

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 whole-heartedly, 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 the Practice – **GIVING OUR STUDENTS A ‘SPORTING’ CHANCE FOR A COMPLETE LIFE**

The Objective:

Culture is the backbone of any nation. A culturally aware and participative citizenry is the asset of any nation. Cultural knowledge informs every sphere of work with the gravitas of tolerance, clemency, togetherness and universal hospitality. At our institution the imparting of cultural knowledge, beyond the curricular purview, is our strong suit. The encouragement of cultural and artistic exfoliation among students characterises our annual institutional calendar and supplements the gesturing to such healthy practices in the syllabi.

Sports involve any form of physical activity, from dancing to boxing. However, to most people sport should mean more than just a movement of the body. Sports can bring people together and give people a sense of identity. They also provide a unique insight for other people into the values held by sports-playing communities. In a higher education institution sport is often considered a useless appendage, a doffing of the cap to political correctness. This is sadly the effect of our society’s attitude to sporting activities. Parents are often averse to letting their wards involve themselves in sporting pursuits as there is no ‘career’ or assured financial security in it. Higher study and sports are conceived as adversaries instead of being complimentary to each other. It is with the intention of bringing down this barrier that we have attempted to make Sport a strong suit and an integral part of the all-round development of students at our institution.

The Context:

In our college, in keeping with our institutional distinctiveness, a culture of sports has been actively nurtured because of not only the obvious physical benefits but also because of the close links that sport in India has to our cultural roots: indigenous practices of particular communities that reflect the characteristics, traditions and diversity of our populace. Sport becomes a great opportunity for disseminating cultural knowledge and strengthening national integration.

The forging of artistic excellence and the development of an international, humane cultural perspective is one of the characteristic traits of the teaching-learning process instituted in our college. No woman or man is complete without a sound body and an active, intelligent and liberal mind. Implementing this adage, relentlessly, is our institutional best practice.

The Practice:

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Sharing similarities with others by playing the same sport is an example of having a culture. However, most importantly sport breaks down barriers between people of different cultures. Sport allows people to define themselves in a non-confrontational environment. At Lalbaba College we inculcate the ‘mantra’ of sports very early in the student’s sojourn with us. Teachers open a portal of dialogue and exchange where the sporting preferences, expertise and ambitions of our students are quickly identified and encouraged. Besides, strategically speaking, it is easier and more fruitful to engage students hailing from semi-urban and rural backgrounds (as in our institution), where they have a stronger sporting culture, with sports as a prerequisite – not a perquisite. With our encouragement of sporting activities in our institution students from diverse backgrounds feel more at home here that helps with their academic improvement as well.

To harness the artistic bent of mind and to foster harmony and cultural immersion our college has formulated a series of ‘clubs’ where students can meet teacher-mentors in an informal setting discussing specific areas of artistic and cultural growth in their lives. There is a Recitation Club, a Reading Club, a Debating Club, a Song & Dance Club to enumerate but a few of the wide gamut of clubs that we have created to address diverse needs and experiential demands of growing minds. (Details of the Club Manual and a full list of Clubs is appended here.)

Evidence of Success:

The fact that participation and immersion in a sport is lauded as being in the ‘Spirit of the Olympics’ has given us the idea to set it as the benchmark of excellence for us. On that point, as evidenced by the records we are submitting in support of our contention, students from our institution have participated in a variety of sporting events organized by the parent university, the concerned state or national federation, and independent competitions, both individually and in team-sport, every year. We have a faculty member who acts as the Nodal Sports Officer who liaises between students and outside sporting bodies to ensure the greatest opportunity with the least hassles. Not merely content to participate, there have been some significant sporting successes for our institution as enumerated in the supporting files being uploaded here.

In cultural terms, our students have graduated from our institution not merely with a degree, but with a vision and a mission where art plays a pivotal role in the full germination of the self into a responsible citizen of the nation. Although we cannot produce stellar names and celebrity artists in our alumni over the years, we are confident that we have given society a crop of individuals who are appreciative of grace, beauty and humanity and shall form a formidable but sensitive population that shall take our country forward in coming times.

Problems Encountered & Resources Required:

Funding and space constraints constitute the two most difficult issues we have been tackling at our institution when it comes to bringing better sports/arts infrastructure for our students, which in turn leads to better achievements.

However, we have not been idle in the face of these challenges. Although our college does not possess a large field/playground equipped for various sports or a gymnasium on its premises we have always striven to acquire fields/playgrounds/gymnasiums from local clubs and civic bodies to facilitate the proper training and preparation of sportsmen and women from our college. We have a fully equipped auditorium which is at the disposal of students and teachers for rehearsals and intense practice. We need further rooms and facilities to aid our students in their artistic quests. We are always making the best efforts to straddle this gap.

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Such co-ordinations are sometimes fraught and we are making efforts to have such facilities fully under our institutional control in the near future.