

Research Papers



**“Activity Based Learning Model in M.E.S. Garware College
of Commerce Pune”**

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Abstract

Education and especially Commerce Education has the power and responsibility to transform people's lives for the better, creating opportunities and communities that nurture a better future for people in all parts of the global economy.

It is now a well established fact that accelerated globalization, fast changing technologies, demanding clients and unpredictable socio-economic-political situations create pressures. Corporate are forced to create a stream of technological and organizational innovations. In this context, M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce has always been in search of moving to the next spot in the Commerce education lifecycle and concurrently, it has a great sense of accountability of imparting quality commerce education embedded with local costs, local context and local ethos, having global vision and perspective in thought and action.

INTRODUCTION:

M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce believes in innovation in education. It has exhibited its preparedness to accept and nurture the creative change in its practices on the campus. The activities have a centralized focus on developing skills and abilities of the students to empower them to become future business leaders. Learner centric process paves the way for achieving educational goals. Hence, activity based learning is the best way to create useful human resource for the industry and society. The crux of this model is 'learning by doing'.

The students learn how to apply the knowledge logically and rationally. They develop practical approach in their fundamental thinking. This helps them to imagine the reality of world of work. Rational and critical thinking, decision making, team spirit, analytical ability, crisis management, interpersonal skills and ethical values are learnt by the students through activity

based learning. The quality factor in education can be addressed through the democratic and participative learning environment.

Knowledge of costing, accounting, taxation, finance, management, entrepreneurship, marketing has to be utilized for enhancing the employability and improving the quality of lives of people. This universal thought is practiced in M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce.

GCC model of activity based learning gives more importance to the style of learning which involves the creative efforts of crossing the boundaries of university curriculum. Co-curricular, extra-curricular and extension activities are designed to suit the ever-changing requirements of business, industry and the society at large. These activities are aimed at creating smart, knowledgeable, skillful and socially responsible generation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the effectiveness of the activity based

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learning in M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce.
2. To draw the conclusions from the study.

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Activity based learning model adopted by M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce is unique, innovative

and imitable by other Commerce Colleges in the country.

2. Re-accreditation by NAAC with 'A' grade, CGPA 3.39 on 4 point scale has been the outcome of

activity based learning in M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce.

METHODOLOGY:

In order to write this research paper the researchers have basically utilized the secondary sources of data collection. This included various reports, College publications etc. Observation method is also used by the researchers to study the depth and impact of the activity based learning model.

The researchers have selected some of the high impact activities of the College, those were conducted during the last three years. Activity based learning model developed by M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce has been an embodiment of the following avenues.

1. COMMERCE ASSOCIATION:-

It acquaints the students with new developments in the field of commerce and to provide a gateway for their future growth and planning of career. In order to enrich students with practical knowledge, the Commerce Association organized several programmes which aims at improving the personality of students. It motivates the students by giving them comprehensive knowledge about the scope and necessity of various career options available in present scenario.

Activities conducted:

- Poster Competition
- Mad-Ads Competition
- Essay Competition
- PPT Competition
- Participation in intercollegiate Events
- Guest lecture on different issues
i.e., Role of Depositories in new economic era, Career Opportunities in Tourism Industry; Opportunities for commerce students.
- Quiz Competition

2. COMMERCE LABORATORY:-

The Commerce Laboratory at M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce was set up with the ultimate aim of enhancing the quality of students

on a sustained basis. It undertakes activities to enrich curricular knowledge, inculcating the culture of research and development, increasing global competency, creating career awareness among the students, building market knowledge and creating a class of leadership.

The College provides internet facility to the students. Commerce Laboratory conducts group discussion regarding current issues.

Highlights of activities which are conducted in Commerce Laboratory:

Today's Special: Today's Special is one of the precious and popular activities conducted by Commerce laboratory. The main aim of this activity is to create awareness among the students regarding various fields such as accounting and banking, stock market, economic affairs etc. Various sectors are considered under this theme with an aim to make the students of the recent trends in the following areas.

Monday : Accounting and Banking

Tuesday : Economic Affairs

Wednesday : Management Thinkers & Economists

Thursday: Sectorial Information

Friday : Recent Trends in Commerce

Saturday : Stock Market

WAY 2 SMS.com: Each and every today's special article is not only displayed regularly but also SMS are sent by using WAY 2 SMS.Com website across 400 members. Apart from this SMS are sent to 40

faculty members.

Management Thoughts: Commerce Lab started to send Management Thoughts to the members,

Faculty and Management Members through way 2 SMS. Com

House of Forms: The students have collected various forms from various sectors like PAN card forms,

Bank Account Opening forms. D-Mat Account forms, Income Tax Return form. These forms are provided to anyone who requires.

Annual Reports: Commerce Lab has collected various annual reports which are useful for students.

The students made ratio analysis of various annual reports.

Contribution in GIST: Commerce Laboratory students participated in GIST as active volunteers, which was on 26th & 27th December 2010. This International seminar was held on water conservation

in the College.

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Contribution in BBA Seminar: The College conducted the 2 days state level seminar on 21st & 22nd

January 2011 regarding HRM. The students of Commerce Laboratory performed a role of volunteers in that seminar.

Research Survey: The students conducted a research survey on "Knowledge of Politics among the Students".

Updating of Posters: Every 15 days Commerce Laboratory updates the posters, which helps to improve the knowledge of students.

Commerce Olympiad 2011: M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce & DCRC Pune Jointly Organized

Commerce Olympiad 2011. This was the first kind of multitalented hunt for Commerce students. The

event received a spontaneous response from the student's fraternity from Commerce Colleges in the

city. Eighteen Colleges participated for various activities. Overall four activities were carried out within

two days. For Business Aptitude, Leadership Skills and Communication Skills a written test was conducted for elimination round. Four teams faced the final round. The PPT presentation competition

also received an overwhelming response. Eminent Commerce teachers from the topmost Colleges in

Pune judged various events.

Academic Study Tour: The visit was organized to National Stock Exchange and SEBI, Mumbai, in which 35 students and five staff members participated.

3. ENTREPRENEURSHIP CELL:-

The main object of this cell is to promote entrepreneurial awareness among the students, conduct high impact entrepreneurship programme on campus, and develop entrepreneurial spirit among the students and to create the entrepreneurs through mentoring, training, networking and funding support.

Activities conducted:

Business Plan workshop.

Creativity workshop.

Celebration of Business Day

Samarth Gram Yatra : Farmers and students tour to Agri Tourism Centre, Neral.

Motivational Talk and presentation Competition.

Intercollegiate ideas for India Contest.

Poster Competition.

Treasure Hunt : Based on the quest to entrepreneurship.

Panel Discussion : on Right time to start the Business.

Business Fair

Paper Quelling Workshop : To convert hobby into money making activity.

Business Plan, Business idea contest and case study presentation competition. In the memory of Padmabhushan Late Shree Abasaheb Garware, Business Day is celebrated on 21st Dec. every year. On

this Occasion two days Business Fair was organized.

4. ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION:-

Economics Association endeavours to encourage students to think about current economic issues. Economics Association has been formed to develop interest of students in economics and to create awareness regarding current economic issues. The activities of Economic Association are designed to encourage students to think about current economic issues.

The main activities were:-

Presentation Competitions on the occasion of world population Day on Impact of Population explosion

on Economic Development. Decline in Sex Ratio of Population, Challenges of increasing Population,

Rupee Symbol, Industrial Development and River Pollution, U.S. Recession and its impact on emerging

economies, Farmers suicides – Causes and Cure.

Weekly Display of Wall Paper.

Essay Competition.

Poster Exhibition Completion.

5. LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION:-

Language Association helps the students to overcome their stage fear and shyness in communication and to enhance student's presentation skills & proficiency in English as well as Marathi. English Association and Sahitya Charcha Mandal organized various activities under the common banner called, 'Language Association'. GCC believes that this will strengthen the bond between these two languages in particular and imbibe the importance of linguistic competency on the minds of the students in general. Language Association organized following various activities :

Newsmakers Competition: The Newspaper making Competition was conducted in order to acquaint the

students with the structure of a newspaper. 12 groups prepared their own newspapers complete with

front page, editorial page, sports page, Business News etc.

Skit Competition: This Competition sought to enhance the Script-creation and presentation skills among

the Students.

An essay Competition.

Story Completion Competition

Wall-Paper Magazines.

Communique: It is the English wall paper Magazine of GCC.

Ninad : Ninad is the Marathi Wall-Paper Magazine of GCC.

Arranged guest lecture on Nivedan Kshetratil Sandhi (Career Option in Compering)

Diagnostic Tests: In Order to test the students level of proficiency in English, this test was conducted.

Elocution Competition

Script Writing Competition

6. SOFT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CELL:

It undertakes various sessions to improve communication skills, stage confidence and English language competence among students. This cell conducted mock Interviews and invited reputed experts in various fields as well as the soft skills development as resource persons. The topics for soft skills development programme were Seven Habits of Highly effective people, Developing Creatively, CV writing, Case studies about communication skills, Enriching Communication in English, Interview Techniques, Non verbal Communication, Effective Speaking & Presentation Skills etc.

7. SHREELEKHA:

Shreelekha is the annual magazine of the college. It provides a forum to students for creative and analytical writing. The magazine comprises of the students articles, photographs and reports of various events throughout the year. It also documents the achievements of the students and teachers in the College. It is thus a faithful reflection of the psyche, dreams and aspirations of the young Garwaris. The academic year 2010-11 was specially devoted to the theme 'Mother Nature' or Nisarga Raja. All the articles of the students thus deal with the different aspects of the theme.

8. NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME:

It aims at personality development through community service. Every year, as a tradition of our college, a special winter camp is organized with the help of Pune University. The objectives of the camp were village research and village Development. Guest lectures on Gender Equality, Disaster Management, Girl Infanticide, Agriculture and Technology, Value Education etc. were conducted in the camp.

9. NATIONAL CADET CORPS:

National Cadet Corps develops the attitude "Our Blood Is for the Nation" among the college Students. Every year various camps are held at International level, National level and state level. NCC cadets participate in them with full enthusiasm. Recently, the students participated in following various camps and shown their best performance by way of winning various medals and prizes.

Annual Training Camps.

National Integration Camp (West Bengal)

Army Attachment Camp.

Thal Sainik Camp.

Republic Day Camp – New Delhi.

Malvankar Shooting Camp.

Every year, NCC organizes trek to the historical forts and places to create awareness and belongingness about our rich history and nature.

10. DEBATE ASSOCIATION:-

It develops public speaking skills and the habit of independent thinking among the students. Every year, the college organizes debate competitions and encourages students to participate in inter collegiate competitions.

11. RASIK MANDAL:-

The Rasik Mandal organized different competitions in association with the Dramatics Association under the title Avishkar. Students enthusiastically participated in these competitions and enjoyed them. Drawing, Mehendi, Singing, Rangoli, Handwriting, Dance Competition were organized by this department.

12. DRAMATICS ASSOCIATION:-

Dramatics Association provides opportunity to students inclined towards dramatics and stimulates personality development and communication skills of students through dramatic activities. The students participated in Raj Karandak, Purushottam Karandak, Suman Karandak, Sakal Karandak, Avishkar Competition, Sawai Maha Karandak, etc.

13. YOUTH RED CROSS:-

It inculcates the spirit of friendship, health and service among students. Youth Red Cross conducted various activities as per direction of Indian Red Cross Society, Pune District Branch, Pune.

Activities conducted:

1. Youth Peer Education Programme.
2. Elocution Competition
3. Poster Making Competition

14. EXTRA MURAL BOARD:-

Extra Mural Board creates a sense of social responsibility among the students. Extra Mural Board was established to create rapport of College with community and to sensitize students regarding their social responsibilities. Extra Mural Board arranged guest lecture on different topics. i.e. Shikshan Sanskar and Vidgyan, Bank transactions and Role of Consumer etc. The NAAC peer team has appreciated the contribution of Extra Mural Board.

15. EARN AND LEARN SCHEME:-

This scheme helps the students in achieving financial self sufficiency without sacrificing further studies. This scheme was introduced in the college with an objective to acquaint students with College and administrative procedures and to provide them a financial support while pursuing their college education. All the students worked hard and participated enthusiastically during NAAC Visit also.

Summary:

It must be stated that above activities were conducted in the last three years as per the well thought academic calendar. Utmost care has been taken by the teaching faculty in engineering every academic activity to enhance students active participation to the larger extent. NAAC Peer Team has appreciated the efforts of the College in the domain of activity based learning. It has also said that the College has potentials to get status of College with Potentials for Excellence (CPE) from the UGC.

In nutshell, it can be said that the College bagged 'A' grade, CGPA 3.39 on 4 point scale, due to the activity based learning model and democratic and participative style of governance.

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