

Comparative Study of Policies and Practices of Community Engagement in Universities of Maharashtra

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: May 22, 2025

Accepted: January 16, 2026

Published Online: March 31, 2026

Keywords:

Community engagement, Common and innovative practices of community engagement, Maharashtra, Universities

ABSTRACT

Background: Community engagement has emerged as one of the future directions of higher education extension. Community engagement helps to build the community, as well as the social and economic foundations that support equity and diversity in higher education and offers opportunities for people to participate in a democratic way. Community engagement encompasses a range of approaches, including consultation, co-operation, and participation. It is imperative to understand that it requires community support for effective implementation. Why should one be involved in community engagement? To effectively meet the diverse needs of the community; to help people develop a sense of ownership and accountability in terms of giving back to society; to take pride in service to the community; to take on the challenge of solving community issues collectively; to access funding to conduct initiatives for the community; and to make the work happen in reality in a practical way.

Purpose: Through this research, the researcher addresses the innovative and best practices of community engagement in universities in India, with a special focus on universities in Maharashtra, and compares these policies and practices (innovative and best) among state, private, and deemed-to-be universities.

Method: A comparative method was used by the researcher. The sample of the study consisted of 9 states, private, and deemed-to-be universities selected by the researcher, and under these universities, community engagement practices of 5 departments were studied for the identification and comparison of best and innovative policies and practices of community engagement.

Result & Conclusion: Through this research study, the researcher concluded that the majority of universities do not have a formal policy for community engagement, but programmes/activities are organized through the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Student Welfare Department (SWD) extension programmes. Also, there is no formal course/unit/module on community engagement. The researcher also concluded that, as there is no set policy with regard to community engagement, there is no mission or vision for incorporating community engagement into postgraduate courses.



DOI: [10.15415/ije.2025.132003](https://doi.org/10.15415/ije.2025.132003)

1. Introduction

Teaching, research, and extension are the three key aspects of higher education. Through extension activities, knowledge is shared with the community in order to contribute to social transformation. In recent years, community engagement has emerged as one of the important dimensions of higher education extension. Community engagement helps to strengthen the social and economic foundations of communities, supports equity and diversity in higher

education, and offers opportunities for individuals to participate in democratic processes (Verma, 2018).

Community engagement encompasses a range of approaches such as consultation, cooperation, and participation. It is important to understand that effective implementation requires active community support. Involvement in community engagement is essential for addressing diverse community needs, encouraging individuals to develop a sense of ownership and accountability towards society, fostering pride in

community service, and enabling collective efforts to solve social issues. It also helps in accessing resources and funding to implement initiatives that benefit communities and translate ideas into practical actions (Studer & Pilcher, 2015; Killer & Bogler, 2016). The main goal is to build lasting relationships with the people who will benefit from the work and with local organizations, creating a strong support network over time (Radest, 1993).

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, community engagement is defined as “the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people” (National Institutes of Health, 2021).

Thus, community engagement may be understood as a process that focuses on identifying community expectations and needs, developing appropriate solutions, and implementing them effectively through collaboration among various stakeholders. Indian higher education has undergone rapid transformation in recent years; however, an important question arises are higher education institutions only producing individuals prepared for the job market, or are they also nurturing socially responsible citizens? There is a growing need to sensitize youth towards collaboration and social responsibility so that they can contribute to the social and economic development of the country (James, 2002).

Historically, communities functioned through strong interpersonal relationships and shared responsibilities. In contemporary society, however, there is a renewed need for initiatives that bring people together for collective development. Addressing issues related to human development in Indian society requires collaborative efforts and community participation (Verma, 2018; Gallego & Hollingsworth, 2000). Four principles for effective community engagement are:

- Agree and communicate a clear purpose and scope.
- Choose appropriate engagement methods according to the purpose and scope.
- Provide feedback on what happened.
- Build community engagement as a continuous process rather than a one-time activity.

Effective engagement should be guided by a clear strategy aligned with specific objectives. Activities selected for community engagement should address

diverse areas and generate meaningful impact. Focus should be given to areas that require attention and development, and the objectives should be achievable as well as adaptable. Furthermore, once activities are implemented, their impact should be evaluated systematically to understand their effectiveness (Studer & Pilcher, 2015). Through this research, the investigator aims to explore the innovative and best practices of community engagement in universities in India, with a special focus on universities in Maharashtra. The study will also compare the policies and practices of community engagement among state universities, private universities, and deemed to be universities.

1.1. Operational Definition

- **Community Engagement:** Working together in collaboration with teachers, students, and community members for the welfare of society through participation of universities in India, especially state, private, and deemed to be universities of Maharashtra.
- **Community Engagement policy:** Policy formulated in line with the practices that can be carried out with the motive of community engagement practices throughout state, private, and deemed to be universities in Maharashtra.
- **Community Engagement practices:** Community engagement practices cover the participation from the community with the help of activities from NSS and SWD.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

- To identify innovative and best practices of community engagement in universities of India with special focus on universities of Maharashtra.
- To compare policies and practices (innovative and best) among the state, private, and deemed to be universities.

1.3. Assumption

Community engagement practices are carried out at various state, private, and deemed to be universities in Maharashtra state. (<https://campus.unipune.ac.in/CCEP/CampusAdmission/index.html>)

1.4. Research Questions

- Which policies of community engagement exist in universities of India with special focus on universities of Maharashtra?

- What kind of community engagement practices are carried out by the state, private, and the deemed to be universities of India with special focus on Maharashtra universities?

1.5. Scope of the Study

- The scope of the study includes all the state, private, and deemed to be universities of Maharashtra state.
- This study focuses on various policies related to community engagement that could be followed by the state, private, and deemed to be universities of Maharashtra.
- This study focuses on practices of community engagement carried out by various state, private, and deemed to be universities of Maharashtra.

1.6. Delimitations

- This study was limited to institutes affiliated to universities across Maharashtra.
- This study was limited to institutes coming under non-agricultural universities in Maharashtra.
- This study was limited to the study of policies and practices related to community engagement.

1.7. Limitations

- The findings of the present research were dependent upon the documents related to community engagement policies and practices downloaded by the researcher from each state, private, and deemed to be university website.

2. Research Methodology

The following study was a mixed method using qualitative and quantitative approach to study the above stated objectives. Objective wise methods are listed below:

Table 1: Objective wise Research Methods

Sr. No.	Objective	Research Method
1	To identify innovative and best practices of community engagement in universities of India with special focus on universities of Maharashtra.	<i>Data sheets and Document Analysis</i>
2	To compare policy, practices (innovative & best) among state university, private university & deemed to be universities of Maharashtra.	<i>Comparative Method</i>

2.1. Sample and Sampling Techniques

Convenient sampling

- List of the state universities was prepared by convenient sampling from across Maharashtra.
- Department heads, coordinators, teachers, and students from the chosen universities were selected through convenient sampling. Willingness to provide data and cooperation were the basis of selection.

2.2. Sample

- State, private, and deemed to be universities in Maharashtra practicing community engagement practices.
- Heads of the departments, coordinators of student welfare or development, coordinators of NSS, teachers, and students at the concerned universities under study.
- For document analysis, state, private, and deemed to be universities that is 09 universities of Maharashtra and 05 departments, student welfare, and NSS unit of each university were selected by convenient sampling. Five departments are as follows:
 - Department of Education and Extension
 - Department of Sociology
 - Department of Lifelong Learning
 - Department of Women's Studies
 - Department of Skill Development

2.3. Data Collection Tool

- Policies and Practices documents
- For document analysis, community engagement policies and practices and their implementation.
- Variable of the study, community engagement policies and practices, higher education.

2.4. Tools used for Data Collection

- For 3rd and 4th objective, document analysis method was used, and data sheets were prepared by the researcher.
- For 3rd and 4th objective, a datasheet was prepared for the comparison of policy and practices innovative and best practices among state, private, and deemed to be universities.

2.5. Sources of Data Collection - State, Private, and Deemed to be Universities

Table 2: State Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the State Universities
1	Savitribai Phule Pune University (Pune)
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Aurangabad)

3	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded)
4	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswavidyalaya University (Wardha)
5	Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North University (Jalgaon)
6	University of Mumbai (Mumbai)
7	Shivaji University (Kolhapur)
8	Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (Nagpur)
9	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (Amravati)

Table 3: Private Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the Private Universities
1	Dr. Vishwanath Karad's MIT World Peace University (Pune)
2	G.H. Rasoni University (Amravati)
3	Sanjay Ghodawat University (Kolhapur)
4	Amity University (Mumbai)

5	Flame University (Pune)
6	Spicer Adventist University (Pune)
7	Sandip University (Nashik)
8	Mahatma Gandhi Mission University (Aurangabad)
9	Ajeenkya D Y Patil University (Pune)

Table 4: Deemed to be Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the Deemed to be Universities
1	Bharati Vidyapeeth (Pune)
2	Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Pune)
3	Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Mumbai)
4	Pravara Institute of Medical Science (Ahmednagar)
5	Symbiosis International University (Pune)
6	Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai)
7	Gokhale Institute of politics & Economics (Pune)
8	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (Pune)
9	Deccan College of Post Graduate and Research Institute

2.6. Attributes - Practices, and Activities of Community Engagement

2.6.1. State Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Practices and Activities of Community Engagement
1	Savitribai Phule Pune University	The University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated a program called "Community College" that focuses on skill development through higher education. This program is a part of the college or education curriculum and is offered under the Skill Development Center of Savitribai Phule Pune University. Community College provides for various requirements, such as career focused education and skills training for students who aspire to enter the workforce directly, shortened training and education programs for local workers, and high touch remedial education for secondary school students and graduates who are not yet prepared to enroll in traditional colleges, providing them with a pathway to transfer to three to four institutions and eventually complete their education. General interest courses are offered to the community for personal growth and to satisfy individual interests.
2	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	The university conducts community engagement practices such as Stree Purush Samanta Rally on the occasion of 8th March (International Women's Day), workshops, seminars and conferences, tree plantation, and blood donation camps.
3	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	The university organized a cleanliness camp on the occasion of 2nd October 2019, Mahatma Gandhi birth anniversary. The program was hosted by NSS programme officers, university faculty and staff, NSS volunteers, as well as members of the university campus unit. The idea of "Clean University and Green University" enhanced the camp and transformed the campus into a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment.
4	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya University, Wardha	Field visits, counselling sessions, visits in rural areas, cultural programmes, tree plantation, blood donation camps, field work, skill development programmes, etc. These are activities or practices related to community engagement.
5	Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	Debates, Equal Opportunity Cell available in Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, skill development programmes such as communication skills, soft skills, community involvement, leadership, decision making skills, exhibitions, blood donation camps, tree plantation, Mahila Melava. These activities are related to community engagement.

6	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	Tree plantation, blood donation camps, field visits, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, debates, Bhajan Sandhya, self defense, youth festivals, historical visits, counselling, film festival, Maha Walkthon, computer-based courses on clock hour basis provided by Community Education Centre. These are the practices related to community engagement.
7	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Skill development courses, field work, environment awareness programmes, health camps, disaster management work, blood donation camps, youth festivals, rural development, NGO visits, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, counselling programmes, national and international days celebration, drama presentation, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan. These are the practices of Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
8	Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University	Tree plantation, blood donation camps, field visits, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, debates, youth festivals, historical visits, historical August rally on Kranti Din, guidance and counselling programme, Indo Tibet cultural programme, NGO and school visits.
9	Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati	Tree plantation, blood donation camps, field visits, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, debates, induction programme, environment awareness camps, health camps, helping hand programmes, cultural programmes, soft skill development programmes, Mahawalkthon, NGO work. These are the practices related to community engagement.

2.6.2. Private Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Practices and Activities of Community Engagement
1	MIT World Peace University, Pune	The university is actively involved in community engagement practices, with all staff and students actively participating in the initiatives. The World Peace Dome, World Peace Prayer Hall and Library was inaugurated on 2 October 2018 by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu.
2	G. H. Rasoni University, Amravati	Students and staff are involved in activities that are beneficial to society. A play titled "Baap ha Baapch Asto" was organized, along with a motivational event, "Mann kara re prasanna".
3	Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur	The university does not have any policy or practices related to community engagement.
4	Amity University, Mumbai	CSR Responsibilities. Under corporate social responsibilities, Amity University Mumbai will start the following projects with the cooperation of students, teachers, and staff: waste land management, various programmes for women empowerment, water conservation programme, girl child development programme, water resource management, vocational and industrial training, petroleum resource management, sports programmes for youth empowerment, bio farming, separate schools and colleges for girls, solar energy projects, adoption of a village for total development, jatropha farming for artificial petroleum, and herbal farming to provide employment to villagers.
5	Flame University, Pune	The university does not have any policy or practices related to community engagement.
6	Spicer Adventist University	The educational programme at Spicer Adventist University is based on the philosophy that university education is more than the completion of a certain course of study. To teach students worthy vocational service and to inculcate traits such as dignity of labour, cleanliness, cooperation, enterprise, integrity, management, respect for and value of money, self-actualization, and self-sufficiency, the university includes a work education programme as a part of its academic plan and offers work opportunities in its various service and business units to students for their holistic development. The units established for this purpose include the bakery, cafeteria, confectionery, estate, gardens, hostels, laboratories, library, maintenance department, food and metal industries, offices, press, security, sports, and other departments of the university. This also provides opportunities, especially for needy students, to earn while learning part of their expenses. Here, students are educated in socially useful and productive labour.
7	Sandip University, Nashik	The university does not have any policy or practices related to community engagement.
8	Mahatma Gandhi Mission University, Aurangabad	The university does not have any policy or practices related to community engagement.
9	Ajeenkya D. Y. Patil University, Pune	The university does not have any policy or practices related to community engagement.

2.6.3. Deemed to be Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Practices and Activities of Community Engagement
1	Bharti Vidyapeeth, Pune	SEWA (organize social activities), Yoga Day celebration, tree plantation programme, awareness rally, Swachhata Sarvekshan, cleanliness drive, blood donation camps, medical check-up, general check-up, school health check-up camps, soft skill development programme, Fit India Movement, and distribution of pencils and notebooks to ZP school students. These are the activities related to community engagement.
2	Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune	Eye donation awareness programme, Marathi oral health check-up camps, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, blood donation camp, tree plantation, organ donation awareness camps, dental check-ups, International Women's Day celebration, yoga and wellness camps. These are the practices of community engagement.
3	Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Navi Mumbai	Fit India Movement, workshop on communication skills, Teachers Day celebration, educational trips, tree plantation, blood donation camp, mega health camp, Environment Day celebration, Women's Day celebration, and flood relief donation camp for Sangli, Kolhapur, and Kerala donation drive. These are the practices of community engagement.
4	Pravara Institute of Medical Science, Ahmednagar	Pravara Medical Trust, Loni has established community health development centres in villages such as Pathare, Rahata, Kolhar KD, Babhalhelwar, Zarekathi, Lohare, Rajpur, and Shendi in Ahmednagar district. Under this centre, women health clinic, child health clinic, and youth clinic are available for rural people. Health awareness exhibitions, organ donation, body donation and eye donation, career guidance, short term skill development programmes. These are practices related to community engagement.
5	Symbiosis International University, Pune	Blood donation drive, UMANG, PRERNA, Winter is Coming, Rashtriya Ekta Divas, Swachhata Abhiyan, bamboo craft workshop, Fit India Movement, emotional wellbeing workshop, and English communication workshop. These are the practices of community engagement.
6	Tata Institute of Social Sciences	Blood donation camps, tree plantation programmes, Sukoon, Koshish, Muskaan, talk on gender, politics and the question of culture, community consultation, health services, workshop on professional and personal development, national seminar on ideas, peoples and inclusive education in India, international conference on inclusive education, national conference on disability, accessibility and struggles, Gramin series talks on mental health and migrant workers, counselling sessions, and International Women's Day celebration. These are the practices of community engagement.
7	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune	Orientation programmes for college principals and teachers, government sector officials and youth from various villages, green energy workshops, cleanliness and sanitation workshops, watershed development and management camps, rural development programmes, tree plantation and health camps, street plays for road safety, distribution of road safety awareness pamphlets, blood donation camps, and visit to Jammu and Kashmir. These are the practices related to community engagement.
8	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune	Personality development programme, guest lectures, seminars, workshops, short term courses, employability skill development programmes. These are practices related to community engagement.
9	Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute	Tree plantation camp, blood donation camps, field trips, nature club activities, seminars, workshops, art exhibitions, Vachan Prerna Din, drama competitions, library book exhibition, and cultural programmes. These are the practices related to community engagement.

3. Findings of the Study

3.1. Findings from the First Objective

3.1.1. Findings from the State Universities

- Savitribai Phule University's all five departments, NSS, and SWD have innovative and best practices as well as common practices related to community engagement.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University has community engagement common practices, and innovative and best practices are also conducted by the university.
- Common practices as well as best and innovative practices are also conducted by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University.

- Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya has only common practices. Innovative and best practices are not found.
- Common and innovative practices are conducted by Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon.
- The University of Mumbai has common practices and also best and innovative practices related to community engagement.
- Shivaji University directly focuses on community engagement practices. The university has a community engagement cell. The cell and other five departments, along with NSS and SWD, conduct best and innovative practices as well as common practices.
- Only common practices have been seen at Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur. Innovative and best practices are not found.
- Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University conducts community engagement related to common practices and innovative practices.
- Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth has community engagement related innovative and best practices and common practices.
- Community engagement related common and innovative and best practices have been found in Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences.
- Symbiosis International University has community engagement related innovative and best practices and common practices.
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences has common practices, but the university also has some very innovative and best practices related to community engagement.
- Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics also has community engagement related common and innovative and best practices.
- Common practices and innovative and best practices are found in Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.
- Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute has some common practices, and some innovative and best practices are also present.

3.1.2. Findings from the Private Universities

- MIT World Peace University has innovative and best practices as well as common practices.
- Common practices and innovative and best practices are found in G H Rasoni University, Pune.
- Sanjay Ghodawat University conducts common activities. The university also has innovative and best practices.
- Amity University has innovative and best practices as well as common practices related to community engagement.
- Flame University also has common, innovative, and best practices related to community engagement.
- Spicer Adventist University has innovative and best practices related to community engagement, and common practices are also present.
- Sandip University focuses on community engagement related common practices and innovative and best practices.
- Common and innovative and best practices have been found in Mahatma Gandhi Mission University.
- Ajeenkya D. Y. Patil University has innovative and best practices, and common practices are also present.

3.1.3. Findings from the Deemed to be Universities

- Bharati Vidyapeeth has innovative and best practices and common practices related to community engagement.
- Dr. D. Y. Patil University focuses on community engagement related common practices and innovative and best practices.

3.2. Findings from the 2nd Objective

3.2.1. Findings from the 09 State Universities

- The community engagement cell is available only at Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
- All the state universities do not have any particular policy for community engagement.
- Savitribai Phule Pune University has common and innovative and best practices related to community engagement.
- Two-year course or curriculum related to community engagement is available only at Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
- All state universities have community engagement related projects except Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya.
- Community engagement related research projects are carried out by Aurangabad University and Amravati University.
- All state university students are involved, actively participate, and arrange various activities related to community engagement.
- All university teachers support their students and staff. They motivate, encourage, and give time to time guidance to their students for more participation and involvement in community engagement related activities and also arrange various workshops and camps related to community engagement.
- All state university NSS units conduct community engagement related activities. Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya and the

University of Mumbai do not have the National Service Scheme NSS. Except for these two universities, all state university NSS units work on community engagement practices.

- Student Welfare Development is available in every state university, and they also work on community engagement practices except Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya. In this university, SWD is not available.
- MSW is available in Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vishwavidyalaya. The university has common practices only. There are no innovative and best practices found.
- Department of Education is available in all nine state universities. The department conducts all activities related to community engagement.
- Department of Sociology is available in all nine state universities. This department focuses indirectly on community engagement related activities.
- Skill Development department is available only at Savitribai Phule Pune University and Shivaji University, Kolhapur.
- Department of Lifelong Learning indirectly focuses on community engagement related practices. This department is not available in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya.
- Department of Women's Studies is available in all nine state universities. This department works on community engagement practices indirectly.

3.2.2. Findings from the 09 Private Universities

- All selected nine private universities do not have the community engagement cell or department.
- Out of all nine private universities, only Sanjay Ghodawat University has a particular policy for community engagement.
- MIT World Peace University, G H Raisoni University, Amity University, and Spicer Adventist University have practices related to community engagement.
- Community engagement related course or curriculum is available only in MIT World Peace University, Flame University, and Mahatma Gandhi Mission University.
- MIT World Peace University, Sanjay Ghodawat University, Amity University, Sandip University, Mahatma Gandhi Mission University, and Ajeenkya D Y Patil University have projects related to community engagement.
- Amity University and Sandip University do not have research related to community engagement.
- All nine private university teachers arrange various workshops and seminars for their students and staff. They also motivate them to participate. Most of

the students at private universities are involved in community engagement related work.

- National Service Scheme NSS is only available in Sandip University, Nashik.
- All nine private universities do not have Student Welfare Development SWD.
- MSW is only available in Flame University, Pune.
- MIT World Peace University, Spicer Adventist University, and Mahatma Gandhi Mission University have the Department of Education.
- Department of Sociology is only available in Flame University.
- Only Sanjay Ghodawat University has the Department of Skill Development.
- All nine private universities do not have departments such as Department of Lifelong Learning and Department of Women's Studies.

3.2.3. Findings from the 09 Deemed to be Universities

- All selected deemed to be universities do not have the community engagement cell or department.
- All nine deemed to be universities do not have a policy for community engagement.
- All nine deemed to be universities have practices related to community engagement.
- Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pravara Institute of Medical Science, Symbiosis International University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute have projects related to community engagement.
- Only Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences has research related to community engagement.
- All deemed to be university students actively participate and arrange various activities related to community engagement.
- All deemed to be university teachers are involved in community engagement related work or activities. They support, motivate, and guide their students regularly.
- National Service Scheme NSS is available only in Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- Student Welfare Development SWD is only available in Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- MSW is available only in Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- Department of Education and Department of Sociology are available only in Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- Skill Development Centre is available in Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.
- Women's Studies Centre is available in Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences and Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

4. Conclusion

Through this research study, the researcher concluded that the majority of universities do not have a formal policy for community engagement, but programmes and activities are organized through the National Service Scheme NSS and Student Welfare Department SWD extension programmes. Programme in charge teachers adapt community engagement programmes from schemes, and very few are organized other than the scheme. Also, there is no formal course, unit, or module on community engagement.

Most of the state, private, and deemed to be universities have innovative as well as common practices related to community engagement. The researcher also concludes that, as there is no set policy with regard to community engagement, there is no mission or vision for incorporating community engagement in postgraduate courses.

It is very crucial for universities to know and report the interests and needs of the community. If the need is known, then the expected outcomes, which are an integral part of community engagement practices, can be clearly highlighted. There must be focus on both the negative and positive impact of the projects that are implemented for the community. Importance should be given to careful planning, investment and funding, implementation and practices, and ways in which this can be enforced. There is a need to measure performance so that the impact of the practices is known.

Acknowledgement

Authors would like to express sincere gratitude to Chitkara University, Punjab, for providing the necessary resources, academic environment, and continuous support throughout the completion of this research work. The authors are also deeply thankful to the faculty members and coordinators for their valuable guidance, encouragement, and constructive suggestions, which greatly contributed to improving the quality and effectiveness of the research. Additionally, authors gratefully acknowledge the support and cooperation extended by all individuals who directly or indirectly contributed to the successful completion of this study.

Authorship Contribution

Nisha Valvi was responsible for all the research paperwork, under the guidance and valuable suggestions related to

the research methodology, results, and conclusion. The revision work was done by Sanjeev Sonawane.

Funding

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not for profit sectors.

Ethical Approval

The authors declare that no ethical approvals were required for the study.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Declarations

The authors declare that this work is original, has not been published or submitted elsewhere, and adheres to ethical research standards. There are no specific declarations to be made regarding this article.

Data Availability Statement

Authors declare that the authors confirm that the data supporting the conclusions of this study are included within the article.

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