



Academic Initiatives

Academic Initiatives for Students

SNDT Women's University introduced many new academic initiatives from the year 2011-12. Many of these initiatives like Vidyarthini Sahitya Sammelan (Student Literary Festival), Internship, Research at Masters level were started in the year 2013-14. Many new initiatives were introduced in the year 2014-15. They are presented below.

This section also presents Best practices of the departments and colleges which are used and proven for their effectiveness.

1. Internship

In the year 2012-13, SNDT Women's University introduced Internship as a component in the Curricula of all post graduate programmes. The students of 2012-14 batch did their Internship during the fourth semester of their Master programme (Jan-May 2014). This year the students from 28 departments and 8 conducted colleges on three campuses did their internship at 826 agencies/organizations. The classification of these agencies is presented in Appendix F.

For the Academic year 2014-15, 1192 students successfully completed their Internship in various organizations. The Internal and External referees, research/project titles etc. are approved by 32(5)(a) committee constituted as per Maharashtra Universities Act 1994.

Introduction of Internship under all Masters programmes have given an opportunity to students to observe the world of work closely and also introspect about her own skills and attitude as well as knowledge base required to work in an organization. Some students got the stipend for the internship; some students got offers and got absorbed in the organization after getting the degree. Many students did their internship in the same city where they lived but some did it in another city and some more outside the country as well.

2. Subject Associations

This year it was proposed to establish Subject Associations in every post graduate department/institute. Main purpose of establishing Subject Associations was to bring together students studying that subject in the post graduate department and affiliated colleges where this subject is taught and learn more about it in informal way. Second purpose was to develop leadership qualities in students through various activities of the Associations. These associations conducted several activities/programmes in their respective subject areas. Teachers in the department guided the students in organizing these programmes.

During the year 45 Subject Associations were established. Programmes/activities were organized through these Associations. Two major programmes were Vidyarthini Sahitya Sammelan on Churchgate and Pune campuses, and Student Led Conferences on Churchgate, Juhu and Pune campuses. There were many other activities organized by the Subject Associations such as Workshops, Visits, Lecture by eminent experts in the field, film screening and discussion etc.

Academic Initiatives

3. Student-Led Conferences

Student led Conference was a new concept introduced from the year 2014-15. This year post graduate departments on each campus came together to help students organize Student-led conferences. Each department had established Subject Association during the year 2014-15 and these conferences were organized as part of programme of Subject Associations. More than 1700 students and 300 teachers participated in these 3 conferences and about 200 students presented their papers.

Title	Dates	No of Participants	Campus
Social Media for GenNext	February 13-14, 2015	600	Churchgate
21 st century higher education: Looking ahead	March 10-11, 2015	677	Juhu
Smart GenNext: Opportunities and Challenges	March 13-14, 2015	435	Pune

The Conference at the Churchgate campus was inaugurated by noted journalist Shri. Sudhindra Kulkarni. Dr. Mohan Agashe noted stage and film actor and renowned Psychiatrist was the Chief Guest for Valedictory Session.

The Conference organised by the students of Juhu campus was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Chancellor and Governor of Maharashtra Shri. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao**. He also launched Virtual Private Network (VPN) created by SNDTWU called Maharshi VPN and Intranet Portal called Susamvad at this occasion.

Dr. Ishwar Desai, Former Head, Unit for Disability Studies and Integration, Department of Learning and Educational Development, University of Melbourne, Australia was the Chief Guest for Valedictory session.

Conference on Pune campus was inaugurated by Dr. Deepak Shikarpur and Dr. Mohan Agashe was the Chief Guest for Valedictory Session.

It is planned to publish selected papers presented in these conferences as Conference Proceedings on the university website.

4. Intensive training in Business Communication and Soft Skills

Janki Devi Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JDBIMS) offers intensive training in Business Communication and Soft Skills, as a non-credit-compulsory course spread out during the first two semesters of various Masters programmes, comprising of written, oral communication and presentation skills, soft skills, grooming, health and wellness.

The rigorous training in business communication is geared towards strengthening the skills required and expected in the Industry from a woman professional. The programme seeks to groom students to develop the right mix of skills needed to manage people, crises and groups.

The objective of the programme is to enable the student to develop the skills through rigorous group discussions; assertiveness training; exposure to a variety of professional interview scenarios through mock interview rounds; basic training in voice modulation and body language; and enhancing report writing and presentation abilities through various practice modules.

The focus on developing effective reading skills through regular newspaper reading exercises enables the student to develop general awareness, confidence and the interest to keep abreast with the current affairs.

Academic Initiatives

5. Mentorship Programme in JDBIMS (2012-2015)

Janki Devi Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JDBIMS) considers mentoring as both professional and personal (grooming) preparation for corporate life with the guidance of an elder and accomplished professional. The objective is to inculcate a winner's attitude and cultivate good personal and professional practices.

When a student leaves JDBIMS, she should feel confident and equipped enough to meet the various challenges that may come her way as she moves on in life no matter what background she comes from when she enters JDBIMS. The time in JDBIMS should become an enabler.

In view of this the Institute identified fifteen distinguished experts from various areas as mentors and started the mentorship programme on February 1, 2013. Every student of JDBIMS presently has a mentor. Students have been regularly interacting with their respective mentors and have found the experience very enriching. One mentor continues for two academic years with the same student.

