



THE NEW COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Sponsored by the Muslim Educational Association of southern India (MEASI)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)

Affiliated to the University of Madras

CHENNAI - 600 014. TAMIL NADU. INDIA

7.2.1 Describe at least two institutional best practices (as per NAAC Format)

PRACTICE - I:

1. Title of the Practice: **Employability Skills as a Common Course for All UG Students**

2. Objective of the Practice:

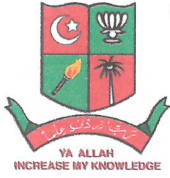
To enable all UG students to plan their career and to prepare them to face campus placement and other employment tests and interviews.

3. The Context

Employability of graduates is a matter of grave concern all over the country. The New College has also been facing the challenge of making all its graduates ready for employment by developing transferable skills, life skills and employability. In spite of their impressive performance in their studies, many graduates were unable to get hired in campus interviews and other employment examinations. In this scenario, the college realised the existence of a disconnection between the academic attainments and the employability of students. Among the initiatives taken to address this problem, prescribing a compulsory two-part course in Employability Skills from 2017-18 academic year stands out as one of the best practices in the college. The college introduced Employability Skills as a common course under Part IV in the first two semesters of all UG programmes.

4. The Practice

The course in Employability Skills is designed as a skills-based course and it is imparted following the principles of activity-oriented teaching. The course covers such aspects as planning for career, developing essential interpersonal and soft skills, developing technical competency, preparing for aptitude tests, interview and group discussion skills, understanding the expectations of the employers in the changing times, and preparing for campus placement. The college developed its own textbook for teaching employability skills, keeping in mind the specific requirements of the types of students admitted in the college. The textbook included information sections, classroom activities, and QR code links for further self study. The responsibility of teaching this course has been entrusted to the English Department. The course has two assessment methods - i) practical viva voce (oral) examination involving interview skills, test of communication skills, resume writing and presenting, and Group discussion; and ii) end semester written examination.



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5. Evidence of Success:

The first batch that received the Employability Skills course completed their UG programme during the 2019-20 academic year. The batch witnessed tremendous improvements in the campus placements in general and the number of students appearing for campus placement drives in particular. The general outcome of the course included making all students learn to plan their career, prepare their own resumes, acquire the necessary informatics skills to apply for jobs online, and practice interviews and group discussion.

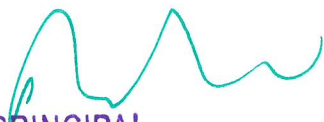
6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

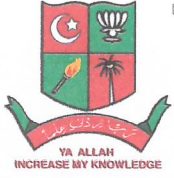
The initial difficulties in implementing the programme included training the teachers to deliver the lessons following activity-oriented teaching methods. This was overcome by conducting a series of informal interactive meetings with the teachers in the presence of the author of the book to discuss the methodology followed in teaching the course. Another important challenge was updating the course material every year, considering the fact that frequent changes take place in the employment scenario in general and the skill expectations of employers in particular. The problem was resolved by bringing out fresh editions of the book every year, with additions and modifications.

7. Notes (Optional):

As the college enjoyed the locational advantage of being in a metropolitan city with hundreds of MNCs and other potential recruiters, the course enabled the college to invite more recruiters to select its students.




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PRACTICE - II:

1. Title of the Practice

CA Academy: Coaching for CA Foundation Examination Conducted by ICAI

2. Objective of the Practice:

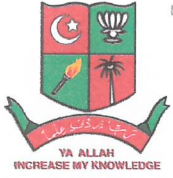
Considering the growing employment opportunities for Chartered Accountants in the country, the management of the college established a dedicated coaching centre in 2013 for the Chartered Accountants (CA) examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants India (ICAI). The centre is named "MEASI CA Academy." The Academy aims at offering free training to the undergraduate students of the college for CA Foundation examination.

3. The Context

As a large number of commerce stream students pursuing undergraduate programmes in the college aspire for chartered accountancy as a career, the CA coaching programme offered by the management of the college in the campus has immense potential to enhance the employability of students. Besides, although the programme is open for all, the college envisions empowering the members of the minority communities through this academy.

4. The Practice

Students are selected for the CA coaching based on a two-level screening process. Primarily, the CA Academy invited applications from those who performed well in the qualifying examination from among the first year UG students; secondly, shortlisted students are invited for interview to test their aptitude and interest in Chartered Accountancy. Coaching classes are conducted in the academy after the college hours to ensure that regular studies of the students are not affected. Experts are invited from outside the college as resource persons to conduct the classes. Usually 50 to 60 students are admitted in a batch of the CA coaching, and arrangements are also made to ensure that all the students enrolled for coaching apply for the



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CA Foundation Examination. The training programme includes, enhancing the knowledge of students in the subjects covered in the CA examination, and mock tests in the CA examination pattern.

5. Evidence of Success

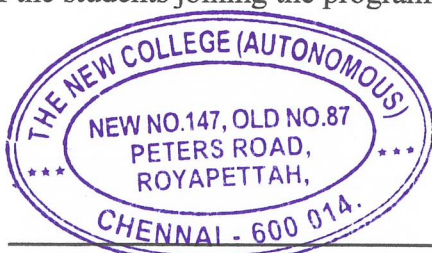
Out of the students admitted for coaching (in two batches) during the 2019-20 academic year, six students cleared the CA foundation examination. These students are currently pursuing the Intermediate and final levels of the CA examination. The existence of the CA coaching centre in the campus was one of the reasons for introducing B.Com., Accounting and Finance programme in the college from the academic year 2019-20. The establishment of the CA academy also resulted in the enhanced demand ratio for commerce related programmes in the college.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Finding the right resource persons for conducting coaching classes was one of the main problems encountered by the CA Academy in the initial years. This was resolved when the management signed an agreement with a training centre outside the college to provide the resource persons. The second challenge was to motivate students to join the training programme, as most students considered CA examination as extremely difficult. This was addressed by counselling students on the prospects of Chartered Accountancy as a career option.

7. Notes (Optional)

The college aims at developing the CA Academy into a full-fledged Centre for Development, offering various employability and other training programmes. The college also plans to interlink the CA coaching activities to the B.Com accounting and Finance programme offered by the college, to enhance the placement of the students joining the programme.



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