

Akemi Business School, Pune

AQAR 2023-24

Criteria 7

Best Practices-1

Name of Best Practice: Student Development Program

Objective:

To promote holistic student growth by fostering active engagement in sustainability, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and skill development through structured mentoring programs.

Context:

Akemi Business School aims to nurture well-rounded individuals who excel academically and contribute meaningfully to society. The Student Development Program is designed to integrate personal, professional, and social growth with an emphasis on sustainability and CSR.

Practice:

The Student Development Program is structured around three key mentoring components:

1. Mentoring for Participation:

Students engage in activities that build essential life skills, including communication, teamwork, and leadership. These activities provide a platform for students to enhance their professional competencies while fostering personal development.

2. Mentoring for CSR:

This component encourages students to actively participate in community-based initiatives. Key projects include blood donation camps, AIDS awareness programs, voting awareness campaigns, and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign). These activities help students develop leadership skills and a deep sense of social responsibility.

3. Mentoring for Sustainability:

Focused on environmental stewardship, this initiative promotes eco-friendly practices. Students participate in paperless initiatives, support the No Plastic Zone encouraging reusable materials, and observe No Vehicle Day once a month to reduce pollution. These actions cultivate environmental consciousness and sustainability-minded habits among students.

Evidence of Success:

The program has shown positive outcomes, with students developing strong leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. Participation in CSR initiatives has led to impactful community contributions, and the emphasis on sustainability has resulted in more environmentally conscious students. Feedback from students and faculty highlights the holistic impact of these programs on personal growth and social responsibility.

Problems Encountered:

While the program has been successful, some challenges include varying levels of student participation and the logistical difficulties of organizing large-scale CSR initiatives.

Additionally, balancing academic schedules with extracurricular involvement has occasionally posed a challenge for students, especially during peak academic periods. Efforts to address these issues include better coordination with academic schedules and more targeted outreach to ensure higher student engagement.

Best Practice -2

Title of the Best Practice:
Peer-Connect Program

Objective of the Practice

The Peer-Connect Program at Akemi Business School is designed with the following objectives:

- To promote interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge-sharing among faculty members.
 - To encourage continuous learning and the exchange of the latest research, trends, and developments across various fields.
 - To enhance the quality of teaching and learning by fostering intellectual curiosity and professional growth among faculty members.
 - To integrate contemporary knowledge into the academic environment, benefiting both faculty and students.
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The Context

In an era characterized by rapid advancements in knowledge and technology, staying updated with current developments is essential for maintaining academic excellence. Recognizing the need for continuous learning and cross-disciplinary collaboration, Akemi Business School initiated the Peer-Connect Program. This program addresses the need for an inclusive platform where faculty members from diverse disciplines can share insights, exchange ideas, and learn from each other. By bridging the gap between different areas of expertise, the initiative ensures a more holistic and enriched academic ecosystem.

The Practice

The Peer-Connect Program operates as a structured platform where faculty members:

1. **Engage in Knowledge Exchange:** Faculty members deliver regular presentations on recent developments, research findings, and emerging trends in their respective fields.
2. **Encourage Interdisciplinary Dialogue:** The program facilitates discussions that enable faculty to draw connections between disciplines and identify collaborative opportunities.

3. **Promote Teaching Innovation:** Insights shared during the sessions inspire faculty to refine their teaching strategies and incorporate cutting-edge knowledge into their curricula.
 4. **Foster a Culture of Growth:** By participating in the program, faculty members commit to lifelong learning and professional development, setting a positive example for students.
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Evidence of Success

The Peer-Connect Program has demonstrated significant positive outcomes, including:

- **Enhanced Faculty Collaboration:** Increased instances of joint research projects and interdisciplinary teaching initiatives among faculty members.
 - **Improved Teaching Quality:** Faculty feedback and student performance data indicate the integration of updated content and innovative teaching methodologies in the classroom.
 - **Student Development:** Students report a more engaging and dynamic learning experience, with better exposure to real-world applications and contemporary trends.
 - **Recognition and Participation:** The program has been lauded by external academic bodies and has seen consistent participation from faculty members across all disciplines.
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Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- **Initial Resistance:** Some faculty members were initially hesitant to participate due to time constraints or unfamiliarity with interdisciplinary collaboration. To address this, the program included mentorship and guidance to encourage participation.
 - **Scheduling Challenges:** Aligning the program sessions with faculty schedules posed logistical challenges. This was resolved by implementing a rotational schedule and providing digital access to recorded sessions.
 - **Resource Limitations:** Ensuring access to up-to-date resources and tools for effective presentations required additional investment. The institution allocated a dedicated budget to support this need.
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Conclusion

The Peer-Connect Program has become a cornerstone of academic excellence at Akemi Business School. By fostering a culture of knowledge-sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration, the program ensures that both faculty and students are equipped to thrive in a rapidly evolving global academic and professional landscape. Through its success, the initiative exemplifies the institution's commitment to continuous learning, innovation, and the holistic development of its academic

