

7.2 Best Practices

1. Title of the best practice: Capacity Building for Students

2. Objectives of the practice:

The broad vision of this best practice is to strengthen the skills, instincts and abilities of students required to make them industry ready

- To help students understand the soft skills and life skills needed for a vocation.
- To minimize the gap between classroom and industry
- To help the students navigate through the period of confusion and anxiety while making career choices

3. The Context:

The vision of the institution is to gain contemporary knowledge by innovating, adapting and resetting learning as a more accessible, digital and collaborative experience. Hence by keeping this vision of our college in mind, we skill our students through a set of comprehensive programs that include Short-term courses, pre-placement talks, soft skills, and internships. One of the objectives of the institution is to empower students with knowledge and skills in their chosen fields by providing opportunities to realize their potential. Placement Counsellors help students in understanding the requirements of the industry and matching them with the student skillsets. The industry demands students to have soft skills apart from regular theoretical knowledge. Becoming adept at soft skills helps students learn, live, and work better in the competitive world. To achieve this, the institute organizes soft skill training programs for all those students who qualify for pre-placements. The Soft skill programs inculcate values befitting a global citizen. The soft skill program is for a duration of three years. The first-year syllabus includes topics such as: Becoming a global citizen, Assertive training, getting work ready at your workplace, Identifying your strength and weakness, Self-awareness, and Emotional intelligence. The second-year syllabus includes topics such as Conflict Management, Problem-solving, Time management, and goal setting. They particularly help in developing the skill of assertiveness in communication. The soft skill session involves exercises that allow students to identify their strengths and weaknesses. The ability to remain self-aware is also developed during soft skill sessions. Along with aptitude test preparation, this program also takes care of emotional intelligence. Students are taught how to successfully deal with crises and conflicts concerning their workplace. Meeting of project deadlines is the most demanding industry need. Students are made to understand how to value time as a resource. Students also learn to plan their short-term and long-term goals during these sessions. In the third year, students are invited to the pre-placement talks to provide guidance and information about the latest opportunities available in the job market.



Career Counselling plays a vital role helping the students navigate through the period of confusion and anxiety while making career choices in student's academic journey. It not only helps in personality development, but also in being more organized as an individual. In today's extremely tough, competitive world, career counselling gives the awareness about opportunities available. Because of the changing dynamics of the world today, the job that the student could be seeking might not be available any more. The knowledge imparted to students often falls short of what the industry is demanding. To understand the changing need and fitting it with the demand of the industry is the real challenge of career counselling today.

Reducing the gap between classroom and industry is imperative in today's world. The industry is evolving at an unexpected pace. In order to make the students keep up with the rapidly changing demands of the industry, over twenty-five well curated short-term courses have been successfully run by the college in the last five years.

4. The Practice:

More than 50 capacity-building initiatives were organized in the last five years, which impacted on an average sixty percent students of the institution. Over 3500 students successfully completed comprehensive programs on soft skill, short-term courses, language and communication, life skills and ICT between the period 2016-2021.

A good number of students have been placed in leading multinational organizations due to the rigorous training they received during the various capacity-building initiatives. On an average 80 percent of UPG students in the last five years have not only completed their higher education but also secured a job.

The capacity-building comprehensive programs helped them in gaining knowledge about allied fields and making a sound career decision. Numerous sessions were carried out in the institution inviting various speakers from the industry. These speakers had immense knowledge of their industry and helped students to understand what the industry is demanding. Also, from the future perspective, the industry experts helped students identify in which direction the industry is expected to head and what is going to be the future prospect in the respective fields. The experts helped in answering the queries that students had with respect to their career goals and job opportunities. Some of the experts who spoke to students included journalists, IT experts, Management professionals, screen writers, freelance photographers, content writers, branding expert and a few of them were international speakers as well. The speakers also spoke a lot about educational opportunities after graduation, which helped 86% of students in securing better jobs in reputed organizations.



5. Evidence of success:

The outcome of this comprehensive capacity building programs is linked with performance of students. It is measured in the form of feedback given by the interviewers to the institution. Capsule internship for media related courses is an initiative to develop the skills of their interest in the process of film making/television series making and understanding other aspects of media. Technovation is an outcome-based project exhibition organized by Information technology students to gain competency and mastery with an industry based environment through software development activities. Bazaar-E-UPG is an innovative practice implemented by department of management to inculcate skills like entrepreneurship management, salesmanship, retail culture, marketing, advertising and bargaining.

6. Problems Encountered & Resources Required:

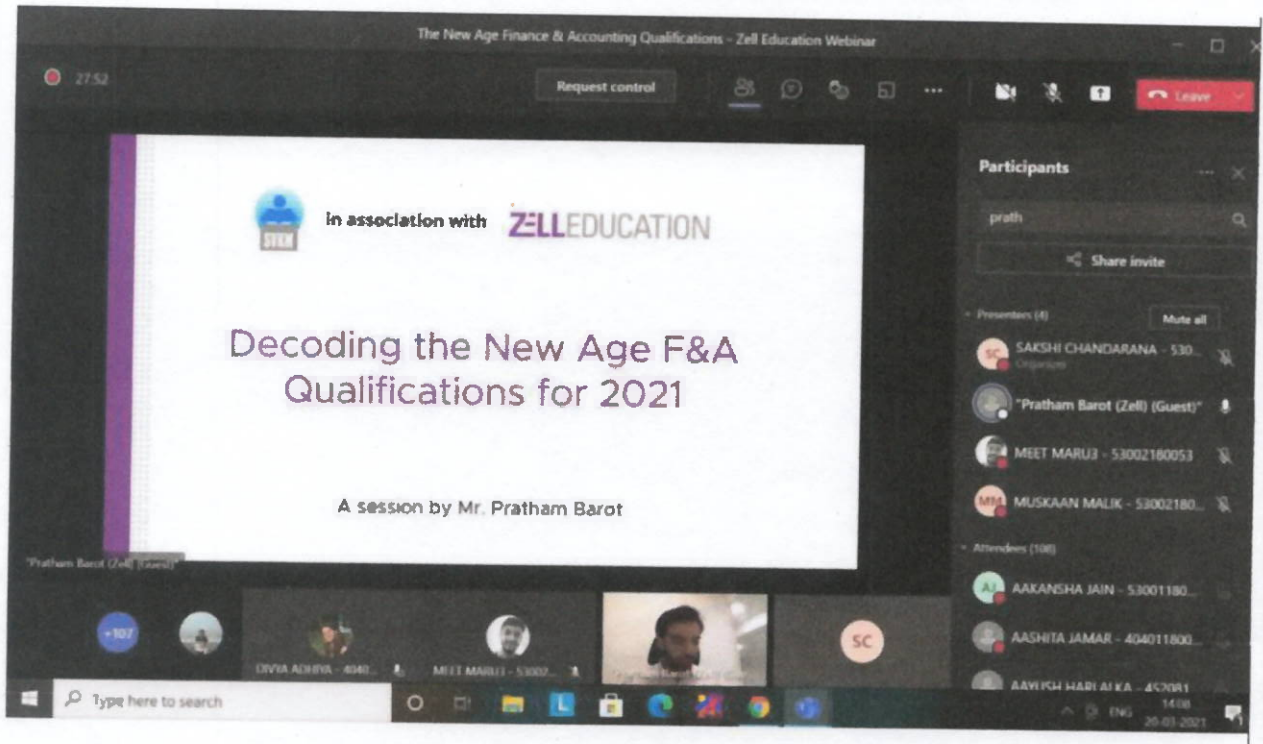
The industry academia gap sometimes proves to be a hurdle when it comes to the demand of the vocations. UPG is compelled to follow the university curriculum that allow for very little flexibility when it comes to reshaping the syllabus as per the changing industry demands. Career counselling sessions require quality individual attention, which is difficult to achieve with the larger number of students. There is a pressing need for greater financial resources and smarter technologies to expand capacity building initiatives into a 360-degree approach that will also lay emphasis on the extra-curricular aspects of a student's academic journey. In due course of time, the alumni base will be well placed in order to supplement the capacity building initiatives of the institution.



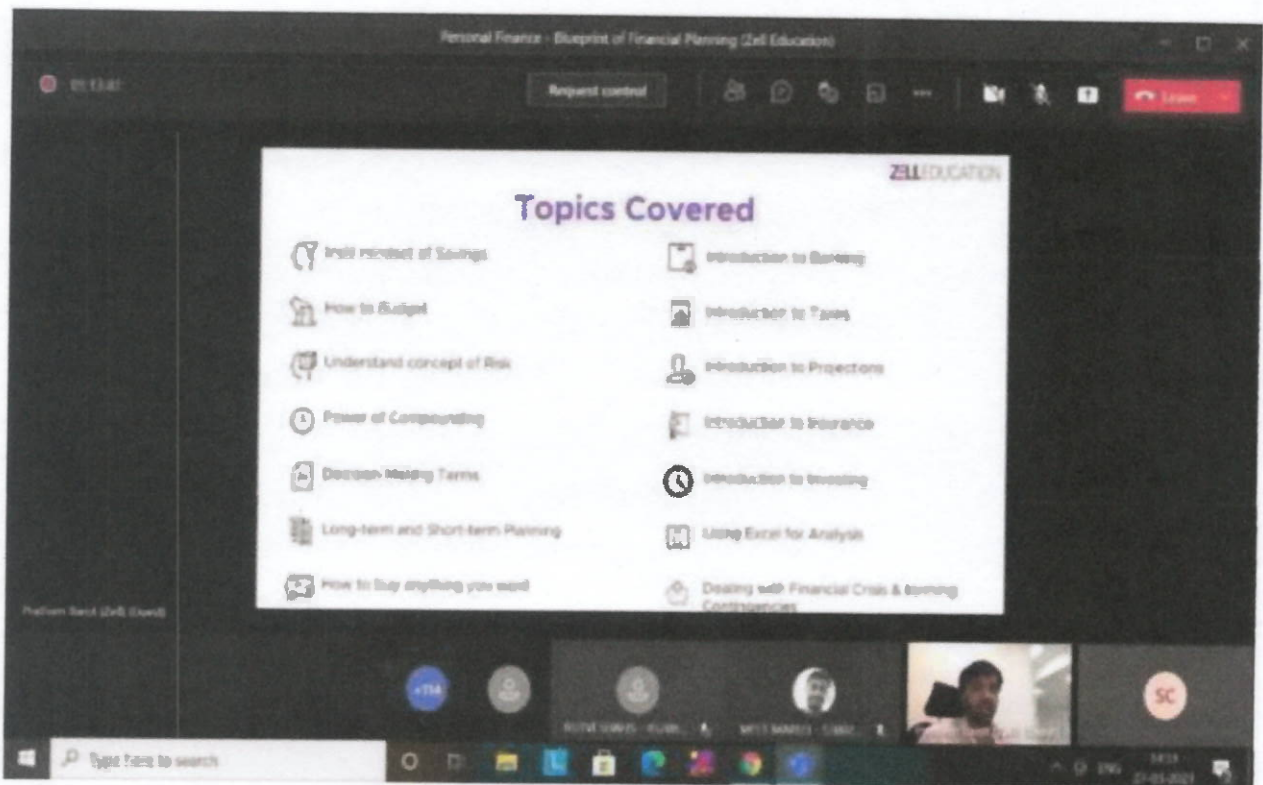
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Photographs:

Webinar on New Age Finance and Accounting Qualifications



Webinar on Personal Finance- Blueprint of Financial Planning



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Career Guidance/Entrepreneurship sessions organized for the students

Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
UPGC in association with Department of Information Technology presents
Online B.Tech/PGD/PGDIP Program in

ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MODULES

- Mobile Application Development
- Data Analysis using Python
- Website Development
- Content Automation Tools
- Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality



Trainers
Nilesh Shirke Expert
Nilesh Dalvi Expert

Duration: 32 hours
Platform: MS Teams
Fees: Rs. 2500/-

Registration Link: samplelink
Course Begins on: 10th Nov 2021
Last Date of Registration: 30th Aug 2021

For further details contact: Dr. Manisha Divate +91 9867324332 | Dr. Neelam Naik +91 9920469660

Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
B.AAC Accredited 'A' Grade

Offers

Career Opportunities in Information Technology

Free Online Course
Date : 7th July to 11th July 2020

E-certificate will be provided to all registered participants who complete the entire course and fill in the feedback form

Contact Details:

Sneha Nathwani 7715972732 | Swathi Parvata 7718957673
sneha.nathwani@upgc.edu.in | swathi.parvata@upgc.edu.in

Registration Link:
<https://forms.gle/rkQ4lkgFBI09e9kq0>

USHA PRAVIN GANDHI COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION CELL presents


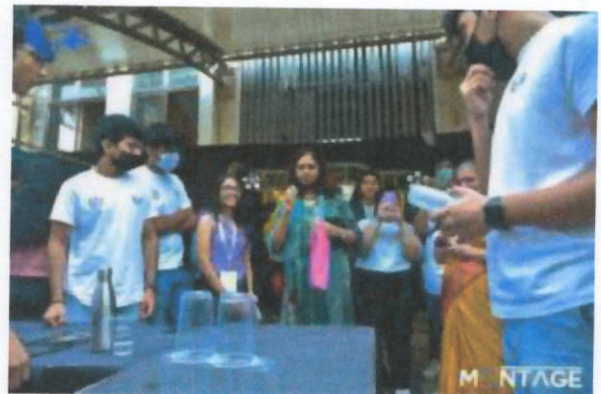
BAZAAR-E-UPG

SHOP. DANCE. EAT. PLAY

ON THE 25TH AND 26TH FEBRUARY

9 AM TO 5 PM

MITHIBAI ADMISSION AREA

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SVKM's Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
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BMM Department Presents
**Online Guest Session on
CAREERS AFTER
ADVERTISING
& JOURNALISM
SPECIALIZATION**
7/4/2021
Only for SYBAMMC Students

BY
COLLEGE ALUMNI:


RIA BANGARD
(Freelance Photographer
Branding & Content Writing)

DHYANESH VAISHNAV
(Assistant Producer, NewsLandy)

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BMM Department presents
**ONLINE GUEST SESSION ON
AVENUES OF
STUDYING
ABROAD**
20-11-2020
Only for TYBMM & SYBMM

SPEAKER:
MS. SONAM MOONBHRA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT
EDUABROAD CONSULTING




SVKM's Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
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BMM Department presents
**ONLINE GUEST SESSION ON
CAREER
GUIDANCE &
EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS**

SPEAKER: MS. MARIA SYED
National Academy of Event
Management & Development in
association with Garware Institute,
UoM & National Skill Development Corporation.

27-02-2021
Only for TYBMM



Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal's
Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
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Certificate Of Appreciation

This is to certify that
Mr. Saransh Gupta
SVKM's Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce
has presented his project Jain Durbhaya Website on
TECHNOWATION'20, an exhibition of I.E. Projects,
held on 30th June, 2020

S. Suresh
Suresh Lokhar
(B.Sc.IT Coordinator)

S. Navin
Navin Navin
(M.Sc.IT Coordinator)

A. Raju
Dr. Anja Raju
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Ref #ASPL2017-TE-20-23

Date: Aug 27, 2020

YATHARTH B.

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Dear Yatharth B,

On behalf of Admere Selvyn Private Limited, I would like to extend this internship opportunity as a Graphic Design Temporary Employee as an Intern. We are confident that you would play a significant role in the overall success of the venture and wish you the most enjoyable, learning packed and truly meaningful internship experience with Admere Selvyn.

Your appointment will be governed by the terms and conditions presented in the **Annexure A**. Please take your time in reviewing the terms and conditions of this internship. By signing below, you will be accepting the terms and conditions of this internship. For any other questions or clarifications, feel free to call or email us.

Once again, we look forward to you joining the team.

Sincerely Yours

Reetesh Anand
(Director)

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Akapol

Best Practice

1. Title of the best practice : Green Initiatives

2. Objectives of the practice

- To create a sense of responsibility towards the creation of a greener environment
- Training college students to coordinate student led green initiatives
- To acquaint them to the basics of the cultivation of vegetable garden
- To cultivate and culture plants at various locations deprived of green environment
- To dispose waste collected properly and safely
- To beautify the unclean locations

3. The context

As our institution is located amidst the hustle and bustle of busy streets with the absence of naturally green environment, we have constantly endeavored to build a green campus. Mumbai is a city that is vertically growing, resulting into what is unpopularly referred to as a 'Concrete Jungle'. Cleanliness has not been the greatest strength of this city. Therefore, a great many water bodies have continued to remain in a state of extreme defilement. Hence, there is a growing need to continually clean the beaches and restore the beauty that had once graced the city!

In a space constrained city like Mumbai, where students have little opportunity to engage with gardening and vegetation, the college introduced the initiative of creating an Edible-garden, which will afford students the exclusive setting to acquaint themselves to the basics of vegetation.

4. The practice

Practice for clean-up drive:

The college has conducted many successful clean-ups drives at Juhu Koliwada, Dadar Beach, Mithi River, Tata Compound, Prem Nagar, Karav Village (Vangani), and College Campus. Moreover, the college has planted 1193 trees at SRPF ground, Mumbai, and at different locations across India in five years.

The volunteers collected different types of plastic waste including milk packets, plastic bags and microplastics. Along with this, different types of wet waste were collected. There was active participation by all volunteers in the collection and safe disposal of all waste found at the beach and other locations. Volunteers successfully took steps towards a greener



surrounding. Substantial waste was collected and disposed. A sense of public engagement was created as the local residents started to join volunteers in cleaning the beach.

Practice for UPG Edible Garden:

The gardener used to gather the students of SOU and brief them over how to execute the project of 'edible gardens. Ms. Dipti Jhangiani, Owner and Founder of Edible Gardens Pvt. Ltd. guided our SOU volunteers. Volunteers helped cleaning the terrace area outside the library which was then just an unused space overlooking the main entrance of college. Also, the contractors worked on the terrace area to make it a safe and viable place that can be used for gardening by adding taps and netting around the gallery.

During the weekdays volunteers rounded up all the plants and pots lying around campus and began the process of reviving those plants. They also started brewing soil right from scratch in three huge drums. In this process, volunteers laid repetitive layers of various organic matters available in college surrounding like bamboo, coconut shells, dried leaves, bagasse and also handled cow dung. The students, who were holding back at first, were having fun doing it by the end of week. During the weekdays volunteers upturned the already brewing soil to air it and also added new layers of same organic matter. It could be observed that all the components were starting to decompose. Volunteers also planted their first sapling, a lemon tree sapling. Followed by plantation of certain edible climbers like red spinach, ivy gourd (tinda), etc. Volunteers began the week by upturning the brewing soil. Following whole week students planted various herbs and flowering plants like Italian basil, chives, lettuce, cherry, etc. Also, vegetable sapling like brinjal, tomatoes, curry leaves were planted. Brewing soil was giving out pleasant earthen smell and had turned black, hence was ready for activating nitrogen cycle. Volunteers laid seeds of maize, mustards, celery, cilantro, and arugula. This micro green grew within 1-2 week, and are very rich in nitrogen. Hence once grown to height of 1-2 inches they will be harvested and added to the brewing soil. Green colored plant can be observed on the brewing soil and pots where micro-greens were planted. All the plants were doing well in their new home. They were topped by new soil by volunteers. By the end of week some of the micro greens which were ready along with lettuce and Italian basil formed UPG Garden's first harvest, which was presented to the Principal, Dr. Anju Kapoor, and the staff members. The principal visited the garden to encourage and appreciate students for their work. She harvested the lemon that was ripe to use and also helped in planting butterfly-attracting plants necessary for pollination like blue star. All the micro greens were harvested and mixed with brewing soil to make it rich in nitrogen. Drip



irrigation systems were laid for the fast-approaching summer. Seeds for vegetables like pumpkins, bottle gourd were planted too. Waste plastic bottles were up cycled to become beautiful new homes to herbs and money plant.

Plantation Drive:

UPG College in association with the Rotary Club organized a plantation drive at the Wada grasslands in the Palghar district near Mumbai in the month of November 2021. The aim of the activity was to plant one tree for every student in the institution. This was the attempt not only towards to leave behind a trailblazer for the other institutions but also motivate others to contribute towards adding the depleting green cover to our Mumbai City. Every tree planted was Geo-Tagged on the name of every student in the organization.

5. Evidence of success:

- Students developed a greater sense of responsibility and affection towards the process of green vegetation. Students learnt the process of planting and maintaining the garden.
- Through the plantation drive, the volunteers played their part in ensuring a greener future amidst the concrete jungle. Moreover, through the clean-up drives, the targeted locations were found much cleaner than it was before. Volunteers ended the clean-up drives by bringing a great change to the environment. They also imparted knowledge regarding cleanliness to villagers. A substantial amount of waste has been eliminated from the surroundings and disposed of safely in the past years.
- The grand outcome of this practice was that the initiative broadcast on **Republic TV** organized by the 'Beach Please India' organization. Furthermore, we received the '**Social Service Excellence**' award from Khushiyaan Foundation NGO in 2019 for extraordinary and selfless service towards the nation.
- The greatest evidence of this practice is the regular supply of vegetable and fruits from the garden, which is provided to the support staff.

6. Problems encountered and Resources required:

- College is working on fixing the issue of using AC water from pipes on terrace to reach the plants.
- Taking permissions from all the authorities for the drives was one of the most important and difficult parts of this activity.



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- Many items left on beaches such as broken glasses, sharp metals, or hard plastics proved to be a major threat for the volunteers. However, volunteers ensured the safety of all students and no one was hurt during the drives.
- Clean-Up Drive: masks, gloves, sanitizer, waste collection basket and broom
- Plantation Drive: saplings, water sprinkler and spade.
- A dedicated professional gardener to look after the edible garden and its produce.
- Green fertilizers to help improve the produce.

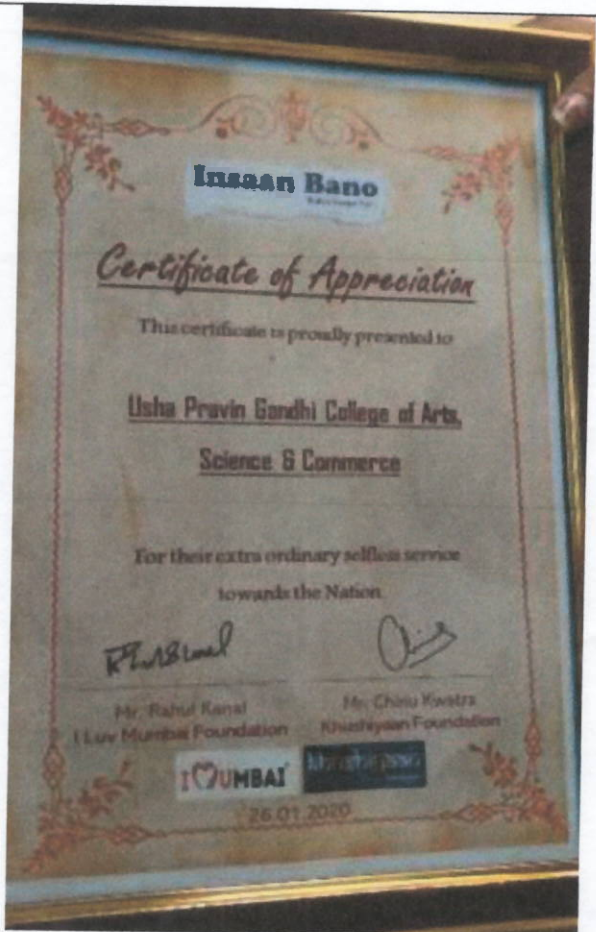
Photographs/supporting documents:



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