

MES Garware College of Commerce (Autonomous), Pune 411 004

7.2.1

Provide the weblink on the Institutional website regarding the

Best practices as per the prescribed format of NAAC

Best Practice 1

Title

Institutionalisation of Cultural Department Practices for Holistic Student Development and Competitive Excellence

Objective of the Practice

The objective of this practice is to strengthen the Cultural Department (Kalamandal), as a vibrant institutional platform for nurturing students' creative, expressive, leadership, and collaborative skills. Through structured cultural activities and participation in prestigious intercollegiate competitions, the practice aims to promote cultural excellence, discipline, confidence, teamwork, and holistic personality development beyond the formal academic curriculum.

The Context

M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce (Autonomous) has consistently emphasised the importance of co-curricular and extracurricular engagement as a core component of student development. The Cultural Department of the college functions as a key driver of this engagement by providing sustained opportunities in performing arts, creative expression, and competitive cultural platforms. Over the years, the department has systematically encouraged student participation in intercollegiate and state-level cultural competitions, enabling continuous skill enhancement, professional exposure, and cultural leadership among students. These long-term efforts culminated in significant institutional achievements during the academic years 2023–24 and 2024–25.

The Practice

The Cultural Department adopts a structured and inclusive approach to identifying, mentoring, and preparing students for participation in reputed intercollegiate cultural competitions. Activities under the department include theatre and dramatics, stage performances, script interpretation, direction, acting, and overall cultural presentation. Faculty coordinators and external experts provide continuous mentoring through planned rehearsals, performance reviews, and creative workshops.

Through sustained institutional support, disciplined preparation, and collaborative teamwork, the Cultural Department has enabled students to gain extensive stage exposure, performance maturity, and confidence. This structured cultural practice led to a landmark achievement when students of M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce won the prestigious **Purushottam Karandak 2024**, marking the institution's first-ever win in the competition's 59-year history. In addition to the overall championship, the students also secured **Best Actor** and **Best Director** awards, highlighting excellence across multiple cultural performance dimensions.

Building on this success, the Cultural Department continued its focus on consistency and excellence, leading to another significant achievement when the college secured **third place in the Firodiya Karandak 2025**. These achievements reflect the effectiveness of the Cultural Department's long-term vision, structured mentoring mechanisms, and sustained student engagement.

Evidence of Success

The success of this best practice is demonstrated through the following outcomes:

- First-ever **Purushottam Karandak 2024** win in the 59-year history of the competition
- Awards for **Best Actor** and **Best Director** at the intercollegiate level

- **Third position in Firodiya Karandak 2025**, ensuring continuity of excellence
- Enhanced student confidence, leadership, and professional readiness
- Increased visibility of students through professional opportunities such as:
 1. Offers for commercial advertisements and high-end photo shoots
 2. Media recognition, including an exclusive interview with Red FM
- Strengthened institutional reputation as a centre for cultural excellence and student-centric development

The Cultural Department's sustained and structured practices have thus emerged as a defining strength of the institution, contributing significantly to holistic student development, cultural leadership, and the College's legacy of excellence.

Best Practice 2

1. Title

Organisation of Multidisciplinary International Conferences on Emerging Technologies, Innovation & Sustainable Development

2. Objective of the Practice

The objective of this practice is to institutionalise the organisation of multidisciplinary international conferences that promote research, dialogue, and collaboration across diverse domains such as commerce, management, sustainability, physical education, sports science, technology, artificial intelligence, and inclusive development. The practice aims to strengthen research orientation among academicians, researchers, students, and industry professionals, while facilitating cross-sectoral knowledge exchange on contemporary global challenges and technological disruptions.

3. The Context

M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce (Autonomous), in collaboration with other M.E.S. institutions and allied educational bodies, has consistently focused on building a strong research culture, global academic engagement, and innovation-driven learning ecosystems. Recognising the growing importance of multidisciplinary approaches in addressing complex societal, technological, and sustainability challenges, the institutions initiated and continued a series of international conferences on diverse, future-oriented themes during the academic years 2023–24 and 2024–25. These conferences reflect the institutions' long-term commitment to academic excellence, interdisciplinary integration, and global collaboration.

4. The Practice

As part of this best practice, multiple international conferences were organised on multidisciplinary and emerging themes. These conferences were conducted at different times during the academic year 2024–25, each with a distinct focus area, thereby demonstrating continuity and thematic diversity.

International Conference on Innovation for Inclusive Growth, Development & Sustainability (February 2025)

A two-day International Conference on “Innovation for Inclusive Growth, Development & Sustainability” was organised on 21–22 February 2025 at Swatantryaveer Savarkar Sabhagruha, GCC Campus, Karve Road, Pune, conducted in hybrid mode. The conference was jointly organised by M.E.S. Garware College of Commerce (Autonomous), M.E.S. Abasaheb Garware College (Autonomous), and M.E.S. Senior College, Pune. There were around 78 participants through online and offline modes, including academicians, researchers, industry experts, and students.

The conference provided a structured academic forum comprising inaugural and keynote sessions, expert lectures, panel discussions, and thematic paper presentation tracks. Prominent academic and knowledge partners such as Savitribai Phule Pune University, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Enterprise, Kwangwoon University (South Korea), Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, and the Centre for Industry 4.0 (C4i4 Lab) supported the event. Distinguished dignitaries including Air Marshal (Retd.) Bhushan Gokhale, Dr. Abhay Jere (Vice Chairman, AICTE), and Shri Pradip Kopardekar (Director, C4i4 Lab) addressed the participants, highlighting innovation, AI-driven education, Industry 4.0, and sustainable development.

Original and unpublished research papers were invited, peer-reviewed, and selected for presentation and publication. Best paper awards were instituted, and selected papers were shortlisted for publication in peer-reviewed and UGC CARE-listed journals.

Another International Conference under this Best Practice: BC2AD (Before ChatGPT to AI Disruption) – April 2025

In addition to the above, Maharashtra Mandal's Chandrashekhar Agashe College of Physical Education (CACPE), in collaboration with M.E.S.'s Garware College of Commerce (Autonomous) and Maharashtra Mandal's Commerce College, jointly organised a two-day International Conference titled "BC2AD – Before ChatGPT to AI Disruption" on April 4–5, 2025. The conference was held at the M.E.S. Auditorium, Mayur Colony, Kothrud, Pune.

This interdisciplinary international conference brought together stakeholders from physical education, sports science, commerce, management, technology, and artificial intelligence. It was open to sports science professionals, physical education professionals, sports coaches, trainers, in-service professionals, teachers, educators, athletes, technology and innovation experts, IT professionals, sports engineers, fitness enthusiasts, health and wellness professionals, and academic administrators.

The academic partners for the conference included the Indian Society of Sports and Exercise Medicine (India), Fit 2Sports Pune, and the International Physical Literacy Association (IPLA), UK. The conference aimed to explore emerging opportunities and identify potential challenges posed by AI-powered innovations in sports, fitness, and physical education.

The conference was inaugurated by the the Hon. Maharashtra Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Shri Chandrakant Patil, who emphasised India's preparedness and future roadmap for the application of artificial intelligence in education and allied sectors. The event featured a distinguished line-up of national and international speakers, including globally renowned experts, researchers, and practitioners in sports science, AI, innovation, and technology-driven education.

5. Evidence of Success

The effectiveness of this best practice is evident from the following outcomes:

- Organisation of multiple international conferences on multidisciplinary and emerging themes
- Active participation of academicians, researchers, industry experts, professionals, and students at national and international levels
- Strong integration of technology, AI, sustainability, sports science, and inclusive development themes
- Peer-reviewed research paper presentations and best paper awards
- Enhanced academia–industry and academia–professional collaboration
- Engagement with international academic and professional partners
- Continuity of international conference initiatives across academic years, reflecting institutional commitment to research, innovation, and global engagement

6. Problems Encountered & Solutions Provided

Problems Encountered

- Managing multidisciplinary participation across diverse academic and professional domains
- Coordinating large-scale events with multiple institutional and international partners
- Ensuring quality and originality of research submissions

Solutions Provided

- Structured thematic tracks and expert sessions to integrate diverse disciplines
- Formation of joint organising and academic committees across institutions
- Adoption of peer-review mechanisms, clear submission guidelines, and hybrid delivery models