

 <p>The logo of SNDT Women's University, featuring a portrait of a man in a turban, surrounded by text in Marathi and English, and the year 'Estb:1916'.</p>	<p>SNDT Women's University, Mumbai</p>	<p>An Enlightened Woman is a Source of Infinite Strength</p>
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**SNDT Arts and Commerce College for Women, Karve Road,
Pune 411038**

BEST PRACTICES

(2023-2024)

Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice: Student Research Cell

2. Objectives of the Practice: The students enable

- To grasp concepts such as research questions or problems and appreciate the significance of hypotheses in the learning process.
- To encourage students to think as problem-solvers for the society.
- To communicate self-assuredly and gainfully with graduate students and faculty as mentors
- To make students able to make decisions about their future.

3. The context:

Undergraduate (UG) research as a reform strategy is introduced in Indian higher education. This attempt has a brief review of the government's efforts to improve higher education research and underlines the limitations of their scope as well as their implications. It recommends ways of inducting this concept into the present system of undergraduate education in the present scenario. To fulfill the above condition, the college has designed a research cell. Through this cell, research-related activities for the students are channeled and implemented in the college.

4. The Practice:

The college established the Research Cell to support research at the graduation level, and this cell is in charge of designing and carrying out all research-related initiatives. Teachers are working as mentors for the students to carry out the research of their choice. The research cell conveys information-related research activity in home institutions as well as outside

institutions. To promote research, the college has funds under a separate budget head. Mentors help to research students as per their ability and choices of research. The college organizes student-led conferences for discussion and deliberation on topics of research for the students. In these conferences, all activities are led and undertaken by the students only. The college has established a dedicated committee to enhance research activities and encourage student participation in research endeavors. The committee is chaired by the Principal, with other faculty members serving as executive members. Each department actively organizes activities focused on research, including guidance sessions for students on conducting research, understanding research methodologies, adhering to research ethics, and navigating the various steps of the research process. Several departments also undertake surveys related to their research domains. Faculty members provide mentorship to students on data analysis techniques, paper presentation skills, and the process of publishing research papers, thereby fostering a robust research culture within the institution. The department of BVA organized workshops for students on Calligraphy, print-making workshops, terra cotta workshops, etc.

5. Evidence of Success:

- **Student -Led National Seminar:** The college organized a student-led National Seminar on ‘Gender Sensitization’ on 8th April 2024, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students. A total of 369 individuals enrolled in the seminar, representing states such as Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Among them, 121 students actively participated in the event. This initiative significantly contributed to enhancing students' research skills and engagement with gender-related issues.
- **UG level Dissertation for BVA, BAF, and BCA:** The students from BVA, BCA, and BAF departments have the compulsory dissertation in the last semester. It is mandatory to complete this research-related activity, without completion of this mark sheet cannot be generated.
- **To develop language skills:** The Marathi department organised a three-day workshop on ‘Spelling and Proofreading, Dr. Madhavi Naik was honoured as chief guest for the same. In this process, students communicated with him, which helped in developing their writing skills.
- **To improve skills and knowledge:** All departments in college introduce different courses to students related to their special subject through Coursera, SWAYAM -NPTL. Students enrol in different courses and they complete it.in Geography’s Geo-fest,

Psychology's *Manasdarpan*, BVA's *Antarang*, or different workshops students present their models and projects to improve their skills.

- **Workshop on Personality development contest:** For participation in the University level 'Tejaswini Contest' the college organises a workshop for students on General Knowledge, the ability to think critically with organizing abilities, logical reasoning, etc.
- **Surveys:** The Departments of Commerce, Geography, Psychology, and Economics conducted surveys within their respective research domains to enhance academic inquiry and contribute to their fields of study.
- **Paper Presentation and Publication:** Students from the Department of Psychology presented their original research papers at a national conference. Additionally, research papers authored by students from the Departments of Commerce and Geography are currently under the publication process.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The participation of students in the research activity was significantly lower compared to the annual admissions to the college. The number of permanent faculties is limited so there are limitations to providing research-related guidance to the students who are interested in research. As most of the students are first-generation learners, the college faces some problems convincing their parents to do such activities in the college. Bringing the research-centric attitude in the students is a challenging task for mentors. There is a focus on optimizing funds for research-related activities; however, the allocated amount under this budget head is quite limited.

7. Notes (Optional):

In the future, the college will increase the qualitative and quantitative research projects of the students. The college will also try to strengthen collaborative research also.



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