

### **7.2.1 Title: Skill Enhancement Courses**

**Objectives of the Practice:** While Knowledge is Power, skills help one to apply that knowledge to relevant situations. And in today's increasingly competitive world, skills are a crucial attribute. The skill enhancement courses conducted by each department impart training in niche areas that enable students to have better employability, improve their personality and acquire new skills. The objectives of this practice are:

To provide training and develop industry-relevant skills

To generate opportunities for the growth of talent in students

To improve the students' performance and thereby gain mastery over certain industry-related skills

To establish JVM's Degree College as an exemplary in skill enhancement and as an institution dedicated in creating highly proficient graduates

**Context:** The courses have been designed in such a way that it could harness the potential of the students and thereby fuel the country's growth. Each department has specially designed courses according to their eligibility. Factors that have to be considered while designing the courses are the relevance of the course, its effectiveness and the students' grasping capacity.

**Challenges:** As some students are from vernacular mediums, language barriers deter international mobility which is doubly beneficial for the host and the destination countries.

**The practice:** The courses are unique as they enhance the students' employability and knowledge. It equips the students with ability to communicate with empathy. It instills team and relationship building skills and creates an intrinsic desire to be mission-driven.

**Evidence of success:** Tests were conducted after the completion of the course and the eligible students were provided with certificates.

**Problems Encountered:** Although a good number of students enrolled the dropout rates from the session was a problem we encountered.

**Title: CDF**

**Objectives of the Practice:** Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon says, "Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance." JVM's Degree College successfully collaborated with Connecting Dreams Foundation for sustainable development of the women and youth. A team of students relentlessly strove towards this goal during the pandemic period. The objectives of this practice are:

To create student innovators and pathfinders and utilize their potential to resolve a set of community-based challenges of the youth.

To provide the youth and women with opportunities through entrepreneurial actions which will improve their livelihood in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.

To realize their dreams to sustainable reality and establish faith in humanity.

To establish JVM's Degree College as an institution that strives to add value to human life and diligently practices social responsibility.

**Context:** The higher education institutions are now not only a center of teaching and learning but also a space that cultivates socio-economic and cultural reformations. The activities carried by JVM, CDF assisted in their growth and provided them an opportunity to contribute to sustainable change. It helped the community and its youth with mentorship and development.

**Challenges:** The activities carried out by the volunteers was during the COVID-19 lockdown. The location of the area adopted for development was difficult to access. Extra precautions had to be carried due to the pandemic as slums were more susceptible to viral outbreak due to poor hygiene and overcrowding in a small place.

**The Practice:** The projects launched by JVM, CDF were highly successful and effective. Project Dream Library aimed to provide the community children a holistic learning environment. Through relentless efforts and networking through digital platforms the volunteers were able to get donations to build a library for the youth. Project Tara aimed at providing education for the underprivileged students and clocked in more than a hundred and forty hours of community teaching. The college management graciously offered its infrastructure for this social cause. The efforts of the volunteers were noticed and appreciated by Advocate Ranjana and Little Angel Foundation, an NGO in Airoli. They also generously sponsored school supplies for the students. Project Shashakt aimed at inculcating concept the of women's hygiene and undertook the distribution sanitary napkins for the women in slum areas. Buzz Aldrin had said, "If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger." Project No Hunger by CDF, JVM aimed to provide food for the poor and needy, especially those rendered homeless during the Pandemic.

**Evidence of Success:** In the dream collection phase JVM, CDF was one of the leading colleges with 84% success and was invited to host a CDF India training session on collecting dreams. The four projects launched by the wing was highly successful and fulfilled the Unit's motto of realizing the dreams of the underprivileged and imparting education and skills for their growth and development.

**Problems Encountered:** The CDF wing of JVM was working during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Due to the imposition of the lockdown rules gathering of groups were not allowed. This deterred the consistency of the teams' working. Mobility was another problem encountered by the volunteers since the lockdown rules barred the general public from travelling in the local trains which is one the main form of transportation in Mumbai. The people of the area adopted were slow in accepting and initially displayed trust issues. Although the CDF volunteers encountered some problems it did not weaken their resolve to empower the youth and women and better their livelihood.