

### **7.2.1 Describe one best practice successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.**

#### **1. Title of the Practice**

The title/s should capture the keywords that describe the practice.

Visiting Scholars Programme (VSP)

#### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

What are the objectives/intended outcomes of this “bestpractice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice?(in about 20 words)

The objective of the Visiting Scholars Programme is to support research being conducted by scholars and junior faculty members of colleges and universities in India.

#### **3. The Context**

What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice?(in about 30 words)

Contribute to capacity building in doctoral research in economics and development studies. Research capabilities, infrastructure for research such as libraries, databases, computing facilities are not uniformly distributed across academic institutions in the country. VSP has provided access to high quality research mentoring and facilities to bright scholars through a competitive process.

#### **4. The Practice**

Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of Indian higher education. What were the constraints/limitations, if any, faced?(in about 50 words)

The programme is unique in terms of its capacity building value and providing opportunities in HEIs of excellence like IGIDR. The scholarship enables up to five selected scholars to spend three months at a stretch at IGIDR anytime during the application year. Applicants have to be registered for Ph.D on a topic broadly involving any area of economics, including energy and environmental policy. Selection is based on a joint evaluation of the CV, letters of recommendation and the quality of the research proposal submitted at the time of application. There were no particular constraints or limitations faced.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review/results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 40 words.

The primary evidence of success is the longevity of the VSP, from 2009 till date. Till 2020, 31 Ph.D. scholars from other institutions in India have successfully completed the programme. The

performance targets: submission of progress report at the end of six weeks and a complete research report along with a seminar presentation of the research finding at the end of the three-month stay. Failure to submit a progress report on time may lead to the termination of the scholarship programme. Once the research project is completed and published, the scholar acknowledges IGIDR in an appropriate way. Till date, all scholars have cleared the performance requirements. Details of scholars and projects included under the Visiting Scholars Programme reported in Annual Reports since 2010/11 at <http://www.igidr.ac.in/research-publications/publication-2/annual-report/>.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 30 words).

Selected scholars are paid Rs. 17,000/- per month to meet incidental expenses, to and fro three-tier AC train fare, and provided free accommodation on campus for their duration of stay. No problems have been encountered as yet.

#### **7. Notes (Optional)**

Please add any other information that may be relevant for adopting/implementing the Best Practice in other Institutions (in about 30 words). Any other information regarding Institutional Values and Best Practices which the university would like to include.

Other best practices of the Institute in line with the objectives of the Visiting Scholar Programme, of providing opportunities and access to scholars of other institutions and contribute to capacity building in higher education in economics are the Visiting Students Programme, the Post-Doctoral Programme and the annual Ph.D. Colloquium, CORE.

**Provide the weblink on the Institutional website regarding the Best practices as per the prescribed format of NAAC.**

[http://www.igidr.ac.in/aqar/AQAR2020/institutional\\_best\\_practices.pdf](http://www.igidr.ac.in/aqar/AQAR2020/institutional_best_practices.pdf)