methodologies.

Rationale:
IQAC ensures a systematic approach to quality assurance, promoting knowledge sharing through ongoing assessment and improvement of academic processes.

Objectives:

- Implement innovative teaching-learning pedagogies.

- Enhance teaching, learning, and evaluation (TLE) and research through blended, e-learning, and participative approaches.

- Organize workshops, seminars, webinars, and lectures to train faculty.

- Collaboratively work towards quality in education.

The Practice:
Using performance indicators like preparedness for digital transformation, student support

services, and feedback-driven improvement to develop a strategic action plan for incremental change.

Events:

1. **Workshop on NAAC Accreditation Metrics**
   Date: December 21, 2022
   Resource Persons: Dr. Smita Shukla, University of Mumbai; Shri. K. Venkataramani, SIES
   Objective: To aid faculty and staff in understanding qualitative and quantitative NAAC metrics.

2. **Mentoring Workshop - "Making Every Student Special"**
   Date: October 12, 2022
   Resource Person: Dr. Vidya Satish
   Attendees: 93
   Objective: To empower faculty as mentors in making a difference in students' lives.

3. **Guest Lecture - "Power of Pause"**
   Date: December 3, 2022
   Speaker: Mr. Sudhir Gogate, Director, Hitachi Astemo
   Objective: Highlighting the importance of taking a pause in decision-making.

4. **Leadership Skills for Change Management**
   Dates: July 21 – August 10, 2022
   Resource: Industrial Psychologists from SwastiVishwa Institute
   Attendees: 29
   Objective: Equip department heads with leadership skills for effective change management.

5. **National Education Policy (NEP) Orientation**
   Date: June 25, 2022
   Resource Person: Dr. B.N. Jagtap, IIT Mumbai
   Attendees: 45
   Objective: Orientation on NEP 2020, recommendations, and implementation strategies.

6. **Guest Lecture - "NEP Vision to Action"**
   Date: January 13, 2023
   Resource Person: Dr. R. D. Kulkarni, NEP Committee-Maharashtra Govt.
   Attendees: 61
   Objective: Educate teachers on NEP 2020's impact on higher education and their role in its implementation.

7. **Green Audit Awareness**
   Date: May 17, 2023
   Objective: Foster awareness about green practices, environmental consciousness, and academic contributions to environmental management.
   Attendees: 68

Relevance:

- Enhanced teaching effectiveness.

- Improved research output.

- Increased faculty participation in governance and mentorship roles.

- NEP 2020 preparation for curriculum design.

Evidence of Success:

- Increased faculty participation in development programs.

- Greater involvement in governance and decision-making.

- Enhanced student-faculty mentorship interaction.

- Faculty readiness for NEP 2020 curriculum updates.

BEST PRACTICE 2: 'JIGNYASA' – Research Hub

Goal:
To enable interdisciplinary interaction among faculty and students, promoting curiosity and a cross-disciplinary approach in higher education.

Context:
Inspired by discussions between students and faculty, "Jignyasa" was conceptualized as a platform for open intellectual exchange, supported by the principal and faculty.

Rationale:
"Research Hub" serves as a forum for faculty, research scholars, and students to share ideas, discuss concepts, review research, and explore interdisciplinary themes.

Objectives:

- Encourage students to think beyond academic routines.

- Promote creativity and innovation within subjects.

- Foster interdisciplinary awareness and critical thinking.

The Practice:
Presentations could include paper presentations, reviews, book discussions, concept presentations, and recent news analysis. Communication methods varied, including PowerPoints and discourse, with open discussions.

Events:

1. **Plenary Session - "Research: Myths and Misconceptions"**
   Date: December 8, 2016
   Speakers: Dr. Uma Shankar (Principal), Dr. Satish Sarfare, Dr. Subi Yousuf, Dr. Pallavi Roy,

Mr. Kirankumar Shaw, Dr. Arun Hanchinal
Objective: To introduce students to research methodology, perspectives, and dispel myths about research.

2. **Discussion - "The Turn of the 20th Century"**
   Date: January 13, 2017
   Topics: Rise of Superpowers, Roots of World Wars, Birth of Existentialism, Mendelian Genetics, etc.
   Objective: An interdisciplinary approach in discussing historical and scientific milestones.

3. **Research and Entrepreneurship Session**
   Date: February 14, 2017
   Guest Speaker: Ms. Laxmi Iyer, Co-founder of biotechin.asia
   Objective: Sharing experiences in interdisciplinary studies and entrepreneurship.

The Mentor's Role:
Inspire and motivate students to be creative, explore beyond the curriculum, and adapt to a research-oriented mindset.

Team:

- **Staff Coordinator:** Dr. Satish Sarfare

- **Student Coordinator:** Shrradha Iyer

- **Volunteers:** Student volunteers assisted with organizing events, coordinating with faculty, and supporting participants.

Relevance:
"Jignyasa" fosters innovation and curiosity, encouraging students to appreciate research as a potential career path and dispelling myths about research.

Evidence of Success:
Overwhelming student participation across disciplines, with students gaining valuable insights and experiencing research as a viable career option.