7.2.1: Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

I) First Best Practice: Book bank and Deposit scheme

1. Goal:

- To help the students of poor and weaker sections of society with reading materials in the form of books.
- To help those students who can't purchase the books necessary for their studies.
- To enable them to improve their performance in the examination.

2.The Context: Our college is situated in a locality where socioeconomically weaker section students reside. Most of the students belong to educationally backward classes and poor families with no proper guidance at home. The Management of the college not only desires to provide education to them but also ensure that students do not discontinue their education due to lack of facilities and financial availability. In every academic year, up to 5 library books are issued among students at a time specially during exams.

3. **The Practice:** Students can issue only 1 book at a time on the library card. They need to hand it over the card before the exams.Thus, they can not issue any books after that. The library of our college runs 2 schemes for the convenience of the students

A. Book Bank Scheme: This scheme is for poor students who cannot afford to buy books for their education. Through this, students can issue 4 to 5 books at a time without paying any amount and without a library card. During this session, 560 books were issued by 212 students under this scheme.

B. Deposit scheme:At the time of exams, students need more books for a longer time. This scheme is implemented 45 days before the exam. This scheme is for all the students of our institution.In this, students can issue books by paying some amount which is refunded after the books are returned. Students can issue up to 5 books at a time in this. During this session, 388 books were issued by 181 students under this scheme.

4. **Evidence of Success:** Every year large number of the needy students took benefit of the scheme.

II) Second Best Practice: Recycling of biodegradable solid waste through vermicomposting.

1. **Goal**: To develop awareness among the students and neighbourhood society for recycling biodegradable solid waste through vermicomposting.

2. **The Context:** Vermicomposting is an easy and cost-effective method for biodegradable waste such as garden and kitchen waste and garbage. It can be converted into vermicompost. Vermicompost is worm manure. The biology of the worm's gut facilitates the growth of fungus and bacteria that are beneficial to enriching the nutrient quality of the vermicompost. This helps in converting biodegradable solid waste into nutritive manure for plants.

3. **The Practice:**40 students from the institution participated in this activity for the daily collection of kitchen waste and garbage from their residential areas and intuitional campus. The institution has Vermiculture bins or composting bins that can take care of the solid waste generated daily. Worms need a moist, organic substrate or "bedding" in which they live. They eat the bedding and convert it into castings along with other feed. A worm's skin is photosensitive and therefore they need a dark

environment. Worms prefer a slightly acidic pH level of about 6.5. Worms eat a wide variety of organic materials such as paper, manure, fruit and vegetable waste, grains, and ground yard waste. Since worms have no teeth, any food they eat must be small enough to swallow, or soft enough for them to bite. Some foods may not be soft enough initially for them to consume, but they quickly degrade so that the worms can consume them. Worms burrow into the bedding to protect themselves, and they do not come out to sunlight unless bedding conditions are intolerable. Worm bins are harvested when consumed food has turned a rich dark brown colour. To harvest, a new bedding in half of the bin is created and worms are fed exclusively on that side, eventually most of the worms will move to the side and the finished compost can be harvested. During the process of vermicomposting burrows are formed by the earthworms. Bacteria richly inhabit these burrows, also called as the drilospheres. Water passing through these passages wash the nutrients from these burrows and collected from the outlet of the pit in the form of vermiwash. Vermiwash is very good foliar spray.

In this year total 40 students were enrolled. The students were trained to prepare a vermicompost pit at home using various easily available materials. Dr. Milind Shinkhede demonstrated the process of preparation of pit. Many students installed the vermicompost pit at their homes. The department also organized talks by the experts for the students to enhance their understanding.

The vermicompost unit of college was re-installed during the session. The vermicompost and vermi-wash formed is used for the college garden. The manure was also available for sale to public.

The students of M.Sc. Zoology and Botany visited the GovigyanAnusandhan Kendra, Deolapar. The students learnt the process of formation of vermicompost using earthworm by using windrow method. The earthworm helps in converting biodegradable solid waste into nutritive manure which is use in agricultural fields.

4**. Evidence of Success**:Students learned and understood the recycling of biodegradable solid waste and four students developed their own vermicomposting pit in their houses and are producing vermicompost and vermi-wash in theirhomes. It also helps to keep the environment of campus clean in a sustainable manner.

5. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**: To convince the parents for this activity was a difficult part but later on they understood the importance of this activity and cooperated with their ward to start this venture at their home.