

BEST PRACTICES AT SICSR

Best Practice 1:

1. Title of the Practice: Use of Open Source Software

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To Use various open source software for teaching, learning, and research.
- To promoting the use of Open source softwares
- To conduct Free and Open Source software workshops, and seminars

3. The Context:

SICSR being a leading institute in field of computer studies in India, promoting the use of open source software, is another distinctiveness of the institute. The institute promotes and makes substantial use of open source software.

4. The Practice:

The institute makes heavy use of open source software for teaching-learning and research. To promote the use of open source software SICSR conducts GNUUnify. It's an annual gathering consisting of Open Source Software (FOSS) workshops, and seminars, hosted by Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research, Pune and Pune Linux Users Group. GNUUnify is being organised by the students of SICSR. We organise this Free/Open Source Software Event in the month of February every year. Initiated in the year 2003, 'GNUUnify' is a forum to unite open minds, aims at spreading the philosophy of GNU/Linux.

5. Evidence of Success:

- The implementation of the practice is considered to be successful.
- Cost of the software is saved.
- Research and development is improved. Software is used to automate in-house processes like time-table, content management etc.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Major problem encountered:

- Initial reluctance by administrative staff
- Acceptance from students and other users

Resources Required:

- Training to the stakeholders

Best Practice 2:

1. Title of the Practice: Student-faculty research collaboration

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To inculcate research culture among students.
- To improve students' technical writing skills.
- To present and publish the research papers in conferences.

3. The Context:

Research being an important activity in any institute should be done continuously. Involving students in this creates the collaborative research culture and critical thinking ability is developed in the institute.

4. The Practice:

Faculty members provided the students with a problem to which they had to come up with solutions either through field work or in the form of logical models, using various tools, and by understanding the state of the art in the field. Faculty members involved students in their ongoing research activities as well. This ensured that research skills were incorporated in the students not only in class, but outside the class as well.

5. Evidence of Success

The research papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems Encountered:

Students were unsure about the selection of journals in which they could send their research papers. However, they received guidance in this area from their faculty members. Motivating the students was a major challenge. Also some of the research involved the field survey which was time consuming for students.

Resources required:

Data analysis software and expertise was provided to the students.