

TWO BEST INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES
of
SOPHIA SMT MANORAMADEV I SOMANI COLLEGE, MUMBAI

A. Excellent Industry-Institute Interface

Both the Hospitality Studies (HAFT) department and the Social Communications Media (SCM) department have excellent connections with their respective industries.

In the case of the HAFT department, from time to time personnel from industry are invited to give presentations and guest demonstrations. In 2019-20, the following were held:

- On 23rd July 2019 concierges from leading hotels gave a presentation on the concierge service in hotels.
- On 24th September 2019 Chef Pinky Dixit gave a demonstration on Gujarati cuisine and Chef Somnath Chatterjee gave a demonstration on Awadhi cuisine.
- On 25th September 2019 Chef Parimal Sawant gave a demonstration on Maharashtrian cuisine.
- On 19th November 2019 Chef Frederic Deshayes of Le Cordon Bleu gave a patisserie demonstration.
- On 14th February 2020 Chef Stephen Pinto gave a Sushi demonstration.

Members of the H.R. departments of major hotel groups attend the annual exhibition dinner that is hosted by the students and staff of the department. Teams from the major hotel groups also come to our campus for recruitment or our students are called to the hotel properties for job selection interviews. Internships are also provided for one semester to our second year students by the major five star hotels in the city of Mumbai.

Every year, the Nestlé group conducts a competition on campus for our students. This year it was held on 4th December 2019,

In the case of the SCM department, all the regular visiting faculty members are from industry. In fact some of them have been coming for years as visiting faculty to our department. Many of these visiting faculty members, e.g. P. Sainath and Jerry Pinto, are recipients of international and national awards. The SCM Advisory Board comprises many members from the media industry. The students of SCM are sent for a month's specialization to industry. Also, various media houses contact the department for job placements for the graduating students.

B. Mentorship provided to each and every student

Both the Hospitality Studies (HAFT) department and the Social Communications Media (SCM) department provide excellent mentorship to each and every student of the respective department.

In the case of the HAFT department, each class has a class teacher who personally follows up the students of the department. In addition, each student has a teacher mentor who the student can go to in case of any type of difficulty. There are Open Days held when the parents with their respective child meet the faculty members to discuss the student's progress and any other issues pertaining to the student. In 2019-20, Open Days were held as follows:

- For the parents of the TYBSc class of Hospitality Studies on 30th August 2019 and 6th February 2020
- For the parents of the SYBSc class of Hospitality Studies on 7th February 2020
- For the parents of the FYBSc class of Hospitality Studies on 11th February 2020

During their internships in industry, the students are also mentored and followed up by a faculty member. Students are also free to meet the Vice-Principal or the Principal.

In the case of the SCM department, the numbers are very small in the class hence each student is followed up individually. Each student is also assigned an alumni mentor who is working in the media industry. During their specialization month, each student is personally mentored by a specialist from the industry.

In addition to the above, the college also offers the free services of a trained counselor. Students facing problems of any kind are free to meet the counselor. Sometimes faculty members recommend students to the counselor for help.

One SCM student of 2019-20 was going through some serious adjustment issues. Hence, besides recommending her to meet the counsellor regularly, the Head of Department even arranged, with the consent of her parents, for her to meet a psychiatrist.

When the lockdown happened towards the end of the academic year, mentoring of students by both departments continued but now it was online.