

7.2 The Best Practices

The Best Practice 1

1. **Title of the Practice:** Eco-restoration of *Pushkarni* and *Ramnadi* near Someshwar temple complex, Baner
2. **Goal:** To take an initiative in cleaning the water bodies using eco-friendly measures and reviving the historical significance of the said site
3. **The Context:** Someshwarwadi Temple, a 900-year-old temple dedicated to lord Shiva, stands on 3.5 acres of land by *Ram Nadi* in Pashan. It's a holy place of worship with a historical significance as it was often visited by Rajmata Jijamata and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The sacred *Kund* (pond) of the temple suffers from pollution, endangering its ecosystem and historical significance. On-site issues include a polluted water body, pond eutrophication, anthropogenic activities, untreated sewage inflow and riverbank encroachment for construction and other development work. These problems degrade water quality, impacting aquatic life and microorganisms.
4. **The Practice:** Our strategy involved ecological restoration of the waterbodies by establishing a reed bed with native flora. This method directed polluted water through plant roots to purify it. Macrophyte planting not only improved aesthetics but also stabilized the pond surface and facilitated filtration. Priority was given to bioremediating the polluted pond using two reed beds, containing Duckweed for efficient purification.
5. **Evidence of success:** Employing an affordable, efficient and eco-friendly technology resulted in improved water quality, reduction in pollution and enhanced water percolation. Pre- and post-construction water analysis shows positive changes in turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and salinity. The reed bed design upstream positively impacted the microbiological quality of *Kund* water downstream. Algae ponds efficiently remove phosphates and nitrates, reducing organic matter and biological oxygen demand, which in turn prevents eutrophication.
6. **Problems Encountered and Resources required:** The volunteering students and staff required to be oriented and trained in the cleaning process including handling, segregation of waste, its proper disposal and eco-restoration of the water bodies. The entire cleaning and eco-restoration process involved a certain amount of time and financial support.



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The Best Practice 2

1. Title of the practice

Future Bankers' Forum – A Step towards Professional Banking

2. Goal:

The aim of the Future Bankers' Forum (FBF) is to impart various skills and values to students, making them aware of the challenges and opportunities in the banking sector. The forum strives to make students market-ready. The Future Banker's Forum aims to ensure financial literacy among masses through its tailor-made approach and readiness to give back to society.

3. The Context:

Financial literacy and inclusion are crucial for student financial independence and fostering trust between banks and the public. Challenges in the Indian banking and financial sector include safe digital payment usage, empowering disadvantaged groups and bridging the gap between investment and asset management.

4. The practice:

The college started the Banking Club in 2011 to overcome the challenges in Indian banking. It aimed to instill values and discipline among students. Evolving into the Future Bankers' Forum in 2018, it collaborates with the college alumni association, Modernites. Together, they organize the Vividhaa Exhibition, offering sessions on banking and activities like Street Play. FBF also pioneers in initiatives like Bank Connect, Hands-on Training and Investment Awareness Workshops, alongside regular events like Banking Day and New Year celebrations with senior citizens.

5. Evidence of success:

The college received a sum of Rs.1,44,913.00/- (after deduction of a TDS of Rs.5,087.00/-) under Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014 by the Reserve Bank of India. This fund enabled the college and the forum to financially support its activities in the ambit of teaching, research and extension activities.

6. Problems Encountered:

Students of the Commerce Faculty generally appear in professional examinations like CPT, ICWA, MPSC, UPSC etc. which makes it difficult for them to balance their studies of these competitive examination and many a times fail to participate in these activities.



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