



**SONOPANT DANDEKAR ARTS, V.S. APTE COMMERCE
AND M.H. MEHTA SCIENCE COLLEGE, PALGHAR**



Quality Sustenance Policy

Prepared by
Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Quality Sustenance Policy

The Pursuit of Excellence, a Continuous Journey

“Whatever education a university imparts, it must achieve the global level of benchmarking given the vastness and diversity of the global village we live in today”...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Quality in higher education is a multi-dimensional, multi-level, and dynamic concept that is related to specifications of the context of an educational model, to the mission and institutional aims, as well as to the specific patterns within a certain system, institution, programme, or discipline. Keeping this at its heart, IQAC of the institute embraces that quality education isn't just about individual student success; it's about preparing future leaders, fostering innovation, and driving positive societal change.

The world is constantly changing, and new knowledge and skills are emerging all the time and We at Dandekar College believe the pursuit of excellence requires a commitment to lifelong learning, staying updated with the latest advancements and adapting our approach accordingly. As we learn and grow, our understanding of what constitutes "excellent" evolves. What was excellent yesterday might not be enough today. This continuous push for improvement keeps us engaged and motivated.

With this foundation, the Institute frames its quality sustenance policy collaboratively adding various facets to “Quality Education”.

I. SCOPE

The policy applies to all the stakeholders of the institution.

II. POLICY COMPONENTS

a. Curriculum Enrichment

Curriculum enrichment refers to strategies and activities that extend beyond the core curriculum, adding depth and richness to a learner's learning experience. It's about going beyond the basics and providing opportunities for exploration, creativity, and deeper understanding.

- **Activities and Projects:** Enrichment can involve a wide range of activities, from guest speakers and field trips to debates, simulations, and independent research projects.
- **Subject Areas:** It can be applied across all disciplines, from science experiments in math class to creative writing workshops in history.
- **Differentiation:** It can be used to differentiate instruction, providing more challenging activities for advanced learners and additional support for those who need it.
- **Technology Integration:** Technology can be a powerful tool for enrichment, allowing for simulations, virtual field trips, and access to a wider range of resources.

b. Capacity Building for Learners and Educators

Recognizing the importance of continuous learning and development for both learners and educators in achieving academic excellence and fostering a dynamic learning environment. It refers to the ongoing process of developing and strengthening the knowledge, skills, and resources needed for academic success and personal growth.

For Learners:

- **Developing Academic Skills:** Capacity building equips learners with the skills they need to excel in their studies. This will include critical thinking, problem-solving, research skills, effective communication, and information literacy by seeking their participation in various competitions and conventions.
- **Fostering Lifelong Learning:** It cultivates a love for learning and the ability to learn independently. This empowers learners to adapt to a changing world and continue

learning throughout their lives. This can be fostered through peer- peer learning, collaborative efforts and participation in online courses across various platforms.

- **Enhancing Employability:** By developing essential skills like communication, collaboration, and problem-solving, learners become more competitive in the job market.

For Educators (Faculty & Staff)

- **Professional Development:** Capacity building provides opportunities for faculty to stay current with advancements in their field, explore new teaching multimodal methods, and refine their pedagogical approaches.
- **Enhancing Teaching Skills:** It equips educators with the skills to create engaging learning environments, cater to diverse learning styles, and effectively mentor and guide learners.
- **Supporting Innovation and Adaptability:** By fostering professional development, educators can implement innovative teaching methods and keep curriculum relevant to the ever-changing needs of the workforce and society.

Fostering a culture that values continuous learning and professional development. Encourage a growth and mindset and celebrate the achievements of both learners and educators remains its underlying principle.

c. Research and Innovation.

Research and innovation are the lifeblood of any high-quality higher education institution. Research, the systematic pursuit of new knowledge, pushes the boundaries of understanding and fuels discovery. Innovation, the application of that knowledge, translates these findings into solutions for real-world challenges. Understanding its dynamics institute embodies following pathways:

- **Strong Faculty:** A critical mass of well-qualified and research-active faculty is essential. Hence appointments and appraisal include them.
- **Funding and Resources:** Adequate funding for research equipment, facilities, and research assistants is necessary to support high-quality research projects.
- **Collaborative Environment:** Encouraging collaboration between faculty members, learners, and researchers from different disciplines fosters interdisciplinary research and promotes innovation.

- **Research Infrastructure:** Providing access to advanced libraries, databases, research labs, and technology platforms accelerates the research process and facilitates ground-breaking discoveries.
- **Ethical Conduct:** Upholding the highest ethical standards in research is crucial. This includes proper data collection procedures, responsible authorship, and ensuring research benefits society.

By fostering a strong foundation for research and innovation, higher education institutions can create a vibrant learning environment that empowers learners to become critical thinkers, innovators, and future leaders who contribute meaningfully to society.

d. Society Connect

The "society connect component" refers to integrating the needs and challenges of the surrounding community i.e Palghar District into the ecosystem of the institute. This aspect is directed to promote service learning opportunities for learners, allowing them to apply their academic knowledge while addressing real-world problems. This fosters social responsibility and civic engagement. The key components are:

- **Need Assessment:** Conducting need assessment to identify the specific challenges and opportunities within the surrounding community.
- **Community Partnerships:** Forge strategic partnerships with community organizations to identify areas of collaboration.
- **Service Learning Programs:** Develop and implement service learning programs that allow learners to contribute to community improvement.
- **Community Outreach:** Establish effective communication channels to keep the community informed about the institution's activities and seek their input.

e. Inclusivity and Equity

A truly inclusive and equitable environment fosters a rich learning experience for everyone. Stakeholders from diverse backgrounds bring different perspectives and experiences to the table, leading to more dynamic discussions and a deeper understanding of complex issues. The integration into institute's framework can be ensured on following lines:

- **Admissions and Recruitment:** Developing inclusive recruitment strategies to attract learners and staff from diverse backgrounds.
- **Support Services:** Provide comprehensive support services, such as academic advising, tutoring, accessibility services, and mental health resources, to address individual needs and promote student success.
- **Inclusive Learning Environment:** Promote a culture of respect and understanding. This involves faculty training on inclusive pedagogy and creating mechanisms to address discrimination and harassment.
- **Data Analysis and Assessment:** Regularly assess learning and performance outcomes to identify any equity gaps and implement targeted interventions to address them.

f. Collaborations

- Actively engage with other educational institutions through knowledge-sharing initiatives, joint research projects, and faculty exchange programs.
- Building partnerships with industry leaders to ensure curriculum enrichment aligns with current and future workforce needs.
- Collaborate with parents, community members, and relevant organizations to create a supportive learning environment.
- Collaborate with corporates for activities under CSR to create a supportive learning environment.

g. Value and Ethics

A clear set of values and ethics ensures that the institution's actions align with its stated mission. This fosters a sense of purpose and direction for faculty, staff, and learners. Upholding strong ethical standards creates trust that is essential for a healthy learning environment. Improving the value and efficacy in the achievement of its vision and mission being its core are entrusted on following components:

- **Develop a Values Statement:** Articulating a clear and concise statement of the institution's core values.
- **Ethics Code:** Establishing a code of ethics that outlines acceptable behaviour and ethical principles for all members of the academic community.
- **Leadership by Example:** Leaders within the institution embody the institution's values and hold everyone accountable for ethical behavior.

- **Ethics Training and Education:** Implementing ongoing training for faculty, staff, and learners on ethical conduct, including topics like academic integrity, research ethics, and social responsibility.
- **Reporting Mechanisms:** Establishing a clear and accessible channels for reporting unethical behaviors and ensuring they are addressed promptly and fairly.

h. GUIDING POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK

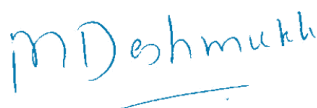
1. UGC Quality Mandate: <https://www.ugc.gov.in/e-book/Quality%20Mandate%20E-BOOK.pdf>
2. UGC Circular : https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/8032600_ugc-qQUALITY-mANDATE.pdf
3. UGC Care: <https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/Apps1/User/Web/About>

III. FEEDBACK

Staff and learners may provide feedback about the quality practices and policy in the suggestion box.

IV. REVIEW

The policy requires yearly review.



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