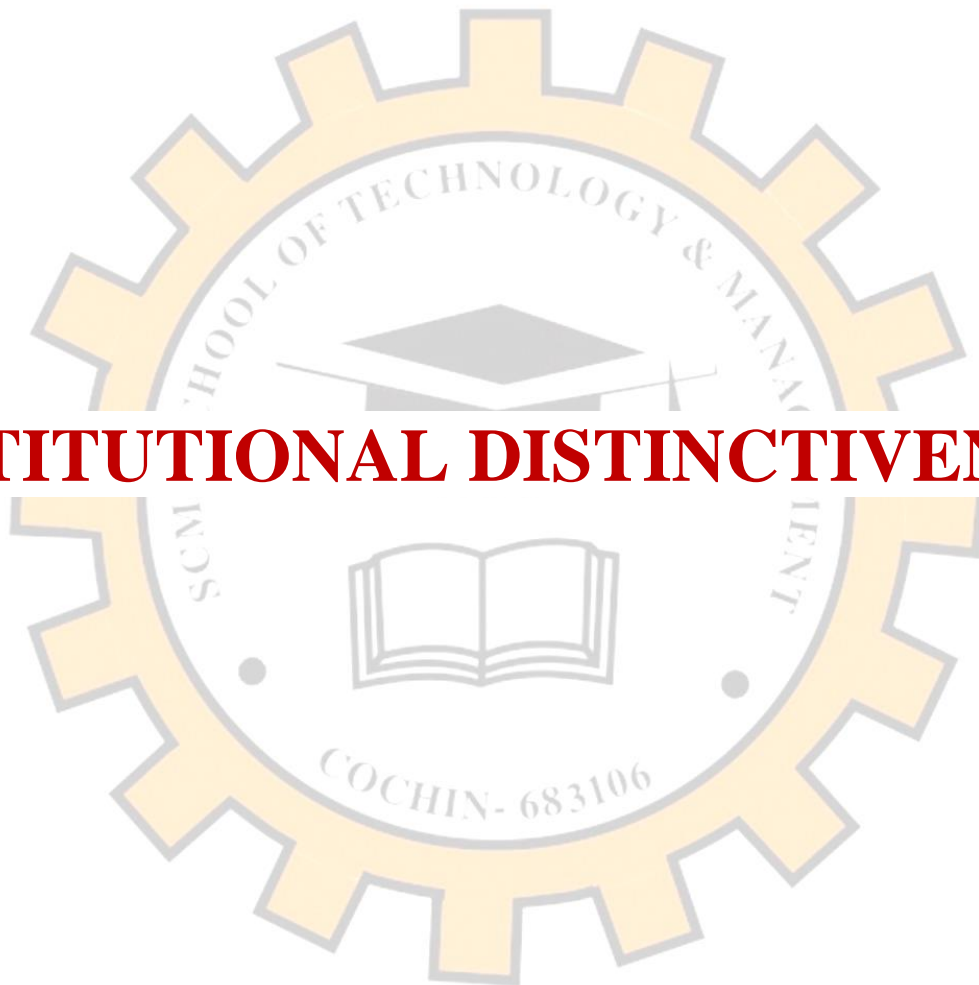




SCMS SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (SSTM)

SCMS Campus, Prathap Nagar, Muttom, Aluva, COCHIN- 683 106. KERALA

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS



Institutional Distinctiveness

Lakshya

Lakshya - Students as Teachers : Exploring the mutual benefits of peer-to-peer teaching

There is a large and long standing body of research measuring the positive impact of peers teaching peers. The effect is twofold. Researchers have found that learning from fellow students fosters deep understanding of the material and a positive attitude toward the subject matter. But studies have also found that the benefit is mutual — that simply preparing to teach others deepens one's own knowledge. In a growing number of settings, educators are capitalizing on the positive impact of students teaching students. Taking a cue from the Young People's Project (YPP), with high school and college students teaching middle and elementary students in afterschool and summer programs in America, SSTM organises Lakshya, an student teaching student activity each year , intended to impart a training sessions for the Govt. Higher Secondary School students in our nearby locality. The students from our institution providing the training to the school students mark the distinctiveness of this program.

The faculty from Computer Applications, Commerce and Management departments coach students to teach high school students. The SSTM students turned tutors can often relate to the experiences of their school life, as they too gain confidence through teaching. Breakthrough goes further, intensively mentoring most of its students, supporting them with organizational skills, academic tutoring, and college preparation. In the last years , through this project students have successfully imparted training in LibreOffice CALC / MS Excel / Introduction to Programming to Higher Secondary students and helped them decide better for higher education. The nearby Government schools are identified and opportunity is provided for the school students to access SSTM campus facilities for the training. The curriculum is set up in such a way that it provides students with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience. It is really commendable that we consistently receive positive responses for both the lab sessions offered on our campus and the lectures delivered at their institutions. Upon completion of the course, the students are evaluated and Certificates are issued based on merit. Lakshya is a versatile program that not only enhances the knowledge level of the school students, but also sensitizes our students to engage in community services. Absence of physical classes, delayed examination, and the perpetual anxiety of the future was making our students worried, when made to stay indoors during the lockdown, chose to channelise their energies via the internet and educate the school kids. So even during the covid times Lakshya adopted Online mode and various sessions were held. The opportunity to teach your peers sends a powerful message. It

says to students, “You have knowledge worth sharing, you have a teacher’s trust, and you have an opportunity to support another student’s learning and growth.” Lakshya, students teaching students is an authentic way to build confidence, leadership, and empathy. But the impact is no less for the students being taught. They see in their peers role models with similar experiences and concerns, who can affirm them and also push them to reach higher.



An initiative like Lakshya helps the institution in many ways but the evidence of employability skills improvement through such activities undertaken by students is the most valuable way for SSTM to showcase the practical application and impact of its educational programs. The following points highlight some commonly recognized benefits:

Enhanced Communication Skills: Engaging in this social extension activity often involves interacting with diverse individuals or groups, fostering effective communication skills. These activities provide opportunities to practice active listening, adaptability in communication styles, and the ability to convey ideas clearly and confidently.

Teamwork and Collaboration: This social extension activity requires collaboration and teamwork. By participating in this project, individuals can develop essential skills like cooperation, conflict resolution, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team, all of which are highly valued by employers.

Leadership and Initiative: The School visit by students often present opportunities for individuals to take on leadership roles or demonstrate initiative. Assuming responsibility, organizing events, and motivating others can help develop leadership qualities, such as decision-making, problem-solving, and the ability to take charge of projects.

Networking and Relationship Building: Engaging in such social extension activities expands social networks, allowing individuals to connect with professionals, mentors, and peers. Building meaningful relationships can open doors to employment opportunities, internships, and mentorship, providing valuable industry insights and potential references for future employment.

Cultural Competence and Diversity Appreciation: Participation in Lakshya involve engaging with diverse communities or cultures which can foster cultural competence and appreciation for diversity. These skills are increasingly important in today's globalized work environments, as they demonstrate an individual's ability to work effectively with people from various backgrounds.

Soft Skill Development: Social extension activities often provide opportunities for the development of soft skills, such as problem-solving, time management, adaptability, and resilience. These skills are highly sought after by employers as they contribute to overall workplace productivity and success.

While specific studies on the direct impact of social extension activities like Lakshya on employability skills may be limited, numerous research studies have explored the correlation between participation in extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and the development of skills valued in the workplace. Additionally, anecdotal evidence from individuals who have engaged in social extension activities often highlights the positive impact on their employability and professional growth.