

7.2.1 Best Practices (Any Two)

1) Co-operative Education Programme 2019 - 20

The Co-operative Education Programme (CEP), is a unique career guidance opportunity for the Second Year B.A. and B.Sc. students of Wilson College, conducted successfully for the last 40 years; and bridges the world of industry and education. Teachers, students, alumni and personnel from diverse industries help in running this programme successfully.

Due to the lockdown, the committee reconsidered options and decided to have the programme online using Zoom. Out of about 100 students who applied, 44 students of the 48 selected, participated in the programme.

The programme has three distinctive phases:

1. Lecture or Workshop Phase where the students have day - long sessions with a variety of speakers, consultants and professionals from various fields. They participate in a series of exercises and workshops that enable them to overcome their inhibitions and develop the soft skills and mindset expected in a job environment. A diverse range of topics like Self and Career Exploration, Structured Thinking, Earth - day and Caring for Earth, Environmental Issues and Opportunities in Environment, Presentation Skills, Leading with Emotional Intelligence, Multiple Intelligence, Industry Overview: Building blocks and Goal Setting, Raising Resilience, etc. Additional sessions that added value were also conducted. Thirteen sessions on career perspectives ranging from research to Journalism and Public Service to Digital Marketing were also conducted.

All the sessions and career talks were summarized on the last day of the Lecture Phase under the session "Brand You".

2. Camp Phase, the students are taken for a 4-day residential camp, where workshops on personality development, leadership and team-building are conducted. Other interactive sessions are also arranged where students get an insight into their strengths and weaknesses. But this year this phase was not conducted due to the pandemic.

3. Placement Phase: Students have a three-week placement in an organization of their chosen career. During the placement, the students are expected to conform to the requirements of the workplace. The pandemic lockdown made it impossible for students to go for placements this year.

The valedictory function concludes the CEP for which parents and some guests are invited. The students are given certificates and a selected number of special prizes are given. This year the chief guest was an alumnus and CEPian from the 1996 batch, who educated students on becoming keen observers, learning extra skills and the value of academics in future success.

Three - day follow up session “How to Manage Myself during Change” was conducted.

Through the duration of the programme the students are observed and evaluated in terms of their creativity, proactivity, taking up leadership, working in a team. All are expected to write a personal journal that tracks his/her experience and learning each day. Individual and group presentations are also done and judged by a panel.

Highlights of CEP 2019 - 20

- CEP 2020 magazine “Connect” Vol.2 was released which was designed and compiled completely by the CEP students.
- Each group also had to design a logo for CEP. The prize-winning logo was put on the CEP certificate along with the college logo.
- Students presented various cultural events online, through pre-recorded or live videos.
- The trust, support and commitment of the entire team enabled the successful completion of CEP in the online mode, an important milestone in the history of CEP.

2) Andrews Vision Centre 2019 - 2020

Andrews Vision Centre (Estd. 2008) continues to be committed “To help visually challenged students to be educationally, technologically, psychologically and socially enriched so that they are better equipped to face the challenges of life”.

An inclusive college admission policy has allowed for a rising number of learners with disabilities on campus: 32 - visually challenged, 20 - learning disabilities, 2 - cerebral palsy, 1- speech and hearing impairment, 1 autism disorder spectrum.

The centre provides financial support to needy students for education and accommodation facilities. It also facilitates procedures for procuring prestigious government and private scholarships. Eighteen visually challenged students of our college have benefitted from the Maharashtra State Government Scholarship for Disabilities endeavour in the academic year 2019-2020. Help the Blind Foundation (HTBF) interviewed and awarded scholarships to 12 Degree College Visually Challenged students for the academic year 2019- 2020.

The centre is equipped with different assistive technologies designed specifically to cater to the needs of visually challenged students of Wilson College. It houses 5 internet enabled terminals with navigation, reading, magnification, conversion software's (NVDA) printing and advanced scanning facilities. The centre continues to conduct various training programs aimed at life skill development and computer proficiency. The Centre has purchased a HP scanner 2500 f1 for converting high volume notes into accessible format for Visually Challenged Students.

The centre has daily learning classes and creates accessible study material to ensure a smooth learning process. During examinations scribes are arranged for 40 students with various disabilities from the arts and science section.

A full time coordinator is appointed to organize programs and take care of administrative duties. A committee of 7 faculty members form the support system to ensure smooth functioning, with support from the college management, principal and well-wishers.

Some highlights of the year:

- A "Mentors Meet" was organized on 24th June, 2019, to provide a common platform to the students to have an open interaction with their mentors and some alumni who are well placed in various organizations.
- A Theatre Training Workshop was conducted by Mr. Nikhil Katara, a well-known director and trainer. The workshop benefitted the students in developing their body language as well as public presence.
- On Independence Day, visually challenged students presented a spectacular Mallakhamb performance. The performance was very much appreciated and received a standing ovation from the audience. This was also a fundraising event and we thank all who came forward for the same.
- The first AVC Newsletter was published and distributed during the Independence Day event.
- On World Disability Day, the AVC organized an intra-college Kabaddi match. Teams consisted of both sighted and non-sighted members.
- The AVC held a Parent-Teacher meet for the visually challenged students. The parents were updated about the progress of their children by the AVC committee members. Various other subjects concerning the involvement of the students in the AVC were also discussed.