

The two best practices successfully implemented as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

Best practice 1

1. Title

Institutional Social Responsibility

2. Objectives

The University takes its responsibility toward promoting and upholding social values very seriously. To this effect, it has initiated and implemented several practices to ascertain that the values imbibed in the vision and mission of the University are put into practice to ensure the socio-economic growth of all sections of society.

3. The Context

The University is located in the tribal belt of Rajasthan and thus, it is our pressing concern to address the challenges faced by the citizens and the people in the tribal region. The initiatives have been taken in avenues, such as health and hygiene awareness, legal literacy, gender issues, and environment-awareness. During the period of assessment (2017-2022), society faced a period of unprecedented upheaval during the COVID-19 lockdowns. It was during these uncertain times, that the regular Institutional Social Practices upheld by the University gained more importance.

4. Practice

Adopted Village Programme: 10 villages have been adopted by the University. Students visit the villages regularly and organise programs to create awareness on hygiene, health, literacy, and legal aid.

Janta Clinic: The University has its own Health Centre called Janta Clinic that operates under the government health program in the campus. An experienced medical expert and support staff is available for health check-ups.

Lecture Series on Shrimad Bhagavad Gita: The total duration of this unique discourse is 300 hours and it has been made available online on the University website.

Adivasi Milap Yojna: Teachers and students were urged to adopt an Adivasi family and to mentor them regarding health and hygiene during the period of pandemic.

Yoga-Arogya Centre

Blood Donation: The University organises several Blood Donation Camps each year.

Vaccination Drive: During the time of COVID-19 Pandemic, the University organised a Vaccination Drive (105 camps – each averaging 12 hours a day) inside the campus.

Face Mask Distribution: The University collaborated with ICICI Bank to distribute 100,000 facemasks to the citizens of Udaipur.

5. Success-

The Vaccination Drive (105 camps) successfully administered doses to 55,000 citizens.

Notable contributions have been made to the blood banks

The Yoga Centre and Lecture Series on Shrimad Bhagvad Gita have added immensely to the promotion of Indian languages and culture in society.

The Adivasi Milap Yojna benefited more than 50 Adivasi families. The poster campaign was lauded by the civil administration of Udaipur.

6. Problems encountered:

Several challenges were faced such as: procurement of adequate vaccine supply, organising these vaccination drives with utmost care and caution.

Best Practice 2

1. Title:

Green Initiatives

2. Objectives

The primary objective of this practice is to provide a clean and green environment that is conducive to creating healthy living practices for the students and stakeholders of the University. In order to achieve this objective, the University has formulated and implemented various environment-friendly practices across the campus.

3. The Context

The University understands the need to adopt green measures in the campus so as to not only keep the campus clean and green but also to inculcate environmental values among students. The context is to be a self-sufficient campus in matters of cleanliness and energy. Several measures have been taken to utilise the solid waste, bio waste and e-waste, among other forms of waste.

4. Practice

The University has installed solar panels on all its buildings, generating approximately 800 KW, thus saving between 1.5 to 2 lakh Rupees per month on electricity charges. A Bio waste management unit through Vermicompost: has been established to effectively employ the waste generated from plant matter. The University decided to disseminate this useful biotechnology to the tribal farmers in the region. It also encouraged the women farmers and self-help groups (SHGs) to learn the process of preparing natural fertiliser using disposable green waste.

e-waste Disposal: University has adopted an e-waste disposal policy where it has collaborated with the major IT companies like HP, Dell and DLink for disposing the e-waste. A buyback policy has been adopted where new purchases include buyback of old and discarded machines.

Solid Waste Disposal: The University makes use of discarded furniture and other scrap to create statues and other functional items and art installations that add to the aesthetic beauty of the campus.

Rainwater Harvesting and Waste Water Management: As the University receives abundant rainfall during the monsoons due to its locational benefits, rainwater harvesting has been successfully implemented by the University in order to reduce wastage of water and conserve the precious life force for use throughout the year. Also, waste water from RO systems is collected in water tanks and reused for multiple activities on the campus. Seven large rainwater harvesting systems are in place: e-

Rickshaw Facility for Students in the Campus: A free e-rickshaw facility has been started within the University.

5. Success

The total contribution of power from solar panels is 791 KW. This has led to savings of approximately 1.5 lakhs per month. This has contributed further to the green initiatives of the University. The University initiated a Skill-based Certificate Course on Vermicompost Biotechnology in M.Sc. (CBCS) Programme. Each year, about 100 students, and in total about 500 students so far, have been trained to manage solid waste. In the year 2020, the Zoology department received a grant from RUSA 2.0 to develop an independent unit to train the tribal farming population of Rajasthan in the skill of vermicompost waste management.

Through its e-waste disposal policy, the University has succeeded in disposing its e-waste responsibly without harming the environment. The e-Rickshaw facility has greatly benefitted the students who use public transport to come to the University.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Several challenges were faced while establishing the Solid Waste Management unit through Vermicompost. A major challenge faced was procuring sufficient funds for setting up the unit and thereafter, training student volunteers to train the tribal farmers in its use. A lot of persuasion was required on part of the University administration to avail the ERICKSHAW Facility from the city administration.