

7.2.1 Describe at least two institutional best practices (as per NAAC Format)

Response:

Best Practices 1

Title: Empowering Employability skills.

Objective: To enhance and empower the quantitative and qualitative aptitude of the students for effective employability by providing proper training which is required for the placements so as to make them sound not only technically but also make a versatile personality by understanding the needs of industries. To expose students to the recent technologies by arranging regular industry interaction meets which involves a thorough discussion and interaction with HRs of various companies.

Context:

A professional course like engineering strives to get a maximum number of its students placed through campus interviews. The increasing competition makes it imperative that apart from regular degrees certain skills are required by engineers. Industries while advertising for various posts even mention essential skills required along with the essential qualification. Various companies involved in the Placement drives in the institute had given the feedback that despite, the student is technically sound, he should be properly trained for the skills which are required for the placements recognizing the need, the student undergoes internship with different industries. Regular industry interaction meets which involved a thorough discussion and interaction with HRs of the various company have helped us to understand the need of having student exposure to the recent technologies. In this context, the institute has signed 17 MOUs with different industries.

The practice:

As part of the TPO activities, we conduct various programs to improve the employability skills of our students. We make sure their technical skills are updated and communication and soft skills are in place. In this regard, we conducted Career Guidance Seminars, a Seminar on Improving Employability Skills, and a special initiative on Aptitude and Soft Skills Training, a Seminar on How to prepare for an Interview, a Training Program IMS Training on Aptitude and Soft Skills Training. In order to provide information on Overseas Education, we also conduct short-term programs on Education Abroad. It has been our constant endeavour to make sure our students are updated and possess all the necessary skills that make them successful engineers. In the AY 2020-21 during pandemic, we have conducted total of 84 webinars related to improving Technical Skills, Gate/GRE Preparation, and on Overseas Education. The program included improving Soft Skills, Technical Skills which includes sessions on Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Programs to learn Python, Seminars on Cyber Security, Big Data, and Ethical hacking, and Communication Skills, Informing students about various examinations, like GATE, GRE, TOEFL, and IELTS. We also held Microsoft Certification Program in order to make our students techno-friendly. VPPCOE & VA facilitates the process of placement of students passing out from the Institute besides collaborating with leading organizations and institutes in setting up of internship and training program of students. The office liaises with various industrial establishments, corporate houses etc which conduct campus interviews and select graduate and post-graduate students from all disciplines. The Training & Placement Office provides the infra-structural facilities to conduct group discussions, tests and interviews besides catering to other logistics. The Office interacts with many industries in the country, of which nearly 200 companies visit the campus for holding campus interviews. The industries which approach the institute come under the purview of: Core Engineering industries IT & IT enabled services Manufacturing Industries Consultancy Firms Finance Companies Management Organizations R & D laboratories. We are happy to state that our institute is designated as the Microsoft Imagine Academy. Overall, it is the vision of the institute that our students are a class apart and we constantly work hard to motivate our students and to make sure they make the requisite industry standards.

Evidence of success:

We are equally delighted to share a story that highlights why an engineering education at VPPCOE & VA matters is that from the academic year 2012-13, there is an exponential increase in the companies that visited for the placement drive. The maximum number of companies visited our campus for Placement Drives is 96 that including the reputed ones like Cap Gemini, IGATE, Covonix, TCS, L&T Infotech, Mirraw Ariston Capital, Diebold System, Protegrity, Qspiders, Zeus learning IBM Amazon, Media.net, and many more. The majority of the recruiters prefer our institute as the venue for the Pool Campus Placement Drives due to our centralized location in Mumbai. It is also our continuing endeavor to better our services towards our ultimate customers, the aspiring engineers of PVPPCOE.

Problems encountered and resources required:

Lack of attention towards education is one of the major issues faced by the students. The student expects high package but they hardly fight for it, in the ways of their dream they ignore their education and are unwilling to study hard for it. The tendency of Over-expectation in oneself is very high in students without analysing their own capabilities. Another major challenge faced by student is time constraint. The heavy academic curriculum restricts the student from undergoing rigorous training programs which are otherwise organized for them.

Best Practices 2

Title: Enhancing the skill set of faculty members in the Emerging trends of technology.

Objective:

To encourage and motivate the faculty members to upgrade their technical skill set to help themselves and students to solve real world problems.

Context:

Faculty members at VPPCOE& VA are encouraged and motivated to upgrade their technical knowledge in various emerging trends which can help them to adapt to the timely changes in the curriculum and subject trends by the University for smooth conduction of academics. This will help for the overall development of the students and prepare the students as per the industry requirements. The institute adopted the policy to encourage all the faculties to undergo Faculty Development Programs (FDP) / Short Term Training Programs (STTP) / skills training/certification courses in their area of expertise to become familiar with the latest technologies in the field of engineering.

The practice:

- The institute has a practice of taking feedback from the recruiters who used to visit our campus for placement. The collected feedback is analyzed by the IQAC. Based on the feedback the faculty development course and student development courses are organized.
- This mechanism helps to improve the quality of teaching-learning which indirectly helps the students to grab better job opportunities. These courses lead to the overall development of the institute.

Evidence of success:

In AY 2020-21, most of the faculty members upgraded their skill set with the help of various certification courses from Coursera, AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy, and the various FDPs conducted by our college and the other colleges.

Problems encountered and resources required:

In the AY 2020-21, due to Covid – 19 pandemic and lockdown situation, most of the training taken by the faculty members were virtual events.