



## Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous)

### *A Report on*

### *The Transformative Role of Open Electives under NEP 2020*

#### **Introduction:**

With the adoption of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science, and Commerce (VESASC) has embraced a fresh approach to education through Open Elective (OE) courses. These courses allow students to step beyond their chosen fields and explore subjects from other disciplines. By doing so, VESASC promotes the holistic development and interdisciplinary learning envisioned by NEP 2020. The college's innovative "Open Elective (OE) Mela" showcases the true essence of these courses, celebrating learning vibrantly and interactively.

#### **Breaking Barriers with Multidisciplinary Learning:**

NEP 2020 emphasizes breaking down traditional academic boundaries, and VESASC's Open Elective (OE) courses reflect this vision. They offer students a chance to explore areas outside their core subjects. For instance, science students can learn about financial literacy or management principles, while commerce and arts students can dive into fields like artificial intelligence or photography. These courses add value to students' resumes and satisfy personal curiosity and interests.

Open Electives at VESASC allow students to venture beyond their primary disciplines and explore diverse fields of interest. The structure embodies NEP 2020's emphasis on a multidisciplinary curriculum, equipping students with versatile skills to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

- **Course Options:** The self-financed programs at VESASC provide students with a wide array of Open Elective courses: 16 options in the first year and 10 in the second year. Similarly, aided programs also offer a broad spectrum of subjects.
- **Areas of Study:** Students can select courses such as Financial Literacy, Basics of Stock Market, Photography, Artificial Intelligence, Personality Development, Event management and more. This breadth of choice enhances employability, nurtures creativity, and enables students to explore latent interests.
- **Student Development:** By encouraging the exploration of cross-disciplinary fields, the Open Elective system fosters adaptability and critical thinking, key qualities in today's dynamic professional environment.

#### **OE Mela: A Creative Convergence of Learning:**

The **OE Mela**, organized as a culmination of Open Elective courses, serves as an interactive learning hub where students showcase their knowledge, creativity, and skills. This annual event is curated by first-year students with guidance and mentorship from seniors and faculty.

- **Event Highlights:**

- Stalls dedicated to different elective courses featured engaging exhibits, games, and skits to present concepts in innovative ways.
  - Courses like Basics of Stock Market, Artificial Intelligence, and Photography were brought to life through student-led demonstrations and projects.
  - Junior college students were also invited to witness the vibrant academic culture, offering them insights into the interdisciplinary approach of VESASC.
  - While other OE students exhibit through stalls and games, the Leadership and Management, and Event Management students manage the conduct of the entire event, from inauguration to closure.
- **Interactive Elements:** The OE Mela went beyond traditional learning methods. Students used creative tools like role-plays, quizzes, and multimedia displays to communicate their course takeaways, fostering teamwork and peer-to-peer learning.

### **Impact of Open Electives at VESASC:**

The OE system has significantly boosted student engagement and curiosity at VESASC. By exploring disciplines outside their primary fields, students broaden their perspectives and discover new interests. The students wait for OE subject classes, Many students have shared that OE courses helped them think more creatively about their career paths and personal goals.

The OE Mela, in particular, has become a cornerstone of innovation at the college. It's a platform for students to showcase their knowledge, build confidence, and collaborate with peers and faculty. The event highlights the transformative potential of choice-based education, proving that learning becomes more meaningful when students have the freedom to choose, explore and create.

### **Feedback from Participants and Attendees**

The following feedback highlights the enthusiasm and appreciation expressed by students and attendees:

- *“The OE Mela is an innovative idea by VES College. It inspires students to explore their creativity and broaden their perspectives.”* – Diya Karmaran (SYBT)
- *“This event encourages students to think outside the box and showcase their talents. It's a great way to spark fresh ideas.”* – Jayesh Soni (SY DSDA)
- *“The OE Mela is a wonderful platform for students to unleash creativity and gain confidence while learning new things.”* – Aditi Sharma
- *“Participating in the OE Mela was an enriching experience. It allowed us to express creativity and learn from our peers.”* – Prasad Mahajan
- *“VES College's OE Mela is a vibrant celebration of creativity and innovation. It motivates students to think critically and experiment with new ideas.”* – Pranat Ghag

### **Conclusion:**

VESASC's implementation of NEP 2020 through Open Electives is a shining example of forward-thinking education. The OE Mela, as a celebration of interdisciplinary learning, showcases how education can be both practical and engaging. By embracing NEP's principles, VESASC is enriching its students' academic journeys and setting a benchmark for holistic education.

This case study highlights the power of choice in education. When students are given the freedom to explore their interests and execute their ideas, the outcomes are remarkable. VESASC's initiatives are a testament to the transformative impact of multidisciplinary learning, preparing students for well-rounded and dynamic futures.

### GLIMPSES OF OE MELA



*"Creative expressions: The Photography elective stall displaying stunning visuals captured by participants."*





*"Teamwork and innovation: Students collaborating at the Financial Literacy and Stock Market exhibit."*



*"Junior college students exploring the vibrant OE Mela and gaining insights into interdisciplinary learning."*

*"Knowledge snapshot: The board captures essential points from the elective for attendees to explore."*

