



Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's  
**Pravin Gandhi College of Law**

(5 Year Course)  
(Affiliated to University of Mumbai)

Mithibai College Campus, 8th Floor, Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056.

Tel. : +91 86551 43915 • Email : pgcloffice@pgcl.ac.in • Website : www.pgcl.ac.in



## 7.2.1: Best Practices

### **BEST PRACTICE: 1**

#### **Title of the practice**

Year-Round Skills Enhancement Session (YES)

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

- To equip students with practical training in law
- To impart training in soft skills
- To develop a well-rounded personality
- To supplement classroom learning
- To bridge the gap between theory and practice
- To inculcate a spirit of enquiry and inquisitiveness
- To make a significant contribution in law and to society
- To prepare them to become virtuous global citizens

#### **The Context**

In keeping with the vision and mission of holistic education, the HEI has introduced 'Skill Sessions' that are conducted on a weekly basis across all academic years. It includes hands-on training for upskilling the students involving industry experts and legal luminaries. The Institution believes that mere classroom teaching must be supplemented with practical training so

that students may excel in this highly competitive environment. The Institution also realizes that to truly stand out, our students must be given an opportunity to develop all their skills. The weekly skill sessions comprises of sessions that add to students' skills in a balanced manner, allowing them to explore, not only various aspects of legal practice, but also supplemental skills for complete development of their individual personalities.

## **The Practice**

As the Institution is affiliated to the University of Mumbai, there is no syllabus autonomy . However supplement and compliment the syllabus prescribed by the university , and to ensure the inclusion of certain essential lawyering and allied skills and knowledge, the Skill Sessions were introduced in the year 2009 . In order to add value, it was designed for all, classes , from first to fifth year and at the end of the semester ,on the basis of participation the students are given certificate of participation .i The scores are also built into the viva-voce exam for the students to increase accountability and seriousness of the students towards the skill sessions.

This kind of supplementation is unique to the Institution and has offered many benefits to the students; varied opportunities to explore multiple, traditional and upcoming areas of law practice, and they also receive platforms to enhance their communication skills.

To give an illustration of a skill session the following aspects are considered.

- The area of study of the student
- The kind of skill that may be imparted
- The level of difficulty of the skill session
- Current affairs.

## **The Method:**

- Every Friday of the week has been set aside by the Institution to conduct Skill Sessions for all students. There are two skill sessions per class per week. For illustration, a timetable is shared reproduced below:
- The principal allots a group of faculty to design skill sessions for each year. The teachers are appointed as per their area of teaching and expertise.
- The skill sessions are divided broadly into the following groups:

- Communication skills
  - Practical skills
  - Emotional well-being
  - Social awareness
- Once the skill session has been decided for the week, the faculty approach resource persons best suited to conduct that skill session. The resource persons are selected by the faculty, keeping in mind the area of expertise and knowledge. Preference is given to those who have on-field experience, such as advocates, social workers and licensed trainers.
  - Attendance is linked with the sessions to encourage participation.
  - At the end of the year, students are awarded a consolidated certificate for all skill sessions that have been attended by them.

## **Evidence of Success**

Students are able to engage with a variety of law subjects in addition to the areas covered in their syllabus. Traditionally, a student is expected to know their interest of law and then enroll for certification programs to enhance skill. For instance, a student interested in Trademark Law will first have to realize that their area of interest is in IP laws and then move on to specialization. The institution allows for all its student to explore the various laws and identify their area of interest. Students are then given ample opportunities to specialize in the course as well. Skill sessions act as an important primer to acquaint students with law.

They also enhance soft skills including communication, assertiveness and emotional intelligence. In this sense, it adds to their inclusive education, rather than merely focussing on employability. It enables the students obtain their full potential, whether or not it lies within the field of law.

Since skill sessions are part of the graded component of the Practical Training Paper, students are more invested in the activities.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

There are two problems encountered

1. Students may not be fully attentive or interested in some of the skill sessions since they feel it may not be of value for them.

2. Attendance is low for some sessions that students feel are not pure law subjects.
3. Since resource persons are outside the institution, it sometimes leads to last-moment cancellations.

How we overcome these shortcomings:

1. The Faculty tries to choose highly engaging resource persons, to encourage participation in class. Feedback is taken from the students, to identify loopholes.
2. We minimize last-moment cancellations by constantly following up with the resource person. In rare cases, when cancellations do happen, the faculty engages the skill session.

## **Notes**

Skill Sessions has been a part of the Institution's Best Practice since its inception. The principal and faculty have constantly upgraded and improved the practice by continually adding, removing and modifying the sessions. Utmost care is taken to involve resource persons who are interested and engaging while being experts in their respective fields.

## **BEST PRACTICE: 2**

**Title of the Practice:** Experiential Learning Programme

### **Objectives**

**The following are the objectives of the Programme**

- To enable the student to understand the practical applications of law in a working environment.
- To provide an opportunity to students to gain hand-on training in Court Craft and advocacy skills.
- To enable students to learn the art of drafting of pleadings and conveyancing and other court proceedings.
- To introduce the students to new and emerging areas of legal practice
- To help students select his preferred area of specialization
- To broaden the perspective of the students through an exposure to real life legal issues.
- To enhance skills such as; documentation and court etiquette which are required in the legal profession.
- To encourage students to undertake legal research.
- To teach the students organizational and research skills by learning directly from the mentor.
- To build a strong foundation of learning by doing.

### **Context:**

The legal profession is social science in action. It is essential that a good lawyer hones their practical skills and knows how the legal profession functions. However, with the current academic set-up it is difficult for students to intern while studying full-time. As a result, the ELP programme was devised. It has combined real-time learning with classroom teaching to produce well-rounded students who are ready to take on the legal field. The program focuses on imparting skills that enhance employability of the students. Experiential Learning Program is an integral and compulsory component of the final year students.

Some of the unique Features of the ELP Programme are:

- One-of a kind program.
- Advantage of being located in the Mumbai city ,the commercial city of india and a legal hub is effectively utilized
- All students benefit from the Programme.
- Students get an opportunity to explore various fields of law.
- It allows students to gain practical experience and professional challenges.
- Students are able to gauge professional expectations from their employers.

## **The Practice**

The Programme is conducted for the students of the final year (Semester IX and Semester X) for a duration of 8 weeks each. Even during the pandemic, the programme continued, wherein internships were provided online.

The process is as follows:

1. Registration: a form is circulated among 5th year students wherein they have to state preferences for internship- they can state there area of interest and specific places that they would like to apply.
2. Correspondence with industry experts: The Placement Cell communicates with industry experts and requests them to fill out a form.
3. Allotment of students: Students are allotted internships with firms according to their area of interests and preferences indicated in step 1.

4. **Weekly Reports:** After allotment there is regular follow up done through weekly reports. Each student is to fill a weekly report in the format provided by the Placement Cell. This report is to be e-mailed to the Placement Cell.. To incentivize good reporting, an award is presented to the student with the best ELP Report.
5. **Final Report:** A final report is filed by the students at the end of each semester. The faculty members of the Placement Cell evaluate this. This report is also part of the external viva voce on which students are graded.
6. **Feedback:** A Feedback is taken from both the students and the industry experts at the time of filing the final report. This feedback is then analyzed by the Placement Cell /
7. **Evaluation:** The Faculties-in-charge of the placement cell do Evaluation. Subsequently, external examiners are called to conduct a viva voce examination. Questions are based on the ELP Reports filed by the student. This enables the institution to gauge the learning by student and the efficacy of the Program.

## **Outcomes:**

- Pre-Placement Offers
- Assessment Internships
- Practical experience
- Exposure to experts in the field
- Helps the Placement Cell identify upcoming areas of law
- Helps students understand their area of interest.

## **Evidence of Success**

The ELP has been very successful in both its reception by the students and its implementation. The continuous internship programme has helped increase the visibility of the students and the institution among the legal fraternity. The efforts of the faculty and staff and the brilliance of the students shows through this programme. This enhanced prominence has caused a cascading effect of better pay packages, more offers for placements and internships and better learning of the law. It has also resulted in more pre-placement offers made to the students, thus improving Industry presence and enhanced pay packages for our graduates. The recruiters identify

students of PGCL as one of the finest in the field and thereby the ELP has enhanced the overall employability of the students.

In addition, student's grasp over practical aspects of law has improved. It has resulted in better drafting skills, an ability to deal with clients in the real works and thorough knowledge of procedural law. An exposure of up and coming areas of law such as sports law and cyber law, maritime laws etc., has helped students become better students of law.

## **Problem Encountered**

There is a locational disadvantage to the institution since it is located far away from the main court premises. Students have to travel a long distance to reach their places of internship. There is a gap between college timing and court working hours.

There is delay in the submission of the weekly reports since students are often exhausted with the excessive workload from office and the assignments from college.

This template is at present only available to the final year students of law.

## **Resources Required:**

All resources are already present in the Institution, including placement executives, MoUs with industry experts, faculties in charge, and unified SAP ID to track attendance and feedback.

## **Notes**

Efforts are being made to extend the Experiential Learning Program to the s of 4th year BSL.LL. B. (Sem VIII and IX).

Efforts are being made to provide experiential learning through collaborations with international law firms and institutions