



# AISSMS

## COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

IMPARTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION & RESEARCH



Approved by AICTE & PCI New Delhi, Recognized by the Government of Maharashtra,  
2F, 12B recognition by UGC, Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University  
**Accredited by NAAC with A Grade**

## INSTITUTIONAL BEST PRACTICES (2022-2023)

### A. PROJECT BASED LEARNING

#### 1. Title of the Practice

**Project Based Learning (In house research projects)**

#### 2. Objectives of the Practice

**What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?**

Our objective is

- To provide opportunities for students right from the Second year B.Pharm itself to develop an aptitude for work and a methodological approach through project based learning.
- To familiarize students with literature survey, online tools, softwares and basic statistics
- To develop the ability to present their research work at conferences and write research papers

The above practice aims to create a readiness for research, help students to identify their niche area of interest, ability to make presentations, write research papers. This practice also adds valuable skills to help the students develop confidence and managerial ability.

#### 3. The Context

**What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?**

The Pharmacy curriculum involves a lot of theoretical concepts and practical skills. However, in addition to domain knowledge, the pharmaceutical industry looks for a problem-solving approach and team skills in prospective employees. Employees with the ability and confidence to manage a project end to end are valued by both academia and industry alike.

During the orientation program and throughout the year, the students are encouraged to take up in-house projects, highlighting the features and benefits. The concept has been well accepted by

the students since its inception 17 years ago. Students proactively approach the subject teachers of their choice, discuss ideas and areas of interest and conceptualize the project. Even during the Covid -19 lockdown, students kept up the spirit by writing scientific review articles and conducting survey based research work/cross-sectional studies using tools like google forms instead of the conventional methods. With the easing of the lockdown and resuming of offline work, students enthusiastically once again took up laboratory based in-house projects.

#### **4. The Practice**

**Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?**

For this practice we have a standard structured process: The students (group of max 05) choose the subject area of their choice and approach a teacher. After the approval from Hon. Secretary, students have to complete the work in given timeframe without skipping academic schedule. The report/outcome is submitted by the Principal Investigator to the coordinators of the activity

The students are encouraged and guided to present/publish the work at different conferences and in journals respectively.

The college organizes two research presentation competitions to provide the students a platform to present their work

- 1) “Best in-house project competition” an annual event is organized for students of AISSMS college and winner group/team is given a cash award and certificate.
- 2) A state level inter-collegiate competition “SYNAPSE”, which is a biennial event, is organized where students compete along with the students from other pharmacy colleges in Maharashtra.

The students can mention the outcomes of these activities in their “Statement of Purpose” (SOPs) which help them to seek admissions abroad for further studies.

The best projects get an opportunity to participate in “AAVISHKAR” and “ANVESHAN” the state and national level competition for innovative research.

#### **Uniqueness in the context of India higher education:**

Looking at the focus of the government of India on inventions and innovations, the effort is a unique one which prepares the students to work on their ideas. Many of the in-house projects involve a tangible product at the end which is further tested by scientific evaluation at various platforms where it is presented.

Moreover, the choice for higher education is a crucial and even intimidating decision for students and involves commitment of both time and finance. At AISSMS, we provide students with early opportunities for project based learning via in-house projects from the Second year B.Pharm itself. This gives students a hands-on experience of what research/working on a project is all about. We have this practice from the past 17 years. Besides higher education, this practice also is in line with the objectives of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which emphasizes skill development rather than only theoretical knowledge.

The newly introduced PCI syllabus has also incorporated project work, but it is only in the last semester of Final year BPharm. Because of opportunities to work on in-house projects from second year itself, students can make a more informed choice in the Final year and Higher education.

## **5. Evidence of Success**

**Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.**

The evidence of success of practice lies in

Thirteen projects conducted with a total of 34 undergraduate students in 2022-23.

The practice has continued uninterrupted since last 17 years.

Students developed proficiency in literature search, study plan, laboratory work and software. They obtained experience in data handling, drafting research papers and making presentations.

The success of this practice is evident from a number of presentations (9) at various conferences and publications (2) in peer reviewed journals by students in the academic year 2022-23.

Research from one project was published in the prestigious Cardiovascular & Hematological Disorders-Drug targets (Bentham Science, Cite score 2.6) while another project went on to win the FIRST PRIZE (Zonal), FIRST PRIZE (University) and THIRD PRIZE (State level) at AAVISHKAR, a National level student research competition. Our undergraduates also won a cash prize of 20,000/- at PHARMATHON organized by MIT's School of Pharmacy.

Similar to previous years, many students who participated in Project based learning went for higher education (M Pharm/MBA) both in India and abroad with favourable impressions created due to project work and the publication / presentations as an outcome of their research project.

The results of this practice indicate that it is highly effective in providing opportunities for translating knowledge into practice and for overall development of the student.

## **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

**Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).**

Problems encountered are-

1. Initially motivating the students to undertake the projects.
2. Since this practice involves second year and above undergraduate students, we need to orient the students to various new lab instruments and techniques.
3. Teachers today have to play the role of an educator, motivator and mentor combined, rather than just a tutor. Most of the faculty members are a part of multiple departments/ committees and it becomes challenging for them to work with optimum efficiency in every department/ committee and balancing the academic schedule.

Problems were overcome by carefully planning the activities

**The resources made available for smooth implementation of this practice include:**

1. Internet facilities at students disposal for literature survey
2. Time management (Laboratory/equipment availability as per students academic schedule)

3. Lab chemicals/consumables specific to the project

## 7. Notes

Please add any other information that may be relevant for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in other institutions (in about 150 words).

The activity is very useful for implementation in other institutions as it encourages students to explore the theoretical concepts learnt, channelize their interest and get experiential learning. Subject teachers especially those of the Second year and Third year B.Pharm should actively encourage the students during classes for this activity by discussing various research problems.



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## B. ANUBANDH

**1. Title of the Practice:** Holistic development of students through Social outreach programmes (*Anubandh*)

### 2. Objectives of the Practice

**What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?**

*Anubandh* activities have a dual objective. Firstly, to create professionals who are engaged with the social fabric of the country. Secondly, to provide students with opportunities that inculcate leadership and managerial qualities. *Anubandh* serves as a platform for our students to interact with social units such as NSS, Datri, Eco-rangers, to provide a holistic development through social work. This results in professionals who are firmly grounded and invested in the progress of the community. It empowers the students with a deep sense of contribution to social unity and inclusivity and awareness of their potential to be architects of change in society.

### 3. The Context

**What were the contextual features or challenging issues that are needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?**

There are several social units doing commendable work to improve the life of marginalized sections of society, gender sensitization, women empowerment, health awareness and medical aid. They need committed young volunteers to implement their outreach activities. Young people are inherently idealistic with a desire to contribute meaningfully to the community. This gives them a sense of well being and confidence. *Anubandh* taps into this potential so that there is a mutual benefit to the Social units as well as the students.

Challenges include balancing these activities which require a commitment of time while still not adversely affecting the academic schedule. Meticulous planning and encouraging the students is of utmost importance. Teaching staff members along with student co-ordinators shoulder this responsibility to plan the schedule accordingly. Students are also provided a lot of scope and creative freedom for incorporating their own ideas to achieve the outcome. Students are very proactive and enthusiastic about this.

#### 4. The Practice

**Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?**

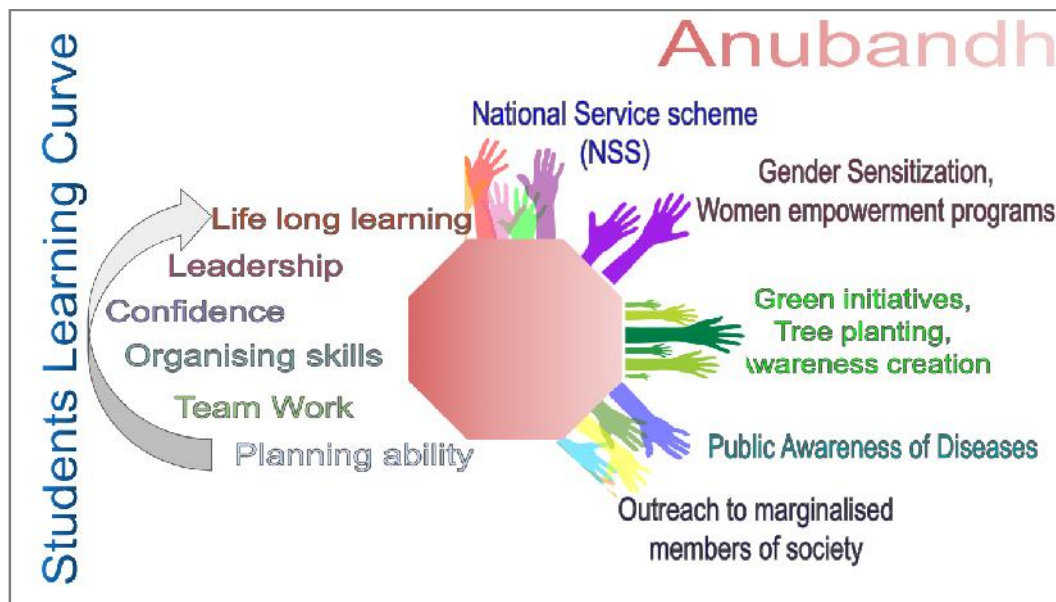
For implementing this practice, a teaching staff member is assigned to each activity such as NSS, APGA, Datri (Blood Stem cell donors registry, India-Pune Division), Seva Sahayog NGO-Pune (Women's empowerment), and Vasudhara Kirloskars Eco-rangers, to provide a holistic development through social work. The students are made aware of these activities during the induction program and are encouraged to join an activity of their choice. Further, all through the academic years motivation is provided by all staff members. For some activities like NSS, there is also a screening process to gauge their commitment and interest level. A schedule of outreach activities is planned keeping in mind the academic schedule. Students are given guidance on planning these activities but are also provided ample scope for creative freedom to incorporate their own ideas and how to implement them to achieve the outcome. Wherever possible, MOUs with social units/organizations are executed. Students also receive credit points for some of the activities thus providing additional motivation.



**Uniqueness in the context of India higher education:** Students need avenues to channelize their inherent enthusiasm and idealism. Higher education is demanding and requires long hours of study and work. During this phase, there is a risk of students falling prey to depression and frustration. Studies have shown that when young people are provided opportunities to contribute to other people's lives and form healthy relationships with caring adults, it has a positive impact on their mental well being and life trajectories. The activities conducted besides contributing to



society, also create a learning curve for the students, developing in them qualities that are essential for succeeding in higher education. This further supports the goal of the National Education Policy to inculcate human values amongst students of Higher education and achieve their holistic development.



## 5. Evidence of Success

**Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.**

Several outreach programs have been organized till date. The institute has received awards and recognition from organizations/groups that have benefited from the support of our student's participation throughout the year in various activities.

### Summary of ANUBANDH activities in the year 2022-2023

S.No.	Name of the activity	Organizing unit/ agency/ collaborating agency	No. of Students
<b>Womens' Empowerment activities</b>			
1	Donation of reusable Sanitary pads to girls from Slum areas	Extension cell with Seva Sahyog NGO, Pune	41
2	Awareness regarding Menstrual periods and donation of reusable Sanitary pads to ladies at metro construction sites	Extension cell with Seva Sahyog NGO, Pune	41
3	Stalls for Purchase of Products by Underprivileged ladies of Slums through Cloths Up-Cycling	NSS with Harshdeep Foundation, Pune	50

S.No.	Name of the activity	Organizing unit/ agency/ collaborating agency	No. of Students
4	Donation of Clothes for Up-Cycling	NSS with Harshdeep Foundation, Pune	50
5	Women Empowerment Program on International Women's Day	Extension cell with Seva Sahyog NGO,Pune	24
<b>Blood Donation</b>			
6	Blood donation drive	NSS and APGA with Sasoon Sarvopchar Hospital Blood Bank, Pune	193
<b>Health and Social Awareness activities</b>			
7	Gokul Project" under AIDS Day awareness	Extension cell with Manavya ,NGO, Pune	41
8	World Diabetes Day	Extension cell in Slum area	41
9	Participation in Sancheti Hospital's Walk-a-thon	NSS	50
10	Voter ID link with Aadhar card & New Voter ID registration activity	NSS-Students with Collector office staff as per Govt. Circular	50
<b>Rural Outreach programmes</b>			
11	Cleanliness Drive at Wadki Village	NSS	50
12	ANNAPANNA Meditation and Rangoli Competition at Wadki Village	NSS	50
13	Activity for women and children at Wadki Village	NSS	50
14	Street play on "Women empowerment" and "Road safety" at Wadki Village	NSS	50
15	Home minister event at Wadki Village for Gender sensitization	NSS	50
16	Shrama Dana Shibir at village Khubovali, Taluka Mulashi, District-Pune	NSS	50
<b>Outreach to differently abled</b>			
17	Donation from APGA committee for state selection chess championship for the visually challenged	APGA and All Marathi Chess Association For The Visually Challenged, Pune	16
<b>Green initiatives</b>			
18	Tree plantation programme at Wadki Village	NSS	50



S.No.	Name of the activity	Organizing unit/ agency/ collaborating agency	No. of Students
19	Tree Plantation by AISSMSCOP NSS students at Deulgaongada	NSS	50
20	Maza Ganpati Eco Ganpati	Ecorangers of AISSMSCOP	30
21	No Vehicle day	Ecorangers of AISSMSCOP	118

## 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

**Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).**

During the NSS camp, lodging, boarding facilities and resources for staff and students needs to be arranged. Team management is essential and facilities for community cooking need to be made available. Initially, during interaction sessions, the rural people take some time to open up for conversation. Regarding environment conservation activities, sometimes the activities with NGOs like KVIFF clash with the exam schedule of the students thereby affecting participation.

## 7. Notes

Please add any other information that may be relevant for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in other institutions (in about 150 words).

Institutes can approach their affiliated University to register for NSS and subsequently follow the schedule of the NSS cell for a range of activities. A village can be identified where there is a need for social education/ awareness with respect to disease/hygiene/girl child education. They can additionally sign MOUs with government recognized NGOs doing commendable social work in various fields and assist them in outreach activities. Involving Alumni and raising funds for medical assistance/blood donation camps is also a valuable approach.