



## Best Practices of SNDTWU

There are many practices followed by SNDT WU which are bringing much value to the learning experiences of our students. We can classify our best practices under two categories:

### 1. Teaching Learning for 21st Century Collaborations with organizations

Various departments in the university have collaborations with organizations and industry. The collaborations are mutually beneficial. The faculty is involved in facilitating the training of personnel in industry. Resource material development is another collaborative activity undertaken by the departments. The industry provides the students opportunities for field placement and internship. The industry personnel mentor the interns and provide them with real-life learning opportunities. In addition, other outreach and extension activities are done collaboratively. Continuous skill enrichment workshops are conducted. SNDT Women's University empowers young women for the world of tomorrow. Apart from inviting experts to conduct lectures for the students, many workshops that help in skill acquisition and development are planned. These are done on a regular and continuous basis to enhance the discipline specific skills of the students. The experts from the state, country and outside the country train the students. Internship experience in varied setups – Internships for the post graduate students is a key feature of the programs offered by SNDT Women's University. This is applicable across all disciplines – humanities, science and technology, interdisciplinary studies, commerce, law. The students choose the setup that they wish to intern in and the departments facilitate the placement and work out the modalities of the internship. Efforts are made to get stipend during the internships for the students. Conferences and seminars – Student learning and broadening of their views can happen not only when the students attend the lectures conducted by their faculty but also, when they get an opportunity to learn from the experts in the field. Departments organize conferences and seminars at regional, state, national and international levels and provide enriching learning opportunities for the students. The involvement of the students in the organization of the seminars and conferences is seen to build their confidence levels, communication skills, team work skills, and skills in handling stress effectively. Programs



that are sponsored by statutory bodies like the UGC, AICTE and Rehabilitation Council of India bring a wealth of knowledge to the faculty and students. Publication of department newsletter is another practice followed by many departments in the university. The newsletter includes articles contributed by experts in the field along with information about the activities undertaken by the department, the faculty and students. Additionally, information about any awards received by faculty, non-teaching staff and students is published in the newsletter. Campus placements are organized for the graduating students. This practice provides the industry and the students a common ground for interaction, communication of expectations and hiring opportunities. Student centered collaborative teaching learning practices are used by departments. Apart from lecture-based teaching, cooperative learning is encouraged. Use of Moodle, and other technology-based platforms is rather common. Flipped classrooms, discussions to generate collective wisdom, student-directed learning activities are employed in many departments. Maintaining e-portfolios, reflective journals, conducting gallery walk, case discussions are also seen. Field visits as an active learning method is used. The use of these student centric active learning methods increase student involvement, student engagement and learning motivation in students. Formative evaluation of student learning is done not only through paper pencil tests. Methods like evaluation of the student developed products is done. The products include awareness and information brochures, assessment tests for identifying learning needs, and intervention material. Rubrics are provided to students so that they can engage in peer evaluations. The students give constructive feedback to their peers to improve their learning. Open book test is another formative evaluation technique used.





## 2. Utkrusht Shikshak Puraskaar

SNDTWU in its current state is a reflection of the vision of the founding father of SNDT Women's University, the intrepid social reformer, Maharshi Karve and the epitome of courage and resilience Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule. Both Maharshi Karve and Savitribai Phule themselves were teachers par excellence who during their live time took upon themselves the revolutionary challenge of spreading the flame of knowledge and empowerment among women who had been marginalized by society because of their gender and their socio economic situation. The vision was to provide women with the desire to learn with a platform to consolidate on their knowledge, build on their core competencies and make a mark in society. Both Maharshi Karve and Savitribai Phule were patient trailblazing teachers whose commitment and efforts resulted in thousands of women empowering themselves with education and creating a niche for themselves in society. SNDTWU recognizes the role played by teachers in providing the necessary support to students and acting as enablers to help students gain confidence and empower them to face the challenges of their respective field. With the objective of recognizing the effort of such phenomenal teachers who carry forward the legacy of Maharshi Karve and Savitribai Phule, SNDTWU instituted the Utkrusht Shikshak Puruskar. The award recognizes the hard work and efforts of teachers who through their initiative, knowledge and innovated methods were able to bring about a difference in the lives of the students. This award is conferred on teachers who have adopted and incorporated innovative techniques to enhance the teaching learning process, contributed to their respective departments and colleges, contributed to the field of research through their contributions in the field of research and innovation and helped the students achieve their professional roles. This award is conferred every year during the Foundation Day celebration of the University. Application are invited from eligible teachers from the departments and affiliated colleges of the University. A committee comprising of senior academicians and the previous recipient of the Utkrusht Shishak is appointed by the honorable Vice-Chancellor. This committee scrutinizes the received application and thoroughly analyses each of the applications through the parameters set to finally decide on the recipient of the award. The winner of the award is elicited with a scroll of honor citing the phenomenal achievements and the contributions made by the recipient to the teaching-learning process and to the lives of the students. Since the



inception of the award, many faculty members have been conferred with the prestigious title of Utkrusht Shishak. These faculty members act as role models to their peers and juniors to inculcate more innovative methods and techniques in the teaching learning process. Aid the growth and development of the students and immerse themselves more in research and innovation which in turn would add value not only to the students but their respective departments and colleges, society and the nation.



**Outcomes:**

**Outcomes:**

- The industry feedback towards students graduating from SNDT WU is very positive. The feedback obtained from the companies and organizations which hire our students reflects the outcome of the efforts and initiatives taken by the University in providing hands on and skill based knowledge and training to its students. Our students are playing leading roles in the industry and academia.
- As the University believes in a spirit of research and innovation in it students, our students have been participating and winning in various research based seminars and conferences seminars at the state and national level. In the recently conducted State Level Research Program Avishkar, our students won fellowships worth Rs. 1,44,000 and the overall championship trophy in the Technology category
- Collaborations with universities to further the objectives of research and innovations is another key highlight of the University. International collaboration with Jonkoping University with the MOU in place went on to the next level with Faculty Exchange and collaborative research funded by Swedish Research Council. Two MOUs were also signed with Rutgers University USA- one by SVT College of Home Science and another by Department of Food Science and Nutrition.



- SNDTWU was the only University in Maharashtra to conduct centralized online examination in September and results were declared in October 2020. Due to pandemic the academic term of 2020-21 started from November 2020.
- SNDTWU opted for '*Coursera on Campus initiative*' to support students during the pandemic providing the Coursera courses free access to the students and teachers as a part of Coursera response to COVID-19 pandemic. The students and faculty members started enrolling from June 22, 2020 and by October 31, 2020 total 1446 learners had enrolled and as shown in the Figure-1 the completion peaked to 252 learners was during the week of September 7, 2020 followed by 227 completions in August 31, 2020 week and 222 completions in September 21, 2020. The highest number of enrollments took place in July 6, 2020 week with 1277 new learners joining the programme. During the week of September 28, 2020 second highest number of new learners 945 enrolled the programme.