Best Practice – 1: Curriculum Enhancement Through Certificate and Enrichment Courses

Objectives of the Practice:

- To develop and strengthen students' knowledge and career skills;
- To cater to various academic and vocational needs;
- To enrich the learning experience of the students through holistic education;
- To develop and incorporate new activities, projects, strategies or learnings into existing or new curriculum.

The Context

SVIMS aims to nurture a future workforce of women managers and entrepreneurs with well-developed skills and creative thought process which is needed to survive and sustain in current times. It is but an established fact that only bookish knowledge will not help us achieve the institute and student goals. The students and faculty members need to develop a higher order thinking than what is offered by the prescribed syllabus.

The university approved certificate courses are offered to address the varied learning capabilities of the students to meet the industry demands and improving their employability as well as helping them develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

The Practice

SPPU approved courses offered throughout the academic year enable students to complete multiple courses. Industry Academia gaps are brainstormed in academic meetings, based on

which courses on relevant subjects like Gender Equity, Spirituality, Tableau, Advanced Excel, Stock Market are offered. Students develop a better understanding of the industry, the skills that they need to upgrade and gain better internship and placement opportunities.

Certificate courses intended to increase employability skills/entrepreneurship have been introduced every year since 2017-2018. The endeavour has always been for offer minimum two certificate courses per year.

Apart from courses being offered on trending subjects, we conduct a certificate course 'Spirituality for Leadership, Employee Wellbeing and Organizational Excellence' under the aegis of Savitribai Phule Pune University to instil in students the need to complement competence with character.

The Faculty are encouraged to enrol and complete Universal Human Values course offered by AICTE so that they can sensitize the student about the scope of life – individual, family, society and nature/existence. This course also helps the faculty to see the need for developing a holistic perspective of life and include the same in their Teaching pedagogies. Faculty members are also encouraged to enrol for Swayam NPTEL courses, TLC Ramanujan MOOCs and learn about the latest trends in teaching and research methodologies.

Here are few examples:

- ***Selection of Certificate Course in Artificial Intelligence***: Faculty members brainstormed the need for course on Artificial Intelligence for students as it is the need of the hour especially in the world of metaverse. This course would help the students become future ready. Problems such as students being from non- engineering backgrounds, funds and experts for running the course, students' readiness etc were discussed and Director's guidance on the same was sought. Student readiness was gauged through a student teacher meeting and corporate partners were approached for sponsoring the activity. Students record their vote for it. After the Director's approval, the same is presented to IQAC to get their concurrence.

- ***Professional certificate courses offered at nominal fees***. An IELTS course offered by one of the best Centres in Pune [which charges over Rs. 6000 per person for the said course] is offered at our Institute [same modules] at a mere Rs. 600. This is owing to our brand equity and commitment to ethics and empowerment of women.

Present Day - The institute being affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University follows the syllabus designed by the university. The institute however enhances the quality by Introducing Professional Certificate Courses through MOUs with well - known professional agencies at the most nominal fees. These courses impart knowledge on contemporary issues, students are able to upskill themselves, thus bridging the gap between industry expectations and the syllabus. The students are also encouraged to take courses through Infosys Springboard, Swayam NPTEL, Linkedin Learning, Coursera.

The following table reflects the courses completed during the year:

Sr.No.	Name of Add on /Certificate programs offered	Year of offering	No. of times offered during the year	Duration of course	Number of Students completing the course in the year	
1	IT Skills for Managers	2021-22	1	30 Hrs.	27	In House in collaboration with SPPU
2	The Basics of Content Writing	2021-22	1	30 Hrs.	10	In House in collaboration with SPPU
3	Understanding Gender Equity	2021-22	1	30 Hrs.	4	In House in collaboration with SPPU
4	Fundamentals of Stock Market and Online Trading	2021-22	1	30 Hrs.	21	In House in collaboration with SPPU
5	Spirituality for Leadership, Employee Wellbeing, and Organizational Excellence – II	2021-22	1	30 Hr	53	In House in collaboration with SPPU
6	Certificate course Tally Prime and Advance Excel	2021-22	1	30 Hrs.	29	Disha Computer Institute
7	Course in Data Analytics using Tableau	2021-22	1	35 Hrs.	6	Lagozon Technologies Pvt. Ltd
			completed courses in a year		**150**	

Evidence of Success

Seven courses were offered during the year. 150 students completed the courses, with the aim of improving employability, good placements and internships, instilling confidence in relevant skills to successfully complete tasks and also be confident with respect to their analytical and critical thinking skills.

Problems Encountered

The biggest challenge is to Keep fees to minimum possible to make the courses more accessible to students. There have been instances wherein higher fees has led to students not opting for much relevant course like SAP being offered by an IT Giant at a minimal cost.

Coordinating the courses within tight academic schedule is a tight rope walk. And to motivate the students to explore, select and attend the courses diligently sometimes becomes time consuming.