



# CRITERION 7 INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.2 Best Practices

2019-2024

Submitted to



## **Best Practice 2**

# RELIEF- Rajagiri Learning Ecosystem for India's Efficient Future

#### Introduction

The Rajagiri Learning Ecosystem for India's Efficient Future (RELIEF) embodies the progressive vision of St. Chavara and the core principles of CMI education, marking a thoughtful evolution in nurturing young minds. With a focus that extends beyond social upliftment, this ecosystem aims to inspire a deep sense of human values, equipping students with the skills and ethical foundation to become responsible leaders in India's industrial future. At the heart of the CMI vision is the commitment to holistic education that fosters intellectual, spiritual, and moral growth. This approach emphasizes the importance of developing both academic excellence and strong character, preparing students to not only excel in their careers but also to lead with compassion, integrity, and a sense of service to society.

In alignment with the goals of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, this shift is a reflection of CMI institutions' dedication to the Viswajyothi vision—creating competent, self-reliant individuals who are globally competitive yet firmly grounded in Indian values and traditions. RELIEF empowers students to become catalysts of positive change, promoting innovation, ethical leadership, and social responsibility. Through this vibrant educational framework, the institution nurtures future professionals who are industry-ready and deeply committed to contributing to a more just, equitable, and prosperous society. This vision of education, centered on intellectual brilliance and moral strength, prepares students to succeed globally while making a meaningful impact on India's progress.

Objectives

To equip wouth for future India.

To cultivate employable, skilled youth prepared to meet the demands of a dynamic job market.

- 3. To emerge as a center of excellence in rural India.
- 4. To foster holistic education rooted in Indian values.
- 5. To promote innovation and ethical leadership.
- 6. To cultivate a global outlook with local commitment.

#### The Context

The vision of RVCAS is to nurture a generation of students who possess the skills, values, and knowledge essential for advancing India's industrial and social progress. By equipping young minds with industry-relevant expertise, critical thinking, and leadership abilities, the institution aims to align their development with the national vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, preparing them to excel in a rapidly evolving job market. The institution is committed to becoming a beacon of educational excellence, particularly in rural areas, where it works to bridge the divide between urban and rural education and foster inclusive growth. The institution delivers an education that integrates intellectual, moral, and spiritual development, shaping students into well-rounded individuals deeply rooted in Indian traditions.

Central to RVCAS's approach is the fostering of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking. The institution ensures that students uphold ethical standards and emerge as responsible leaders capable of driving positive societal change. By empowering them with a global perspective while maintaining a strong connection to Indian culture and values, RVCAS prepares students to succeed both locally and internationally, making meaningful contributions to the future of India and the world.

#### **Practice**

At RVCAS, a commitment to excellence is reflected in the diverse and comprehensive range of educational initiatives and resources available to students. The institution offers 59 certificate courses, which have been completed by 931 students,

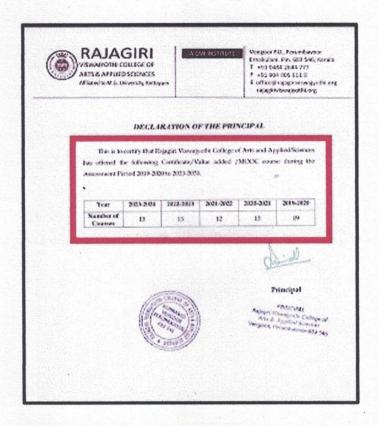
underscoring the broad reach and impact of its specialized training programmes. Syllabus delivery at RVCAS is meticulously crafted to emphasize industry readiness, integrating a focus on essential skill traits through innovative teaching methods. Every classroom is 100% ICT-enabled, equipped with 71 computers, 3 interactive panels, and 13 projectors, further supported by 11 ICT skill enhancement activities. This technological infrastructure ensures that students receive a modern, tech-savvy education that prepares them for the demands of the professional world.



Teachers Taking Lectures Using Interactive Panels and Projectors







List of Certificate Courses Offered at RVCAS

The institution's approach to content delivery includes a range of experiential learning opportunities. Programmes such as Siksa (experiential learning), Sanjna (participatory learning), and Samavaya (problem-solving) complement on-the-job training, internships, and study tours. Additionally, RVCAS engages in student and faculty exchange programmes with institutions like SH College, enhancing its focus on industrial readiness and fostering a global perspective. RVCAS takes pride in its distinguished faculty, with more than 75% holding NET, SET, or PhD qualifications. This expertise contributes to the institution's storied legacy in higher education, reflecting a deep-rooted tradition of academic excellence.

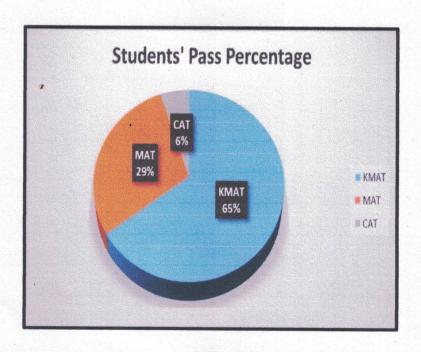
Performance appraisal systems at RVCAS play a crucial role in maintaining high standards. These systems ensure that **performance evaluations** are conducted regularly, with timely corrective measures implemented to address any issues. This rigorous approach not only upholds the institution's quality standards but also supports continuous improvement and competency development, reinforcing

RVCAS's position as a leading institution dedicated to the advancement of higher education.

# **Impact Analysis**

COLLEGE

RVCAS proudly demonstrates its commitment to student success through impressive outcomes and supportive measures. The institution boasts an outstanding pass percentage of over 81%, with more than 60% of students progressing to further studies or securing employment. Notably, over 80% have successfully qualified for competitive exams. To sustain and enhance these achievements, RVCAS provides various forms of scholarships and financial aid to 73% of its students, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their educational aspirations. This support is complemented by a robust mentoring system designed to guide students through their academic and career journeys, with dedicated efforts from the placement cell to facilitate successful transitions into the professional realm.



Students' Pass Percentage of Competitive Exams

The institution also leverages its extensive network, collaborating with more than 40 partner institutions to broaden opportunities for students. As a feeder college within the Rajagiri group, RVCAS is well-positioned to offer a seamless educational

experience, reinforcing its role as a pivotal contributor to student development and success. Through these initiatives, **RVCAS** continues to uphold its commitment to excellence, fostering an environment where students are supported, guided, and prepared to thrive in their future endeavours.

#### NITI

RVCAS is deeply committed to the **moral and ethical development** of its students, integrating this focus into its educational framework. Regular **value education classes**, scheduled every Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., are central to this effort. These sessions address crucial areas such as soft skills—including communication, teamwork, and leadership—as well as interpersonal skills like empathy and conflict resolution. Initiated in 2022, these classes continually reinforce the college's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals ready for personal and professional success. A notable initiative within this framework is the **Honesty Store**, a unique project by the Entrepreneur Development (ED) Club. Operating without a shopkeeper, the store relies on the **trust and integrity of students** to manage transactions. This approach not only promotes ethical behaviour but also teaches students about self-regulation and accountability, instilling a profound sense of responsibility.





Value Education Classes at RVCAS



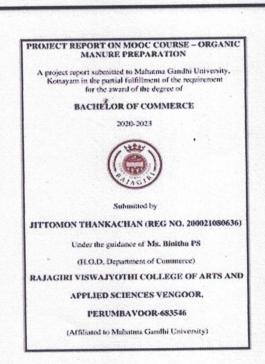
**Honesty Store at RVCAS** 

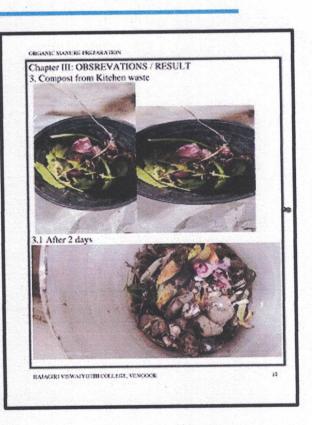
Complementing these value-building efforts, RVCAS emphasizes ethical practices through its focus on organic farming. The college upholds the principle of "organic" by eschewing chemical fertilizers and advocating for natural, chemical-free farming methods. Students participate in hands-on training with organic manure, gaining practical experience in sustainable agriculture. Additionally, MOOC on organic farming is offered, reflecting the institution's commitment to ethics and providing students with advanced knowledge in sustainable farming techniques. Through these initiatives, RVCAS fosters a culture of integrity and responsibility while equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute meaningfully to ethical and sustainable practices in their future endeavours.



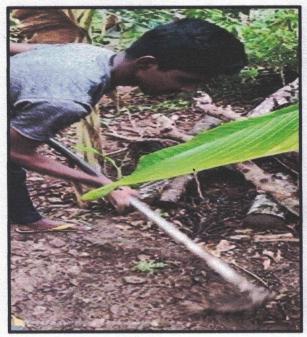


# Campus-Grown Veggies now Freshen Up Our Canteen, Embodying Our Commitment to Sustainability





MOOC Course Project Report on Organic Manure Making





**RVCAS Students Practicing Organic Farming at Home** 

## **Impact Analysis**

The initiatives at RVCAS have had a significant and positive impact on both students and the broader community, reflecting the institution's commitment to **ethical development and sustainable practices**. The regular value education classes have profoundly influenced students by enhancing their soft and interpersonal skills. Students have reported improved communication abilities, better teamwork, and greater empathy, which have not only enriched their academic experience but also prepared them for effective leadership in their future careers. These classes have fostered a stronger sense of ethical responsibility and personal integrity, equipping students to navigate complex professional environments with confidence and a solid moral foundation.

The Honesty Store has made a remarkable impact by promoting a culture of trust and ethical behaviour among students. The initiative has instilled a sense of responsibility and self-regulation, as students manage transactions independently. This real-world experience has led to a heightened awareness of ethical practices and has empowered

students to carry these values into their personal and professional lives. The store's success in maintaining integrity without supervision demonstrates the effectiveness of trust-based initiatives in nurturing responsible behaviour.

#### SAKSHAM

Under the UGC's **SAKSHAM** initiative, RVCAS has demonstrated a robust commitment to enhancing student skills and capacity through a variety of impactful programmes.

The college has successfully facilitated **over 43 events**, benefiting **more than 1,100 students** through targeted capacity development and skill enhancement programmes. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening students' professional skills and preparing them for a competitive job market. Notably, the programme includes preparation for **competitive exams**, benefiting over **440 students** and equipping them with the necessary skills to excel in their future endeavours.

Harvard Tea stands out as a formal and highly anticipated monthly event held in the college canteen. Students of Commerce and Business Administration Departments, dressed in formal attire, engage in meaningful conversations and networking opportunities, mirroring the tradition of Harvard Dinner. This setting fosters the development of professional networking skills and facilitates valuable exchanges of ideas with peers and industry professionals, enhancing students' career prospects and industry readiness.

The **Tech Trek** initiative, led by the BCA Department under Ms. Rengini D., illustrates the college's dedication to community engagement and technological empowerment. Initiated on October 31, 2023, the programme provided free classes on internet usage, MS Word, and MS Excel to residents of Vengoor Panchayath. Held in the college computer lab every first and third Saturday for ten weeks, this initiative involved student volunteers who served as instructors. This not only offered the students practical teaching experience but also fostered a strong sense of social responsibility. The dual impact of the Tech Trek initiative is substantial. It enhances students'

teaching and technological skills while contributing to the community's digital literacy, aligning with the goals of Digital India and *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By promoting a paperless and tech-savvy society, the programme bridges the digital divide and supports broader societal progress.

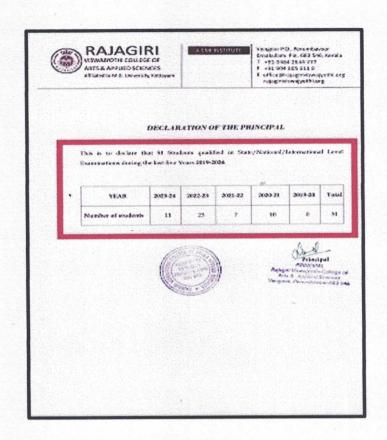


Photo of Harvard Tea at RVCAS



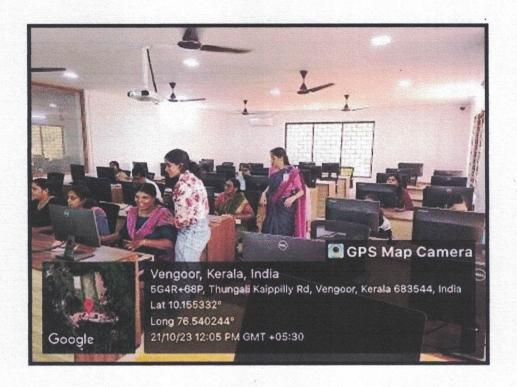


Poster of Capacity Building Programme



# List and Photo of Competitive Exam Trainings Held at RVCAS





#### **Photos of Tech Trek**





### **Impact Analysis**

Under the UGC's SAKSHAM initiative, RVCAS has made a significant impact through its various programmes. Over 43 events have benefited more than 1,100 students by enhancing their skills and preparing them for the job market. Notably, the college's Harvard Tea is a monthly formal event that fosters networking and professional growth among students. The Tech Trek, led by the BCA Department, offered free digital skills training to Vengoor Panchayath residents, delivered by student volunteers. This initiative not only improved community digital literacy but also provided students with valuable teaching experience. These efforts highlight the college's commitment to both student development and community service, reinforcing its role in shaping well-rounded and industry-ready professionals.

#### \* GRAMA

SCIENCES

The **Tech Trek** exemplifies RVCAS's commitment to community engagement and **technological empowerment**. Initiated by the BCA Department under the leadership of Ms. Rengini D., this programme provided essential digital skills training to residents of Vengoor Panchayath. Starting on October 31, 2023, the college offered free classes in internet usage, MS Word, and MS Excel every first and third Saturday for ten weeks.

The involvement of student volunteers as instructors added a unique dimension to this initiative, offering them hands-on teaching experience while nurturing a strong sense of social responsibility. For the community, this programme significantly enhanced **digital literacy**, **helping bridge the digital divide** and align with national goals like **Digital India and** *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By promoting a tech-friendly environment, the initiative supports residents in adapting to modern digital demands.

The LED Clinic, organized by the ED Club, is a transformative project aimed at making Ward 5 in the Mekkapala region of Vengoor Panchayat a "Filament-Free Village." This initiative focuses on collecting, repairing, and reusing broken LED lights as part of a broader waste management strategy aligned with the Swachh

Bharat mission. Students from the ED Club, trained to repair LED bulbs, not only gain practical vocational skills but also contribute to sustainability efforts. By learning to refurbish damaged lights, these students enhance their employability and entrepreneurial skills. The project reduces electronic waste, conserves energy, and lowers the cost of bulb replacements for the local community.

The Haritha Karma Sena will support this initiative by collecting broken LED lights from households and returning repaired bulbs. A nominal fee for these services promotes a circular economy, reduces reliance on imported bulbs, and fosters local employment.

## **Impact Analysis**

Vengoor Tech Trek has significantly improved **digital literacy** in the Vengoor Panchayath by offering **free training in internet usage and software skills.** This initiative has empowered local residents with essential digital skills, bridging the technological gap and aligning with the goals of Digital India. Student volunteers gained valuable teaching experience, while the community benefited from enhanced digital competence and increased self-reliance.

LED Clinic has transformed broken LED lights into usable ones, addressing both environmental and economic issues. By reducing electronic waste and energy consumption, the project supports sustainability. Students involved in the repair process developed practical skills and entrepreneurial experience, while the community enjoyed cost savings on bulb replacements. The initiative, supported by the Haritha Karma Sena, promotes a circular economy and contributes to local employment. Together, these initiatives highlight a successful integration of educational development and community service, delivering significant benefits to both students and local residents.

Overall the LED Clinic offers dual benefits: it equips students with valuable skills and supports the community by advancing environmental sustainability and reducing costs. These initiatives collectively showcase how local efforts can drive meaningful,

sustainable change, aligning with national missions and enhancing community welfare.

#### SRISTI

SRISTI reflects RVCAS's dedication to nurturing entrepreneurial spirit and practical skills among students. This comprehensive programme is designed to **foster creativity**, **business acumen**, **and hands-on learning**. Entrepreneurial Development is at the heart of SRISTI, focusing on cultivating entrepreneurial skills through various activities. The **Think Tank- Idea Incubation Center** initiative within the ED Club stimulates **innovative thinking and problem-solving**, enabling students to explore new ideas and solutions. **The Honesty Store** encourages ethical business practices by operating on trust, where students **manage transactions independently**, **fostering integrity and self-regulation**.

"Earn While You Learn" is another key aspect, where practical experience is intertwined with academic learning. Manure making is an environmentally sustainable initiative that teaches students about organic farming while developing entrepreneurial insights. The Food Fest provides a platform for students to manage and operate a food stall, enhancing their business management skills and offering a taste of real-world entrepreneurship.

The She Entrepreneur event, part of the college fest, recognizes and celebrates exceptional female entrepreneurs. This initiative features distinguished alumni such as Muhammed Farooq E.S, founder of Althamar Group, Mr. Mathew Kattikkaran, Managing Director of Digicult Global Media Private Limited, Mr. Ajay K. Mathew, Director of Edattel Ventures, and Mr. Fahad Ibnu Shahjahan, Partner at Kariyeli Furniture. Their success stories serve as inspiration, motivating students to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions.



**Students at Think Tank-Idea Incubation Center** 





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# **Proofs of Students' Entrepreneurial Ventures**



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**Food Fest Conducted at RVCAS** 





## **Impact Analysis**

The SRISTI programme at RVCAS has been a catalyst for fostering entrepreneurial spirit and practical skills among students, showcasing a remarkable blend of education and real-world application. The Think Tank and Honesty Store initiatives have been pivotal in developing students' entrepreneurial capabilities. The Think Tank encourages innovative problem-solving and creative thinking, while the Honesty Store instills principles of ethical business practices and personal responsibility, preparing students for the business world. Through Earn While You Learn activities like manure making and the Food Fest, students gain valuable practical experience. These initiatives not only support their learning but also provide opportunities to earn income, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

The manure making project stands out for its commitment to sustainable agricultural practices. By focusing on organic methods, the initiative educates students about environmental responsibility and the benefits of **eco-friendly solutions**. The She Entrepreneur event serves as a platform to celebrate and learn from successful female entrepreneurs associated with the college. With prominent alumni such as Muhammed Farooq E.S, Mr. Mathew Kattikkaran, Mr. Ajay K. Mathew, and Mr. Fahad Ibnu Shahjahan showcasing their achievements, the event inspires students and highlights the **potential for entrepreneurial success** within the community.

#### **Evidence of Success**

SCIENCES

RVCAS's 59 certificate courses have been completed by 931 students, underscoring the widespread reach and impact of its specialized training programmes. Technology Integration: All classrooms are 100% ICT-enabled, enhancing students' learning experiences with 71 computers, 3 interactive panels, and 13 projectors, ensuring modern, tech-savvy education. The institution boasts an impressive pass rate of over

81%, with over 60% of students advancing to further studies or securing employment, showcasing the effectiveness of its academic programmes.

Regular value education classes have improved students' soft skills, such as communication and teamwork, with noticeable increases in empathy and leadership abilities. The Honesty Store has fostered a culture of trust and self-regulation, with students managing transactions independently and demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility. Hands-on training in organic farming has equipped students with practical skills and advanced knowledge in sustainable agriculture, promoting ethical and environmentally friendly practices.

Over 1,100 students have benefitted from 43 skill enhancement events, highlighting the programme's broad impact on student capacity development. The Harvard Tea has provided valuable networking opportunities, with students improving their professional networking skills and career prospects. The initiative has enhanced digital literacy for Vengoor Panchayath residents while providing students with practical teaching experience, aligning with national goals like Digital India.

The Vengoor Tech Trek has successfully increased digital literacy among local residents, bridging the technological gap and supporting broader societal progress. The LED Clinic has transformed broken LED lights into usable ones, reducing electronic waste and energy consumption while providing students with practical vocational skills and enhancing local employment opportunities.

The Think Tank and Honesty Store have significantly developed students' entrepreneurial skills and ethical business practices, preparing them for real-world challenges. Initiatives like manure making and the Food Fest have provided students with practical experience and income, effectively bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world application. The She Entrepreneur event has inspired students by showcasing successful alumni entrepreneurs, highlighting the potential for entrepreneurial success and motivating students to pursue their own business

#### **Problems Encountered**

Many initiatives encountered challenges such as low student participation, which affected their effectiveness and outreach. Equipment malfunctions and operational issues occasionally disrupted the smooth execution of activities. Students often lacked practical experience and industry-specific skills, impacting their preparedness for real-world applications. Inconsistent attendance and engagement in programmes led to less impactful outcomes. Additionally, efforts to engage with the community and stakeholders were sometimes insufficient, reducing the overall effectiveness of these initiatives.

## **Solutions Implemented**

Challenges such as low student participation, equipment problems, and a lack of practical experience have impacted several initiatives. To overcome these issues, strategies like increasing student engagement with targeted outreach and incentives, ensuring regular equipment maintenance, incorporating hands-on training through industry partnerships, and improving community involvement can enhance effectiveness and outcomes.

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