

# BROADENING STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

## The Context

The institution has made a conscious effort to broaden the students' educational experience by providing them with holistic education, comprising of critical thinking ability, in-depth understanding of the subjects and the real world, ethical decision-making skills, effective communication, creative and imaginative thinking skills, sensitivity towards society and a commitment to serve the people in need. The students are encouraged to take up leadership for challenging initiatives and develop the skills necessary to meet these challenges.

## Objectives of the Practice

- To provide holistic education to the students
- To develop a curriculum that offers a wide variety of choice in terms of specializations
- To offer appropriate support for students to explore and innovate in their chosen fields
- To create an atmosphere conducive for developing leadership skills
- To provide the necessary exposure to industry, professional bodies, international academia and other organizations.

## The Practice

Broadening students' educational experience is a continuous process. Using comprehensive feedback mechanism, consultations, discussions and deliberations. The institution continuously upgrades the educational practice on three fronts: academic excellence, character formation and social concern. The best practices evolved on all the three fronts are interlinked so as to emerge as a single practice that contributes to the broadening of the educational experience of students. Some of the interlinked practices include:

**Curriculum enrichment:** The curriculum is periodically revised and updated, keeping in mind the requirement of the industry and the local, national and international needs. The institution takes a consultative approach towards this, as it includes the opinions of various stakeholders in its deliberation. As a result of such an approach, the institution now offers a diverse set of accredited programmes and has included skill development courses in the curricula of all its programmes.

**Collaborations:** The institution has entered into collaborations with the industry, academia, professional bodies and NGOs and has put in place a policy regarding

collaborations, to effectively execute the practice of collaborations. As a result of this students now get a wider and practical exposure to their field of study.

**Experiential learning:** Internship programme for second year UG students, Internship semester for PG students, national and international exposure programmes, university visits, industrial visits, summer school programmes, seminars, guest lectures, workshops and outbound learning programmes through student associations and club activities, are an integral part of education as they contribute to the experiential learning paradigm.

**Research:** Research component is embedded in the regular Curriculum of all program students engage with research by participating in case-study competitions, research workshops and projects.

**Certification programmes:** Students at SJCC have the option of equipping themselves with additional skills by taking up certification programmes offered by the institution.

**Academic support for professional courses:** Students pursuing professional courses are provided with academic and additional support by way of conducting workshops, holding special lectures and creating flexibility in the academic schedule.

**Participative governance:** The Student Council is an elected body at SJCC and it manages student affairs and contributes to the welfare of the student community. Student representatives are nominated in various committees of the college. The extended Student Council which includes the heads of student associations and clubs is a forum for citizenship training and development of leadership skills.

**Independent learning:** Students have the option of taking up MOOCs instead of a regular course, in designated semesters. Apart from this, students are motivated to take up independent learning by participating in discussion forums and, are also encouraged to develop entrepreneurship skills by launching start-ups with the support of the incubation centre.

**Career guidance:** The Placement Cell of the college not only provides the opportunity for students to find a suitable career but also equips them with skills required to excel in the field of their choice.

**Sports and cultural expression:** The vibrant student community SJCC is given ample opportunity, guidance and support to excel sporting and cultural events.

## Advantages

- Leads to a holistic educational experience for students
- Students develop as socially responsible leaders
- Encourages innovative thinking among students
- Students are motivated to make progress and find success in their chosen field

## Challenging Issues

- Finding a balance between all the components of this practice is important
- Bias towards any one component would lead to unhealthy competition and not contribute to a holistic educational experience.
- It is essential to establish a clear line of communication in order to coordinate all activities. As some activities could run parallel, it is necessary to coordinate in order to find space and time for all activities.

## Evidence of Success

- Students graduating from SJCC and entering professional work have occupied coveted leadership positions and excelled in their respective fields.
- The corporate companies regularly come back to the college in order to hire students as they have proven to be valuable assets to the companies.
- Some of the top rank holders of professional examinations are from SJCC.
- Students of SJCC have successfully launched and sustained start-ups and are contributing to the national economic growth.
- Students of SJCC have also ventured into fields other than commerce like the social sector, education, creative arts and sports, and have found success in the fields.
- Increase in number of applications for the programmes offered by this institution and the increase in the number of companies coming to the college for recruitment.

## Resources Required

- Autonomy to revise and update the curriculum
- An educational policy that takes a broad view of learning
- Physical and technological infrastructure
- Faculty with industry experience
- Establishing schools or departments of other disciplines
- Funds or grants for special programmes, events and activities.