

### **7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.**

The college has adopted many best practices and is successfully and effectively implementing the best practices for the benefits of student stakeholders. Amongst all the best practices of the college, the following two best practices are described in detail.

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#### **Best Practice 1**

- 1. Title of Best Practice 1: - Financial Assistance to Needy and Deserving Students**
- 2. Objectives of Best Practice:** - The main objective of the practice adopted by the college / Samstha is to provide financial support to needy and deserving students. To offer essential financial aid to underprivileged students, the college / samstha administers various scholarships / Free-ship programs. These scholarships are precisely designed to cater to a wide array of academic and personal backgrounds. By providing economic assistance, we aim to reduce the financial burden on deserving students. These funds cover many essential expenses, ensuring that talented individuals can access quality education regardless of their economic circumstances. The college is committed to nurturing equal educational opportunities and empowers students to realize their full potential and contribute positively to society. The college believes that education is a powerful tool for transforming lives, and our scholarships/Freeship is a testimony to that belief.
- 3. The Context:** -Students facing financial constraints often find it exceptionally challenging to meet the financial demands associated with their education, including tuition, hostel fees, mess charges and other essential expenses. These financial burdens can act as tough barriers, hampering their ability to pursue and sustain their educational journeys. By providing financial assistance, we aim to alleviate the financial stress weighing on these students. Scholarships and grants tailored to their needs serve as a lifeline, empowering them to access quality education. These funds cover a spectrum of expenses, from tuition fees to hostel accommodations, textbooks, stationery and more. Our mission is to create a comprehensive and equitable educational environment where socioeconomic status doesn't obstruct one's aspirations. We firmly believe that supporting financially challenged students not only empowers them but also enriches society by binding their untouched potential. In doing so, we lay the foundation for a brighter, more inclusive future, where education knows no economic boundaries.

#### 4. **The Practice: -**

- 1) **The Cummins India Foundation (CIF)** has initiated the 'Cummins Nurturing Brilliance Scholarship Program' to support exceptionally talented students facing financial and social disadvantages in their pursuit of professional degree programs. Each year, ten deserving students are awarded this scholarship, covering the entirety of their engineering program fees and providing them with a laptop and mentor from CIL (Cummins India Limited). Eligible candidates must maintain a minimum 60% academic record in their senior secondary exams. This scholarship is accessible to students in their first through third years of engineering degree programs. The annual family income should be less than 3 Lacs. The scholarship program is conducted at the college annually, where Cummins India Limited employees administer an aptitude test, followed by interviews to select deserving students.
- 2) **Persistent foundation: “KIRAN” Girl’s scholarship program:** The Persistent Foundation administers a scholarship program, awarding INR 40,000 annually to the students until they graduate. The college has many beneficiaries every year, with selection based on an aptitude test and thorough interviews conducted by the company. The Kiran Scholarship, part of this foundation, provides recipients with the choice of either receiving INR 40,000 or boarding an internship within their esteemed company.
- 3) **Paranjape Scholarship:** - Manav Seva foundation had atnated to Samstha in the name of Mr. Paranjape to help needy and deserving students of the college. At the beginning of every academic year, students apply for financial assistance at the institute along with their academic progress and proof of their family income. Based on the submitted documents, students are shortlisted for interview. A college committee conducts interviews to select needy and deserving students who are given financial assistance from the interest amount earned from the deposit of the donated amount by Manav Seva foundation.
- 4) **Samstha Scholarship / Free ship:** - MKSSS offers this scholarship in accordance with the norms and guidelines. It provides financial assistance to needy students by providing free ship in their tuition fees/ hostel fees/ bus fees/Mess charges based on their academic achievements and financial conditions. The student applies in the format through principal, the scrutiny takes place at college and at smastha level leading to shortlisting of students for award.

- 5) **Philanthropists Endowment Scholarships:** Philanthropists' in-kind donations are periodically received by our organization and are used to provide financial assistance to the most deserving and needy students at the institute.
  - 6) **Leela Poonawalla Foundation scholarship:** - This scholarship is awarded to students who come from financially disadvantaged families. The selection process involves scrutinizing applications, conducting personal interviews, and aptitude tests for selected candidates. Eligibility criteria require a minimum of 60% in SSC, HSC, or diploma, and a family income of less than 3.5 Lacs per annum. Annually, many students benefit from this scholarship, mitigating financial needs. The selected students are being provided with the opportunity to participate in employment enhancement training programs.
  - 7) **Reliance foundation scholarship:** - The Reliance Foundation Scholarship has been helping meritorious students for more than 25 years, following the vision of Reliance's founder, Shri Dhirubhai Ambani. In our institute a student received benefits from this scholarship program. The scholarship can provide up to INR 2, 00,000 throughout their degree program.
5. **Evidence of Success:** Many students of the college, who have been fortunate recipients of numerous scholarships, are thriving in their academic journeys and consistently achieving outstanding results as they progress through their education. Some of these students have even earned the coveted title of "University Topper" year after year, a testament to their exceptional performance. This academic excellence has also translated into a remarkable track record of placements, with a significant number of students securing worthwhile job offers with handsome packages. Our students are not only excelling academically but also actively participating in various technical and social activities, such as hackathons, Innovex, and project competitions. Their involvement in these events has not only enriched their experience but has also led to the accumulation of numerous praises and prizes. This multifaceted engagement with extracurricular activities has further enhanced their skills and nurtured their talents, making them well-rounded individuals ready to contribute to society. The combination of scholarships, academic excellence, and active participation in various activities has resulted in our students achieving remarkable success, both in their education and in various extracurricular pursuits. They are not only prepared for a bright future but are also enriching their present with a diverse range of experiences and accomplishments.

**6. Problems Encountered and Resources required:** - The large number of students requires financial assistance to continue higher education. But fund allocation is limited and hence the college is not able to help all needy and deserving students. One important issue we face is ensuring equal opportunities for deserving students, which sometimes leads to a situation where a single student receives multiple scholarships, leaving other needy students without the chance to benefit. In pandemic there was a big challenge in organizing the event. Because all the students, academic and industry mentors were physically unable to meet and interact with each other. Online meetings were the only solution. But the institute was able to manage these challenges even in a pandemic and overcome them by allowing frequent visits to industries and college facilities for the students. The coordinating persons encountered certain issues like losing the students in the middle of the challenge due to their mindset of fear about completing the task. The industry mentors and coordinators, with the help of academic mentors overcame this by counseling them and making them ready again to participate.

#### **Notes (Optional)**

The Micron India University Research Alliance (URAM) scholarship was awarded to Ms. Aditi Bhardwaj, a third-year student in the computer department during the academic year 2020-21. The scholarship, valued at 1,00,000 INR, is part of a special program that seeks to recognize outstanding academic achievements and promote STEM careers for students, regardless of gender, including men, women, and persons with disabilities, studying at engineering institutions across India.

One of the Philanthropists is taking responsibility of paying the fees of one student for all the four years. So far one student is beneficiary from the donation.

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## **Best Practice 2**

**Title of the Practice:** Development of Students through Industry Involvement in Teaching Learning Process.

**Objectives of the Practice:** Development of students through industry involvement in teaching learning process has many but not limited to objectives such as

- To give exposure to students through involvement of industries / industry experts in various activities / initiatives of the college and thus to act as a notal platform to bridge the industry – academia gap more effectively.
- To make the students industry ready equipped with the latest industrial technologies, tools, platforms, industrial environment, and work culture.

Few of the initiatives for accomplishing the objectives are as mentioned below.

Representation of industry experts at various levels of the college such as management, in College Development Committee, ED cell, imparting curriculum contents and beyond. In project / internship evaluation.

- Providing atmosphere to students by giving them industry based live projects.
- Industry-institute interaction through visits of students to the industries.
- Industry experts as mentors to students who can guide students from time to time and help students to achieve their goals.
- Signing of Memorandum of Understandings and ensuring its functioning with the industry to conduct several programs / events / visits / lectures / projects / internships etc. for student development.
- Providing internship to students in core industries of the respective students.
- To procure the experimental setups / platforms from associated industries.
- To establish laboratories sponsored / funded by industry.
- Organizing skill development programs / employability enhancement training and aptitude programs, communication skill development programs with the help of professionals and experts from industries.
- Preplacement talks and awareness sessions.
- Industry certifications for professional society chapter activities and student club activities.
- Deputation of faculties for training at various industries.

**The Context:**

Mahrishi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha Pune is the parent organization of the college and has huge support from industry of almost many sectors. The management members of the institute decorate various top positions in industries, also a few are owners of the reputed industries. This good industry connection is explored for the students' development. The companies and industries have come forward to help the college to accomplish its vision as their corporate social responsibility (CSR). The help from industry is monetary and non-monetary as well. It has been thought and then implemented to use industry connect for students' development in following areas.

- Industry Based Projects
- Visits to the Industries
- Mentors from the Industry
- Mock interviews for students' placement drives
- Signing of MoUs to carry out several activities of student development.
- Internships at various industries
- Deputation of faculties to the industries for training

**The practice:**

MKSSS' Cummins College of Engineering for Women, Nagpur is involved with regular interactions with the industry through different modes as described –

- Industry support is in the form of providing laboratory infrastructure facilities such as experimental setups / few of platforms / demonstration setups, licensed softwares and computing facilities.
- Industry support in the form of monetary donations / funding for example Cummins India Limited provides funding of Rs. 40 Lakhs every year to enhance the infrastructure facilities, undertake student activities toward employability enhancements etc.
- Industries offers a few of the platform-based courses as an elective in online mode. Students get regular interaction with practicing industry professionals by registering for such industry driven courses.
- Students are encouraged to carry out projects in industries and thus institute provides the exposure to students to the industry through industrial projects.
- Industry-institute interaction through industry visits and arranging various expert lectures from persons from industry.

- Making the mentors from industry available to the students. Cummins India Ltd is active in providing mentorship under their Nurturing Brilliance Scholarships to the selected students at the institute.
- Departments arrange mock interviews of the students appearing for the placements and get benefited by the interaction with highly professional industry persons. Tata Motors every year helps our students for mock interview under their “Kaushalya” CSR initiative to make the engineering students industry ready.
- The institute has signed more than 50 + Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with the industries in and around Nagpur region and it is ensured that these MoUs are functional.

**Evidence of success:**

The college has signed more than 50 + MoUs with the industries in and around Nagpur city. A variety of industries which are engaged in all types of activities are involved in this activity. The background of the industries is right from IT sector to the manufacturing units and supporting ancillary units and even the service providers as well.

Students are sent for internships and to carry out live projects in these industries. Few students have achieved success in getting Pre-Placement offer from industry / company wherefrom the respective internship is executed. Many students who were lacking in communication skills and aptitude training have undergone employability enhancement training programs conducted by industries like ZENSAR LTD, etc got the placement in good companies with handsome package. Faculty members, after interaction with industries, have undertaken industry live projects to solve industry problems. Students after having laboratory sessions on platforms and experimental setups donated by industries got excellent inputs clearing their fundamentals concepts which has led to improvement in results both quantitatively and qualitatively. Importantly by having industry interface in almost all sectors of four years of engineering education, students are doing great in their carrier and have acquired a respectful position in their jobs / assignments and in turn in society.

**Problems encountered and resources required:**

The best practice of involvement of industry in teaching learning process for development of students has many dimensions. Amongst many advantages for students, for faculty and in turn for the college and for industries, few concerns and challenges are required to be encountered. There were a few administrative and institute management-related challenges

faced by the administrators, few of them were –

- Attitude and Commitment of the stakeholders
- Rigidity in the curriculum of the affiliated University

The initial hurdle to tackle with this was to prepare the mind set of stake holders to get involvement of students in industries was overcome by explaining these stake holders about win-win situation for all of them. After getting the exact knowledge and further knowing about the benefits from such industry institute interaction, the response was quite good and resulted in the achievement of the good practice to establish the involvement of industry.

Rigidity in curriculum was overcome by including and introducing the skill development week at the start of every semester and involving industry personnel by either way like arranging expert talks from industry in the skill development sessions, visits of students in the industry during skill development sessions etc. Industry expects or urges for deputation of students for one semester for internships, the university curriculum does not have provision of semester internship as of now.

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