

BEST PRACTICE: 1

1. Title of the Practice:

Blended teaching: Merging ICT techniques with traditional pedagogical method

2. Goal: To prepare our students (who are mostly first-generation learners) for the future with the latest, most user-friendly and convenient technological trends by blending ICT-enabled learning with traditional pedagogical means. E-learning allows higher and more effective participation and greater interaction. At the same time, for students who have been only familiar with the classical or traditional modes of learning, latest technology may be resistant to change and so, a combination of multiple approaches is employed for dissemination of knowledge.

3. The Context: In the present information-oriented society, people need to access knowledge via ICT-enabled medium to keep pace with the latest developments in all walks of life. Various ICT tools, such as e-content in the form of e-books, online journals, digital libraries, emails, multimedia, internet, online interactive learning sites are in used extensively to enhance learning skills, introduce flexibility and options to be customized to cater to all kinds of learners and reach a large cross-section of students.

4. The Practice: Blended learning is the merging of direct learning, where a teacher delivers instruction to a classroom that is merged with self-paced learning where learners read specific texts, attend film/online adaptations of such content, browse the internet and read articles referred to by faculty members. Often, classes take place at the digital classroom where the teacher uses Power Point presentations to let students understand the nitty-gritty of a topic in a structured way. Often, students are provided with downloaded materials and given useful links which they can browse, and learn. The college also has institutional membership with American Center Library where students have unlimited access to internet for their academic enrichment.

A very interesting outcome of the practice is that the use of ICT techniques in classrooms breaks the traditional teacher-taught paradigm by making both the teacher and the taught sharers of knowledge, instead of being givers and takers. In a post-modern world where hierarchies are repositioned and re-validated, the students who come from marginalized sections of society, including girl-students, become empowered and adept in using new technology very quickly and classroom discussions become more interactive. Besides enhancing technological skills, blended learning also promotes independent rational thought and improves communication skills and team-spirit.

5. Evidence of success: With television and mobile technology infiltrating every household in the country, students who are exposed to blended learning in the college become more empowered in IT skills which help them substantially in the job market that is mostly IT-driven. As teachers in later life, our students also successfully inspire their students in modern pedagogical techniques.

6. Problems encountered and resources required: Since students hail from marginalized and economically-deprived sections, they are often hesitant and resistant to use the modern gadgets themselves. The ICT equipments are also steeply priced and need constant maintenance and upkeep by experts.

BEST PRACTICE: 2

1. Title of the Practice:

Health Check-up camps and awareness Programmes

2. Target: In an effort to raise awareness among the students about health and hygiene and about deadly diseases such as cancer, AIDS and Thalassaemia (Counselling and testing), health camps and health awareness programmes are regularly conducted by the college. It aims at providing primary health-related advice to students, and through them to reach out to the community at large.

3. The Context: The College organizes health awareness programmes and health check-ups for students at regular intervals, in association with the Students Health Home and a semi-hospital managed by the local municipality with which we have a tie-up for such purposes. Many of the students are not aware of the health related issues, and hence, they and their families suffer from various diseases, keeping them away from college. Moreover, these problems are increasing due to changing life style of the current generation. It is important to create awareness among the students so that they take good care of their health. Not only physical health, but mental health of students is also a major cause of concern for all in the present age, and students are sensitized about stress-related issues both within and outside the classrooms by teachers.

4. The Practice: The College is in the process of establishing the exact frame-work for such practices. For General and mental health check-ups the Students' Health Home is of immense help while MatriSadan, a local hospital, managed by the local municipality, is always approached in times of need.

5. Evidence of success: There are evidences that all these camps and awareness programmes have contributed to some general and mental health improvements among the students. Dropout rates are decreasing which may also be a result of this. We can also hope that a better awareness in a student would facilitate his or her family and their surroundings.

6. Problems encountered and resources required: As for now, there is no permanent medical facility at the campus. We are planning to get a structured system for regular health counseling of our students, which would require some funds.