**Best Practice 2**

**Title**: **XavQWEST (**Xaverian Quality Women Entrepreneurship and Skills Training)

**Objectives**:

* To inculcate the spirit of self-dependence
* To enhance the entrepreneur skills of the students
* To augment self-sufficiency

**The Context**: XavQWEST, a multidimensional venture unique to St. Xavier’s College for Women, Aluva has become synonymous with self-economic-independence for Women through its diverse entrepreneurial activities. All the activities of different units of the institution under the umbrella term XavQWEST encourage women to initiate, organize and run business enterprises of their own. From student level, women in and around the institution are supported with various skill development initiatives and workshops to promote their confidence, innovative capability and self reliance. All the activities that center on XavQWEST are aimed at aiding women to perform all functions involved in establishing an enterprise.

**The Practice**: The activities of XavQWEST in the year 2018-19 could be categorized into three, namely

1. SamrambhakaVedi (ii) Product Workshops and (iii) Skills Training

**(i)** **SamrambhakaVedi**

SamrambhakaVedi under XQWEST aims to offer a direct physical platform for women entrepreneurs, amateurs and experts alike to bring their skills and ideas in action. It gives the opportunity to materialise their incubated ideas and find financial gain for their efforts.

St. Xavier’s College has a long tradition of promoting entrepreneurship among students, alumnae and women from different arenas of society through its OSAX Fair. It gives visibility and recognition to alumni entrepreneurs as well as other female run enterprises, including that of the students. The sale which started twenty five years ago has now given an opportunity to network and showcase the products of women from far and wide. OSAX is also regularly conducting classes in Calligraphy, tailoring, embroidery for women etc. to promote self sufficiency..

1. Over the years, the Entrepreneurship Development Club ( ED Club) under the Department of Commerce has organized many programs in collaboration with KIED (Kerala Institute of Entrepreneurship Development), DIC (District Industries Centre) and KITCO. ED The club organizes industrial visits, business awareness classes, practical sessions on skill development training, interaction with entrepreneurs to give young women an insight into the possible avenues for self – employment and become successful entrepreneurs.
2. In the year 2018-19, ED club organized an Industrial Visit to Sprint Apparel Unit on 4th October 2018, as part of 3 days Entrepreneurial Awareness Camp (EAC) which was conducted in association with IQAC and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII). The participants earned valuable insight into the working of the firm with a productive interactive session with the Managing Director.
3. “Blooming Pink 2018 “, Business Idea Competition by ED club became platform for 22 prospective and viable business ideas from students. The two selected ideas (Rakshak – Borewell Rescue System and Herbo Paper ) were sent to the State Level Idea Challenge Competition conducted by the NGO “ SamrambhakMitra “. Students presented their innovative and resourceful ideas at the central zone round at Jai Bharat Arts & Science College, Perumbavoor. The former idea of Borewell Rescue System, received commendable appreciations and was recommended to proceed with patents.
4. ED club members put up a stall on 24/01/2019 showcasing their own hand made products including eco friendly denim bags, purses, pouches, key chains. The event boosted the confidence of students to take up new initiatives.
5. An interaction was arranged with a Women Entrepreneur Mrs.Rosily Joy who runs the brand “Take & Taste”- pure home made food items on 13.02.2019. The class was so inspirational to the students.
6. An industrial visit was arranged to Kitex Ltd and Anna Aluminium Ltd on 19.02.2019 for the ED Club members. 42 students and 2 faculty members attended the program. Students could also understand the working of Kitex Garment unit as well as *Scoobee* Day School bag manufacturing unit. It was an interesting experience to see the aluminium metal sheets are converted into household utensils.
7. SamrambhakaVedi is also made use of by the College’s Student Union which frequently puts up food and desserts stalls as their promotional events and thereafter uses the fund gathered, for the hosting of other students' activities.
8. **Product Workshops**

XavQWEST promotes hosting of workshops in the institution for women in order to give hands-on training to create products, aiming to impart knowledge which can be used for starting a business of their own.

1. One of the prime objectives of Women Cell of the institution is to evoke self sufficiency among the students. In 2018-19, Women Cell organised a One Day Workshop on “Liquid Embroidery” conducted by Mrs. Usha T G, the Fevicryl Specialist on 15/2/2019. Around 70 students got hands on training in Texture Technique, Mirror Technique, Embroidery Technique, Dot Technique, Embedded Technique, Fish bone technique, Comb Technique and Beading Technique, enabling them to create an embroidered appearance on the fabric without sewing with a needle and a thread. Indian traditional designs of various states were also introduced namely, Mathubani design of Bihar and Gond design of Madhya Pradesh .This workshop helped the students to develop their artistic skills and motivated them to do designing on fabrics.
2. Women Cell also organised a workshop on ‘Star Making’ for the students on 15/02/2019. Ms. Jaleetta James (ChekuttyPava district coordinator) taught the students to make cost effective method to make stars with chart paper and gum. This workshop helped the students to develop their skills in paper crafting. Nearly 20 students participated in the workshop.
3. The Cell extends its activities outside the institution as well. The team organized a “Cake and chocolate making workshop” for the Kudumbasree members on 15/3/19 to increase their entrepreneur skills. Nearly 20 Kudumbasree members participated in the workshop. They got hands on training on the preparation of cake varieties like Black forest and Vancho and Chocolate varieties like Nutfill,Bounty and Caramel-fill. The Cake specialist, MsBlasilda conducted the workshop. This workshop equipped the participants to prepare cakes and chocolates of their own.
4. Department of Physics conducted a workshop on LED making for a group of 26 selected students which consisted of a practical session on soldering, and hands on training by Mr. Santhosh Prabha, MVoc Instructor of Electronics.

(ii)**Skills Training**

1. ASAP or Addition Skill Acquisition Programme by the Government of Kerala has established a Skill Development Centre at St. Xavier’s College for Women, Aluva to promote life skills for career development among selected students through 180 hours of training by highly qualified Skill Development Executives.
2. On 15.09.2018, ED club organised a skill development training on eco friendly paper bags and files to the ED club members. The class was led by Mrs. Shenza. The class was very effective by which students were able to make paper bags and files by themselves.
3. ED Club organized programs in collaboration with KIED, DIC and KITCO. Organized industrial visits, business awareness classes, practical sessions on skill development training, interaction with entrepreneurs to give young women an insight into the possible avenues for self – employment.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** Our students, being women, encounter challenges and constraints with regard to the fund and time in accomplishing the desired goal. Tied to the rigid semester system, students lack sufficient time to pursue the entrepreneurial endeavours they have mastered. The funds needed are hard to be raised as the university grants and funds are minimal. The students had to evolve their own finance within the stipulated time frame.