



IQAC Criteria 7.2.1

Best Practice 2

Title of the practice -

Mapping Lavasa An Experiential and Interdisciplinary Learning Initiative: An Experiential and Interdisciplinary Learning Initiative

Objectives of the practice –

- To bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application in English and Cultural Studies.
- To introduce students to experiential and field-based learning methodologies.
- To develop research skills through archival work, oral history, and documentation practices.
- To enhance critical understanding of themes such as urbanization, sustainability, displacement, and cultural identity.
- To promote collaborative learning, problem-solving, and independent inquiry among students.

The Context -

Traditional classroom-based teaching in humanities often limits students' engagement with lived realities. In response, the department recognized the need for a pedagogical shift towards practice-based and field-oriented learning.

Lavasa, as a planned urban space near Pune, offers a unique site to explore contemporary issues such as privatized urban development, ecological concerns, and socio-cultural transformations. The initiative was conceptualized to use Lavasa as a living text, allowing students to interpret space through frameworks derived from literature, cultural studies, and social theory.

The Practice –

The Mapping Lavasa initiative is implemented as a structured, multi-stage academic activity:

- Pre-field Preparation:

Students are introduced to theoretical frameworks (urban studies, spatial theory, cultural narratives) and research methodologies.

- Field Engagement:

Visits to Lavasa enable students to observe, document, and interact with the space through:

Visual mapping and site documentation

Interviews and oral histories

- Archival and Research Work:



Students collect and analyze data from archives, media sources, and policy documents related to Lavasa's development.

- Digital Humanities Integration:

Findings are curated into digital formats such as maps, blogs, visual narratives, and presentations.

Evidence of Success

- Enhanced student engagement and active participation in learning processes.
- Demonstrable improvement in students' analytical, interpretative, and research skills.
- Positive feedback from students highlighting the effectiveness of experiential learning.
- Increased inclination among students towards research-oriented and interdisciplinary work.
- Strengthening of the department's innovative teaching-learning practices.

Problems encountered

- Logistical challenges related to organizing field visits.
- Time constraints within the academic timetable.
- Limited access to certain archival data sources.
- Initial lack of student familiarity with field research methodologies.

Resources required

- Access to digital tools and software for mapping and documentation.
- Institutional support for interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Capacity-building workshops for students in research and digital humanities methods.

