



7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual

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PRINCIPAL
Kamataka College of Pharmacy
Hegde Nagar Main Road
Bangalore - 560 064



7.2.1 Best Practice I

1. Title of the Practice

Student and Faculty Exchange Program

2. Objectives of the Practice

The Karnataka College of Pharmacy [KCP] is constantly working towards internationalizing the domain of pharmacy education. KCP has a vision to impart the quality pharmacy education and has a will to share or receive the best practices globally.

- The main objective of this program is to outline the college activities, promote international education, and interdisciplinary collaborative activities in the field of pharmacy.
- This program aims to formulate and design different aspects of the health care system such as training and work in the multi cultural teams for students and faculties in India, as well as abroad.
- This program is also aims to explore the various linguistic and cultural practices followed.

The student exchange program thus is helpful in inculcating the overall development and interests of the faculty and students.

3. The Context

The most important reason to inculcate this practice is to ensure that wholesome education is provided to the faculty and students. As our curriculum and syllabus is designed more of theoretical aspects of the course, thus it is important to have programs like student exchange that provides a broader insight into the practical aspects of pharmacy. The syllabus caters to the Indian healthcare system specifically in regards to the practice of pharmacy profession. The exchange program will bridge the gap currently existing in the overall development and application of theoretical knowledge. Exposure to global healthcare systems through collaborations with different Universities will help to




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provide a better transition even in terms of careers abroad. KCP strives to fill this void by educating the students from the formative years on the various healthcare systems of the world.

4. The Practice

The higher education system in India is one of the largest systems of its kind in the world. However, the system has many issues pertaining to quality of higher education together with the assessment of institutions and their accreditation. The Universities have to execute multiple roles, through challenging teaching, research, extension activities and affiliated college has to play significant role in this regard.

The Student and Faculty Exchange Program can be a best practice to achieve excellence in providing quality education and training in all aspects of pharmacy field. The pattern of pharmacy practice, regulatory aspects and pharmacist skills varies from country to country. In this current scenario, it is prominent to equip the students to face the global challenges. It opens up a big opportunity to explore in the research domain and further education. At multiple cultural environments, this program is able to develop the student's psycho social behavior. The Department of Pharmacy Practice at KCP in association with the University of Findlay, Ohio, USA has been behind this program since for the last seven years. Few students and faculty members have visited multiple community pharmacy outlets and understood the drug dispensing system in the USA. They were also trained at Wyandot Memorial Hospital, Coumadin Clinic and Blanchard Valley Medical Associates.

The students also acquired presentation skills by conducting case discussions and participating in the journal club, drug expert and seminars. Good number of students and professors from University of Findlay has visited our Pharmacy Practice Department at BBH for internship rotations in community areas around Bangalore and medicine wards of BBH. They also actively involved in community outreach programs conducted periodically at both Urban and centers providing free medical services, free check-ups and consultation to the poor and needy. Various conferences such as INR optimization and Pharmaceutical Care in Tuberculosis were conducted during the visit. KCP




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students gained a lot with them in terms of group discussions, knowledge exchange and fruitful interactions.

The main constraint of the program is, it cannot enroll all students who are interested due to limited accommodation in the partner university. Affiliated university does not have any mandatory obligations or credit points to obtain for the student from the foreign universities. Even though, the student wish to do the internship of one year in foreign university under this program, the regulatory bodies allows only three months outside the parent hospital.

5. Evidence of Success

The success of the student exchange program can be seen in their self confidence and their job placements in reputed organizations. The skills acquired during the program have highly influenced to excel during the process of the employment. Two of our students have even pursued MBA degrees at Findlay to learn about the untold and often undisclosed side of health care, which is financial support in terms of prescribed pharmaceutical care. Our students are placed with international organization around the globe especially in Australia, Ireland, and Canada etc. The beneficiaries of this program were able to share their experience with their colleagues to make them follow for the same for betterment of pharmacy practice.

The function of pharmacy graduates is not just to monitor medication errors or ADR monitoring, but also to interact with patients to determine the best possible treatments. The exchange program students are actively involved in the quality department and also in Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Patient counseling, education, medication reconciliation is just few of the other activities that they can be involved with, which are now implemented at BBH. The acceptance of the Pharm D students at BBH is greatly benefitted from this program.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

All the programs are self financed. The selected candidates faced problems to generate the required amount additionally towards this program in terms of travel expenses and accommodation. However, the institute supported them and also insisted the partner university to provide the facilities




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at subsidized rate. The financial resources can be mobilized by the support of institute management trustees, NGOs and the university. The candidates encountered difficulty in obtaining an international visa and some of the aspirants could not get the visa in spite of producing all relevant documents. One of the reasons could be facing the interview in the Embassy Consulate; this can be avoided by training them and conducting mock interviews. In recent times, the issue faced was the COVID-19 pandemic. The constraints due to the pandemic have now been lifted, following which new batch of students is in line and preparing for the program.

7. Notes

In November 2022, three of our students are in process of making utilize this program. We are looking forward to tie up with many more reputed foreign universities across the globe. An appeal was done to the university to inculcate this program and requested to implement the following points

- To encourage this kind of exchange programs in other institutes as well.
- To allot additional credit points for the students who have involved in such student exchange programs
- To provide some travel funds.




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7.2.1 Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice

Undergraduate Student Research Program

2. Objectives of the Practice

Research is one of the thrust areas of Karnataka College of Pharmacy. The college has a vision to inculcate research as the cornerstone of Pharmacy Education. The post graduates will have ample opportunities to involve in the research and have the required facilities as a part of their curriculum. To be competitive in the current dynamic research field, we have to create a research environment proactively at undergraduate level itself

- To create a research friendly environment and to promote participative learning which provides an opportunity for students to employ lateral thinking
- To encourage and assist undergraduate students in writing research proposals to apply for various funding agencies
- To improve the reading skills, understanding and interpretation of the scientific journals
- To create zeal in students to pursue PG courses and Ph. D
- To obtain as many as UG research grants offered from the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences every academic year, by submitting innovative proposals

3. The Context

The domain of research field requires critical and analytical thinking, time management skills, good subject knowledge, patience, and a good understanding of the scientific vocabulary. Since research and research writing are not given much importance in the UG university syllabus, students lack knowledge on the process of conducting research. Students also have a jam-packed academic schedule which doesn't give them the time to make research writing a priority. The most common




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challenge that is seen in the participation and submission of the research proposal is the selection of the topic and the protocol writing. The UG research program as a best practice significantly helps to overcome these issues. As a part of this program, the institution conducts seminars, certificate courses, conferences, and special classes for UG students to get basic knowledge in research writing, sample designing, result analysis and apply for various sources of research grant. This program evidently generated interest in large number of students.

4. The Practice

The research activities and the quality of research in higher education in India are not at par with most International Universities. One of the important reasons is that the education system in India from schooling to the undergraduate does not give any opportunity to explore research work. To meet this challenge, the practice of Undergraduate Student Research program is considered as a best way of approach. This program identifies the challenges and inculcates the required skill sets in the UG students which are primarily contribute for success in the research and pursue higher education in the research. Through this unique program, the UG students motivated to participate in the research related activities and get trained in writing innovative research proposals to get the grant from various funding agencies especially from the Rajiv Gandhi University, which initiated UG grants from the academic year 2019-20.

All proposals and research that have been undertaken by the students, explore the various facets of pharmaceutical care. Every student carries the research work under the qualified research guide which enables them to share their ideas and learn from their experiences. The UG research students have a chance to interact with the post graduate students as they share the research laboratories which helps them in exchange of the knowledge and also enhances the interpersonal skills.

The UG research program instills confidence and provides the student with hands on experience in research. The process of writing protocol, referencing articles, and employing statistical analysis is beneficial to personality development. A thorough understanding of medical jargon is obtained while collating and relating the information to professional practice and helps develop necessary computer skills. Contributing to research keeps the students up to date on the recent developments in the field




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of pharmacy and leads to continuous professional development. Undergraduate research is also advantageous for students who wish to pursue a career in the field of research. The UG grant program also provides a deep insight into article writing and journal publication. Development of skills such as indexing and analyzing can be gained from the process of publication.

The limitation of this program is the non availability of the research fund and the preparedness of students to join the program. The facility of UG research grant from the university is a great motivation. Availability of the infrastructure is a major concern; since this institute offer PG courses, the required facilities are provided to run the UG research program effectively

5. Evidence of Success

The implementation of this practice has created a huge interest and consciousness in UG students towards the research. The success is witnessed with the active participation of the students in the research related activities such as seminars, certificate course, conferences etc. The students involved in the program started using library hours effectively, the reading and understanding of the scientific data has improved. After the implementation of this program, a good number of students came forward to involve in the research and many proposals were submitted to the Institutional Research Committee for scrutiny.

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences offers around forty UG research grants for the pharmacy faculty every year for entire colleges in the state. Since the inception of UG grants by the RGUHS from the academic year 2019-20, students trained under this program have received the grants consistently. In the academic year 2019-20 seven students; in 2020-21 four students and in 2021-22 five students got the undergraduate research grants. This proves the effectiveness of the program. Around three international publications and multiple paper presentations have been done. Most of the students trained in this program have continued to pursue higher studies and few are well placed in the national research projects.




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6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Considering the in depth of work in doing research, the grant offered by the university is not sufficient. Some of the analytical test needs sophisticated instrumentation and thus has to be outsourced. However, the institute has contributed in terms of chemicals and consumables. Research funds can be mobilized by institute management trustees and by approaching alumni. The public or private research organizations can be approached for the possibilities of getting at subsidized rate or free of cost for the work that needs outsource equipments.

The problem encountered during implementation is mainly the lack of time. The students faced difficulty to have dedicated time for the research work, due to semester system and continuous academic activities, hence, the students worked extra time and even in some public holidays. The time constraints can be overcome by utilizing regular laboratory time and practice school hours in the academic program for research work as well.

7. Notes

We are convinced that this program is very much useful to all the UG students and every institute has to implement this best practice. Being an affiliated college, we have less freedom to make mandatory this program for every student; hence an appeal was made to the RGUHS with the following points to consider.

- To make the program effective, the practice school of the seventh semester can be utilized and make the students to focus on the research
- The restriction of maximum of five applications from each institute to get the UG grants has to be removed
- To increase the number of UG grants for each faculty and the amount per project
- To insist all the affiliated institutes to involve UG students in such research program




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