

Title of the Practice - Primary and Secondary Research Projects

Objectives of the Practice –

- i) To expose students to the idea of undertaking a research project
- ii) To hone their research skills and encourage them to undertake systematic research - both secondary and primary
- iii) To sensitize and expose the students to crucial developmental issues
- iv) To develop critical thinking
- v) To encourage students to work in groups and take advantage of peer learning
- vi) The research involves both desk and field research - and thus translates into experiential learning
- vii) To provide simulation to students - and this in turn prepares them for academic writing - report writing, and quantitative applications
- viii) To prepare the students for the job market \encourage the undergraduate students to apply research skills and methods to address a research question. These projects enable them to undertake research independently and demonstrate a capacity to communicate research results clearly, comprehensively and persuasively.

The Context - BSc students in their second year are required to carry out primary and secondary research projects in groups. These projects provide first-hand experience in conducting a detailed literature review, identifying a research problem, designing the appropriate methodology, data collection and data analysis. It also gives them a chance to present the study's findings. Each group is assigned with a faculty mentor, who supervises them from time to time over a period of 5-6 months.

The Practice – The Primary and Secondary Research projects enable the students to understand the issues in the field of social science, read the literature pertaining to the issue, identify the gaps in the literature and then work towards it to add something to the existing literature. This enriches the research and analytical skills of the students. This being a group project develops teamwork amongst the students to strive towards a common goal.

Evidence of Success – Over the past few years, students' project reports have been converted into research papers, presented in various Conferences, and published in Journals of repute. The main themes on which these research projects are carried out over the years is given below-

2014-15 - Cook Stoves

2015-16 - Smart City

2016-17 - Sustainable Development Goals

2017-18 - Waste Management in Pune City

2018-19 - MSMEs in Pune

2019-20 - Impact Evaluation of Corporate Interventions/ CSR in Pune

2020-21 - Covid 19 and the economy

2021-22 - Credit utilization and impact of credit on SHGs/MSMEs

Problems Encountered and Resources Required – Field exposure leads to experiential learning and in the last two years, due to COVID 19, students could not go on the ground to

collect Primary Data and resorted to Google Forms and telephonic interviews for primary data collection.