**Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar**
**AQAR 2019-20**
**Best Practice 1**

**1. Title of the Practice**

**Enhancing Intelligent, Emotional, Spiritual, Humanitarian Quotients through Endowment Funded Chairs**

2. **Objectives of the Practice**
- To conduct programmes and activities as a part of social responsibilities by the university covering the areas other than regular academic activities
- To invite eminent persons for lectures and talks and organise competitions on various topics covering the areas of life and achievements of well-known leaders of eminence such as Sardar Patel, Sri Aurobindo, Shri Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi
- To bring out the latent talent of critical thinking and understanding of contributions of public leader

3. **The Context**
The university runs nine different academic chairs that cover various areas targeting holistic understanding, capacity and personality development and inculcation of spiritual values among the students, academic fraternity and community. The total endowment fund received is Rs 50,00,000/-
1. Union Bank Chair in Management (Erstwhile Corporation Bank Chair in Management (MBA)
2. Bhaikaka Adhyayan Akem Prakalp (Chair)
3. Shri Aurbindo Chair of Integral Studies
4. Dr. BabaSaheb Ambedkar Adhyayan Akem Prakalp (Chair)
5. Pu. Shri Mota Chair of Extension of Educational Thinking
6. Charutar Vidya Mandal Centre for Gandhian Studies
7. Sardar Patel Adhyayan Akem Prakap (Chair)
8. Devangbhai Ipcowala Chair of Charotar Studies
9. Late Prof Manubhai Shah Chair

4. **The Practice**
To carry out the defined objectives, each chair is assigned to a professor as a full-time activity. The chairs are created by endowment funds sponsored by government, private trusts and individual donors. The in-charge chairpersons chalk out the programmes,

activities and try their best to conduct various activities to develop intellectual, emotional, spiritual quotient within the crowded academic calendars.

The university administration wing gives logistic support to the activity.

## 5. **Evidence of Success**
Over the years, various activities like invited talks, seminars/webinars, workshops, study tours, street plays, exhibitions, competitions (quiz, essay writing, poster making, story writing etc), walkathon, community outreach programmes, awareness programmes have been conducted. These activities have been received well by the students, teachers and community alike. Their interest and enthusiastic participation show that the intended objectives are met.

## 6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**
The academic calendar is already crowded with many curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Thus, organising various activities under the chair poses a challenge in terms of time. Another challenge, sometimes, is the lack of administrative staff to carry out the clerical job.

## 7. **Notes (Optional)**

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**Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar**
**AQAR 2019-20**
**Best Practice 2 (19-20)**

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1. **Title of the Practice**

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**Tackling Covid-19 Impact : Design of Specific Measures and Their Implementation**

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2. **Objectives of the Practice**
   - To balance the upset caused by the unforeseen circumstances in academia and allied activities
   - To take calculated measures and implement them to respond to the situation and address various challenges effectively

3. **The Context**
In wake of the unforeseen situation, specific measures were required to be taken in conducting the theory and practical classes in the post lock-down period. While strictly adhering to covid-19 guidelines issued by the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat from time to time, it was to be ensured that all (teachers, students, administrative staff) feel comfortable and safe in the new normal, accept the challenges and adapt to the situation and perform their roles effectively and safely on and off the campus.

These practices aimed to busy the students with productive activities and save their academic year.

4. **The Practice**
The university tried to tackle the pandemic situation on all the fronts utilising all the resources.

**Teaching Activities:** Blended learning mode was used to cover the syllabus and conduct activities as a part of continuous evaluation. The off-line practical sessions were conducted by increasing the number of batches and sessions per day. Several departments conducted webinar, competitions and created YouTube channels for academic and awareness purposes.

**Internal and End-Semester Examinations:** Multiple modes were explored and practiced to ensure timely completion of the evaluation process. Phase-wise off-line exams (UG, PG) were conducted. For off-line exams, the students were provided free

lodging facilities to the examinees (632) irrespective of the institutions they belong to by the university in various university hostels and break-fast, lunch and dinner was arranged by all within the hostels at a concessional rate. The online examinations were conducted through multiple platforms  (google meet, google form, in-house developed and outsourced software assisted assessment) and multiple formats (Objective Format, Objective and Descriptive Format etc.)

The MCA Department developed an Online Exam Software and successfully conducted exams of various semesters of MCA, MSc (IT), PGDCA and a total of 378 students benefited by taking the online exam from the comfort of home and staying safe.

**Admission Process:** Online centralised admission process was followed for the academic year 2020-21. The process began on 14 September and the first phase of the admission was over by 30 September 2020.

**Innovations & Research:**  The Department of Chemistry contributed to the production of locally formulated sanitizer. The Department of Electronics and Physics came up with locally fabricated sanitizer dispensers.

**Community Outreach:** Local community was helped through Community Radio Station, Community Science Centre and the University Health Centre.

Community Radio Centre regularly broadcast programmes related to Covid-19 and released posters to spread awareness.

Community Science Centre organised almost 65 different activities like awareness drive, webinars, poster presentations, distribution of face-shields and sanitizers to security personnel and Class IV employees of the university, guiding students in developing a low cost rechargeable sanitizer dispenser machine as well as e-competitions.

The University Health Centre ensured the complete sanitisation of university offices and departments with the help of cleaning staff throughout the pandemic and post-lock down period. For Offline exam conduction guidelines were issued and continuous monitoring was done to minimize the risk of covid infection. Periodic Rapid antigen testing of university staff was also carried out to detect asymptomatic carriers.

Faculty members of the Department of Psychology also contributed to the mental well-being through counselling as and when required.

**Publication:** The university thought of bringing out a publication of a collection of multi-lingual articles authored by the faculty members covering the various aspects of impact of covid-19.

5. **Evidence of Success**

**Teaching Activities:** The teachers and the students became well-versed with the educational technology (E-content development, Google Classroom, Microsoft Team, Google Form, Kahoot, You-Tube Channel (creation and uploading content) etc. In the Covid Awareness Quiz conducted by the Department of Economics in collaboration with UGC attracted more than 11,000 participants.

**Internal and End-Semester Examination:** The university could conduct 45, 25 and 31 end-semester examinations in the month of July, August and September respectively in online and offline mode to benefit about 40,000 students (UG, PG, External Course).

**Admission Process:** Most of the admission process was completed without making students visit the campus physically often. The academic sessions (UG, PG) started in September 2020.

**Community Outreach:** 64 Radio Talks related to Covid were broadcast in association with UNESCO. Various activities are planned to utilise the fund (Rs 30,000) received from SMART, a Delhi based NGO by the Community Radio Station regularly.

Community Science Centre attracted an overwhelming response for various e-activities/competitions organised by them - Drawing Competition (255 entries), Points to Ponder for Life Style Modification (41 entries), National Nutrition Week Celebration through a webinar (90 participants). In addition to this, the distribution of face-shields, masks, hand-sanitiser, soap-strips etc made at the centre was done along with 120 sanitizer kits which were distributed among Class IV employees.

Approximately 1000 students received 'Shamshamni Vati' for free. Almost 80 people took the benefit of free Homeopathic medicine. Ayurvedic kwath was also provided to the university staff and students and other visitors to the university.

Once there were some relaxations in the lock-down, 5 September 2020 onwards yoga sessions were started at Sanskar Balwadi located in the University Staff Colony.

Some faculty members uploaded video lectures of the course content and awareness videos on YouTube.

**Publication:** A total of 43 articles (32 English, 04 Hindi, 07 Gujarati) giving a multi-disciplinary academic perspective of covid-19 impact have been received and the same are being considered for publication.

The university plans to create RT-PCR Centre and get the necessary approval from the national and state agencies within the campus.

Visionary leadership, strategic planning and commitment of the stake-holders saved the precious time that was lost due to lock-down and all the planned activities for the academic years 19-20 and 20-21 were completed in time - **the only university in Gujarat to do so.**

## 6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**
Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).
A.      Limitations of internet band width on both sides
B.      Lack of pre-licensed online platform for teaching and counseling session
C.      Unavailability of the central audio-visual recording facility for recording lectures and uploading them for online access by the students
D.      Restriction of the movement of people and lack of person to person interaction

## 7. **Notes (Optional)**