

7.2.1 – Describe at least two institutional best practices

1. Title of the practice: Professional Development Assistance (PDA)

The context that required the initiation of the practice: Professional Development of faculty members completely lies on the basis of their performance in teaching and research activities which requires engagement in research work, collaboration and participation in various academic events. To encourage faculty members to involve in such type of activities financial support from the Institution is required.

Objectives of the practice: Professional Development Assistance (PDA) has been introduced for the Faculty Members to enhance their professional academic development including providing financial support for research paper presentations or chairing sessions in National / International conferences, the membership fee of Professional bodies, buying research equipment, software or books.

The Practice: Professional Development Assistance (PDA) has been introduced for the Faculty Members to enhance their professional academic development including providing financial support for research paper presentations or chairing sessions in National / International conferences, the membership fee of Professional bodies, buying research equipment, software or books. The sanction of PDA is to the extent of Rs. 70,000/- per annum for each Faculty Member, i.e., Rs. 2.1 Lakh for a block period of three years. For being eligible for the PDA, he/she should have published at least three research papers in SCI/SCOPUS indexed Journals in the preceding three years from the date of first application in the block period of three years.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words): None till date

Impact of the practice: This scheme has resulted in the enhancement of faculty members presenting papers from a handful in 2013 to more than 95 members in the last few years. Similarly, the number of faculty members presenting papers abroad has increased from 03 in 2013 to 51 in the last few years. The number of faculty being members of Professional bodies has increased from 02 in 2013 to 40 in last few years. Many faculty members have utilized PDA for purchase of books, and computer/desktop/scanner, hard disk, minor experimental scientific equipment.

Resources required: Funding from various funding agencies. At present the above scheme is self-financed from the fee receipts of the University and annual recurring grant received from the parent institution Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, a statutory body created by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

About the Institution

- i. Name of the Institution: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
- ii. Year of Accreditation: 2019
- iii. Address: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Kakriyal, Katra-182320, JK

iv. Grade awarded by NAAC: B++

v. EMail: registrar@smvdu.ac.in

vi. Contact person for further details: Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, JK

vii. Website: www.smvdu.ac.in

2. Title of the practice: Students Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Program

The context that required the initiation of the practice: Due to financial constraints, many meritorious students from poor background fails to pursue higher education of their choice and opts for courses/ Institutions which requires less financial burden. To attract such meritorious students, the scheme is introduced.

Objectives of the practice: The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the meritorious students and students from the poor background in each class to enable them to pursue professional and technical courses while simultaneously attracting high rankers in JEE Main/MAT/CAMT/CAT to the university.

The Practice: As a part of the scheme top 10 meritorious students in each class, subject to obtaining minimum SGPA of 8.5 are awarded Semester tuition fee and hostel fee waiver in graded manner. Also, JEE Main rankers having AIR less than 1 Lakh rank or high percentile scorers in CAT/MAT/CMAT are eligible for tuition fee waiver up to 5 semesters in a graded manner.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words): None at present.

Impact of the practice: Under this scheme, in the last 5 years, Rs. 1.68 Crore has been disbursed as scholarship while the number of high rankers has increased by 300 in the last five years. 7. Resources required: Funding from various funding agencies. At present the above scheme is self-financed from the fee receipts of the University and annual recurring grant received from the parent institution Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, a statutory body created by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 8. About the Institution

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3. Title of the practice: Online teaching learning during Covid Pandemic in AY 2019-20

The University has introduced online teaching- learning platform for students through various online platform such as MOODLE, Zoom, Google Meet, etc.

The Methodology adopted for conduct of teaching-learning process during the course of the semester in on-line mode shall be as given below:

- a. **“Flipped Class” methodology** is utilized for smooth conduct of academic work during AY 2019-20. Faculty members prepare the following resources for all courses being handled by them and upload the same on MOODLE in advance:
 - i. Tutorial Sheets (wherever applicable),
 - ii. Presentations / Case Studies / Notes (wherever applicable),
 - iii. E-Book(s) for the course. (Faculty members to ensure that copyright of the uploaded material is not violated),
 - iv. Lab Video – Demonstration of the Practical conduct by the concerned faculty member with at-least 10 video

4. Title of the practice: Energy conservation:

The University has installed LED lights at all major areas to reduced electricity consumption. Solar powered lamps are in use for street lighting. 900 KW Solar Power Plant (Roof Mounted) has been installed at Rooftop of various buildings to generate Renewable / Green Energy.

5. Title of the practice: Summer Semester

An abridged semester is scheduled in the two months of summer break which ensures the continuation of academic activity during the vacation period and an opportunity for students to earn additional credits, clear backlogs and complete their degree. More than 100 students were able to complete their degree in time.