

Yashwantrao Chavan College of Science, Karad

Best Practices

BEST PRACTICE 1:

The Title:

SCIENCE SEMINAR LECTURE

The goal:

Science is a dynamic field of knowledge that keeps changing at a rapid pace. It is not always possible to include all new developments in the regular curriculum of study in academic institutions. But at the same time, students need to be given as much up to date knowledge of these latest developments as possible. It was this view that this activity was initiated in our institution. It also envisaged a means to train the students to do their own literature survey and prepare a small presentation on one aspect of the latest developments in the subject.

The Context:

The aim being bringing the students up to date with the latest developments in the science subject required the faculty itself to be in step with the developments. This was a challenge in the early days when Information Technology was not aided by the Internet. Faculty had to manually refer to journals and other means to gather the knowledge. Fortunately, several of our alumni since the beginning had begun working in renowned research institutions and were an important source of feedback. With their help and the ever increasing library resource in our college the faculty were able to gather more information by themselves and then train the students for their own literature survey, a difficult task then due to the rural background of the students. Today, with information technology having penetrated deep into the region, things have become much simpler and training in literature survey has become easier.

The Practice:

Every department of the college is expected to undertake this activity each year.

A Popular Lecture for which an eminent personality from a research institute or industry or another educational institution is invited to give a talk on a topic of current interest or latest development in that particular subject. This lecture is usually open to all students from any science subject. In this lecture, the gist of the topic is first explained, followed by the latest development, the method with it was developed, the research avenues open in it and the future, etc. Most sessions are interactive and the students are greatly benefitted by it.

In the previous years, outside personalities used to be invited. These days, our own alumni contribute in a great measure in this activity.

Evidence of Success:

As mentioned in the previous segment, today a large fraction of the eminent personalities who come for this activity are our alumni. These alumni are themselves working in reputed research institutions, industries or other academic institutions. This, we feel is the success of this activity. These alumni as students here benefitted from the personalities who had visited then and created such an impression upon them that they were encouraged to take up the challenge and become renowned personalities themselves.

Problems encountered and Resources required

The only problems are the availability of speakers at a time convenient to us. However this difficulty is not insurmountable and we are able to manage quite well as mostly we get our own alumni to help out in this. Financial constraints are an issue but even this is easily resolved at college level.

BEST PRACTICE 2:

The Title:

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

The Goal:

Despite good education, social reforms and tough laws, women today still face active discrimination and injustice in the social, political, economic and educational spheres of their lives. In many instances they are even deprived of their fundamental rights and are not treated as equals even though they constitute the most important second half of the human species. To regain her standing in the social hierarchy, a woman needs to have the confidence to fight for her rights and against the injustice perpetrated as also demand equality. This is the goal of all the activities that are carried out in our college.

The Context:

Woman is herself a great creator. And she is also a member of equal importance in the human species. But she is still not getting the status she deserves, what with all the different forms of discrimination and the violent means often used to perpetrate it. Early and forced marriages, female foeticide and many other means of harassment often used are reprehensible. Equal opportunities for women towards leadership can ensure a woman's full and effective contribution in the overall development of society and the nation as a whole. For this, a girl

has to evolve into a mature woman who can meet these challenges and this can happen only in a college.

The Practice:

To manage the organisation of activities aimed at girl students, we have since long had a special committee called Ladies' Association. Several special activities are conducted by this committee. Many activities are also conducted specially in the large girls' hostel as well. The activities carried out are mostly aimed at building up self confidence and boldness in the girls and also enlighten them about the laws available for their protection along with self defence systems. For this, we organise lectures of eminent personalities like advocates, police officers, representatives of NGOs, health practitioners and others. We also organise elocution, essay, quiz, sports and cultural competitions to help build self confidence. Programmes such as poster competitions, street-plays, etc are also organised for awareness campaigns. Talks on renowned women like Venutai Chavan, Savitribai Phule, etc are also arranged to make the girls aware of their contribution to society.

Through NSS activities also girls learn several issues like understanding the problems of rural women and finding solutions for them and many other aspects of social responsibility etc.

Evidence of Success:

The number of girls taking admission and continuing their education in this college is one point of success. Most of these girls are from far away rural areas and they are not afraid of travelling these long distances for education. Many stay in our well-provided-for hostel and are willing to learn.

There are many examples of our girls making successful lives from the confidence and courage gained from these experiences. This is a result of the motivating lectures that developed and enhanced their confidence levels. A gradual change in the attitude of students has been observed after participation of various programmes.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

Woman hatred is still deep rooted in our society and this mindset requires to be changed. Many girls are still kept away from education itself and other related activities by their parents and society at large. For this, social awareness has to be created and this requires large scale programmes for which aid from governmental and non-governmental sources is necessary.
