

BEST PRACTICE - I

Title of the Practice: PREPARING STUDENTS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS FOR THEIR FUTURE

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 endeavoring to provide the students with good moral values.
- ☐ To develop qualities like leadership, teamwork, responsibilities, self-esteem and self-awareness.
- ☐ To recognizing and complementing 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 neighborhood students. Irrespective of caste, class, creed, religious affiliation or gender, it aims at providing generous scope for higher education to the local youth. The mission of the college is 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 addressed by its goals and objectives is to prepare the students to work in an information-rich technology-driven world; hence it can be mentioned that it works for the students to achieve a bright future.

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 can get an ample choice in learning research methodology of a particular course to a relevant job-oriented learning. For example, a student of politics 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 writings to academic writings, 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.

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 specialization are required in each department to meet up the wide range of academic aspects projected in the curriculum. Most of the departments are ill-staffed in this college, set aside facets of the specialized variations. To implement the practice whole-heartedly, the departments are in need of procuring specialized expertise available in academic sphere without any compromise.
- Individual counselling and guiding takes time and resistance may come from the faculty. Therefore, awareness programs sensitization programs and training had to be organized.
- 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:

- ☐ It is too early to comment on the impact of the practice that has implemented throughout the college in 2018-19, still some positive results are felt at the first instances:
- ☐ 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 fruitful bright future.

BEST PRACTICE – II

TITLE OF THE BEST PRACTICE: INVOLVED IN MANKIND

Objectives:

In “MEDITATION XVII” from Devotions upon Emergent Occasions the English poet John Donne wrote:

No man is an island,
Entire of itself ...
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

No where did we realize the truth of these prophetic lines more than during the Covid19 pandemic that cut a swathe through human life and living across the world. During a crisis, the degree of solidarity is the basis of endurance of any society. The COVID-19 crisis is one of the unprecedented challenges that the world is contending presently. Social distancing and other public health measures which state agencies have prescribed during this period can be effectively practiced when ‘social distance’ between people is minimum: when they realize their common shared origin and inheritance. To sensitize our students about their commitment and responsibility towards a distressed mankind we took upon ourselves to reach out to the community in our institution’s hinterland with the objective of raising awareness, offering medical help and providing food-support, wherever necessary, to stem the tide of the pandemic and achieve some measure of humane resilience.

The Context that required the Initiation of the Practice:

Social solidarity is the cementing force that helps in reducing the social distance that is increasing between people during this pandemic. Emile Durkheim’s theory of social solidarity in the context of the COVID-19 crisis from India demonstrates that though we may have initially believed that in the course of social evolution, mechanical solidarity in traditional societies would pave its way to organic solidarity in modern societies, traces

of mechanical solidarity are discernible in this pandemic period. Collective action stimulates social solidarity, whereas severe inequalities in society undermine solidarity. At Lal Baba College we concluded that social solidarity plays a pivotal role in bridging the social distance and reducing public health risk by developing a collective consciousness in society during a pandemic. Thus, we embarked upon our mission with urgency, alacrity and hope.

The Practice:

Serious and laudable efforts were made by teachers, students and all other staff members for providing assistance and solidarity as the state and the country continued to struggle with a devastating surge in coronavirus cases. The second wave of pandemic started in the spring of 2021, a year after the first wave forced the country to shut down completely. The many good Samaritans in our college, that include students, teachers and other staff members, have been working tirelessly to offer medical assistance, food and other essential services to those badly hit by the virus. The college has received support in monetary terms from several private donors and public institutions who were moved by our college's initiatives. Members of the teaching fraternity went far and wide to provide relief to the hardest hit sections of the population. An Oxygen Parlour was set up inside the college with provisions for fully facilitated beds and trained nurses on call. Besides, the college instituted a Vaccination Drive to ensure that both students and teachers of the institution were inoculated in time.

On 25th June, 2021, a "Sanitisation and Covid Relief" Programme was organized by NCC cadets on the college premises (observing all health protocols) where they were taught techniques of administering Oxygen to patients with severe symptoms of the virus by trained medical staff.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

At the outset, resolve, courage and hope were the three most important resources lacking as the college gathered its thoughts and mulled on ways to return the trust bestowed upon it by society. Once we managed to pull ourselves out of that morass we met with a shortage of funds. This too was a problem easily surmounted as teachers and staff members of the institution came forward with donations in a overwhelming manner. We have not looked back ever since.

Evidence of Success:

A greater bond of faith and mutual happiness was forged by the college's efforts to support, aid and better the lot of the communities residing in its immediate vicinity. This we hope shall pave the way for better visualized and more inclusive educational and cultural initiatives from our institution in better times.