

BEST PRACTICE - I

Title of the Practice: PREPARING STUDENTS AS RESPONSIBLE FUTURE CITIZENS WITH A NOVEL & VIBRANT APPROACH

Objectives of the Practice:

- To create an environment to foster pursuit of excellence in such that each of the students receive opportunity to reach the maximum scholastic experience.
- To foster personal qualities like honesty, integrity, truthfulness and endeavouring to provide the students with good moral values.
- To develop qualities like leadership, teamwork, responsibilities, self- esteem and self-awareness.
- To recognize and complement the efforts, achievement and success of the students to increase their self-confidence.

The context that required the Initiation of the Practice:

The college is committed to provide education at the undergraduate level to the students hailing from its hinterland. Irrespective of caste, class, creed, religious affiliation or gender, it aims at providing a generous scope for higher education to the local youth. The mission of the college is the pursuit of knowledge through participation in academic activities and developing strong personal values. The college takes pride in emphasizing those practices that help the students to acquire knowledge and experience which prepares them for a fruitful future. The major consideration that is reflected in the institutional objectives is to prepare the students to work in an information-rich technology-driven world, but as responsible, humane and sensitive individuals. That is the bright future that we envisage for our students.

The Practice:

- The institution has adopted Choice based Credit System in its teaching learning methodology. CBCS provides a learning platform wherein the student has the flexibility to choose their course from a list of elective, core and soft skill courses.
- CBCS system provides an ample scope for the students to promote group work, research and community involvement through its project work component. The teachers of the departments help in selecting projects in such that will not only enrich the knowledge base of the students but also gets professional exposure in the first-hand research work. The students are guided by an expert teacher while preparing the project and thus a mentor-mentee relationship develops between the teacher and the student.
- The DSE course component of the curriculum is designed in such that it addresses the advanced level of the subject in a professional manner. The college assists the students in selecting the best options available in such a manner that may help them in achieving

an all-rounded knowledge of a particular course which may help them in pursuing advanced studies in future easily.

- The SEC component enhances the skill orientation of a knowledge seeker in a particular course. Here a student has ample choice in learning research methodology of a particular course relevant to job-oriented learning. For example, a student of Political Science can here be exposed to various legal practices which can carve an avenue to future job prospects or can learn research methodology which can generate a taste towards research. There are similar areas of study ranging from creative writing to academic writing, value education to computer literacy for UNICODE typing among Indian language students, skill teaching and life skill education as well as value education which is imparted in course curriculum with some value-oriented courses offered by this institution of higher learning.
- The myriad demands suddenly placed upon the thinking and initiative of faculty members – who were straitjacketed by the conservativeness and narrow focus of the old curricula -- by the openness, inter-disciplinarity and variety of the new CBCS syllabus posed a huge challenge in our institution and created a hiatus that had to be addressed with immediate effect, so that the standards of the education imparted was never compromised. At about the same time as this crossroads was reached, our institution received a massive boost with several young faculty members joining our ranks in an array of disciplines. The courage, skill and persistence of these faculty members galvanized the entire teaching community into an immersive, pro-active and innovative plunge into and an embracing of the new syllabi and its attendant needs. With empirical knowledge and the use of new technological devices being the main mantras, the freshness and incisiveness of the new faculty members roused senior faculty into an intellectual ferment from which our students have been richly benefitted.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- The basic obstacle that is being faced by this institution in implementing this best practice is definitely the issue of space. To implement all the options available with the curriculum in each course, a greater number of classrooms are required. The institution is facing severe space crunch which is reducing the number of choices flowing towards the students.
- Non-availability of books in market in some advanced areas of study is creating a dull atmosphere in selecting some advanced courses among the students. The teachers of the departments are trying to overcome this problem by their own initiative, either by writing some materials for the students or by providing study materials searching from the electronic sources.
- More teachers with varied specializations are required in each department to meet up the wide range of academic aspects projected in the curriculum. But as already stated, the teaching

communities of the college have embraced the mutable nature of the domain of knowledge with open arms. Most of the departments are ill-staffed in this college, but are soldiering heroically, against all odds. To implement the practice wholeheartedly, the departments are in need of replenishment by way of fresh faculty recruitments.

- Individual counseling and guiding takes time and resistance may come from the faculty. Although, evidence to that effect isn't available. The college is very active in this matter and organizes regular awareness and sensitization programmes to keep the spirits and interests of the faculty from flagging.
- Adequate space including separate departmental infrastructure with staff, adequate expert teachers, well-shaped departmental library, ICT atmosphere and access to e-resources both for teachers and students.

Evidence of Success:

- Even after the ravages of the Pandemic that carved through the hearts and minds of human beings, world-wide, a searing passage, the impact of the practice that has been implemented is being felt and some positive results and instances of quality and initiative have been noted.
- The students improved significantly in their writing abilities. They now can write their projects far better than what they did early in writing notes. The credit definitely goes to the guidance given by the teachers while preparing their projects.
- They are learning some advanced areas which are improving their horizons of grasping difficult topics compared to the learners of the previous years in non-CBCS mode.
- It is also felt that it has also helped in developing qualities like leadership, teamwork, responsibilities, self-esteem and self-awareness among students. This may help them for a bright future.

BEST PRACTICE – II

TITLE OF PRACTICE: “ART FOR BETTER LIVING”

OBJECTIVE OF THE PRACTICE:

There was a perceived need felt by all teachers of our institution for harnessing the creative energies of students, their unorthodox take on curricular texts, their bold forays into thinking originally. This was the year 2017.

THE CONTEXT:

There was a perceived need felt by all teachers of our institution for harnessing the creative energies of students, their unorthodox take on curricular texts, their bold forays into thinking originally. This was the year 2017. The signs were there all along. Although these signs were not taken for wonders, the academic fraternity were confident that if measures to hone these talents, discovered in the classroom, were formulated it would benefit the students immensely and have the desired positive influence on society that we always wanted to have as an institution of higher learning. With this in mind a series of clubs were formed under the aegis of the college administration and the IQAC in early 2018.

THE PRACTICE:

The Manual prepared by the administration for the governance and smooth running of these clubs had the objective of capacity building and enhancement of skills of a student towards the inculcation and nurture of leadership, teamwork, sensitivity and responsibility, in mind.

Among the twenty-one clubs formed at this moment of inception the Recitation Club, Reading & Creative Writing Club, Music & Dance Club, Discussion & Debate Club, and the Quiz Club have been particularly industrious and inspired in getting students to make that inward journey of self-assessment and self-knowledge that is a cornerstone to any artistic process or paves the way for original and profound deliberations on different aspects of our modern life, locally and globally.

The Recitation Club (Shabda-Sruti), true to its name has worked ceaselessly, often behind the scenes, holding after-class mentoring sessions, to help students reach perfection in pronunciation and intonation while using the Bangla language. The Reading & Creative Writing Club has tried to instil the need for self-expression and attempted to give students, identified with a talent for deep thinking and a knack for writing, the tools of better writing in four languages – Bangla, Hindi, Urdu and English.

The Music & Dance Club of the college has been proactive in giving students with the requisite skills encouragement and a platform where they could both enhance and

showcase their talents. For preparing themselves as responsible future citizens the knowledge of precepts of parliamentary democracy, the basic rights and legal responsibilities of citizens, the latest advances in technology and the other scientific disciplines, is essential. These acts of sensitization are effected by the Discussion & Debate Club and the Quiz Club of our college.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

When our students, over the years, surface in public life as writers, content organizers, authorpreneurs, mentors, proof-readers, counsellors and orators, those early signs do turn into wonders. Our students have been valuable additions in the professional or corporate life of the institutions or companies they have chosen to join bringing positivity, humanity, integrity and a power to express to the climate surrounding them. Over the years we have sent sensitive, cultured, and innovative young women and men into a world rife with Artificial Intelligence and the threat of human regression into the nightmare of cyborgdom.