

## **BEST PRACTICES OF PACHHUNGA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

### **BEST PRACTICE – I**

#### **1. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: PREPARATORY COURSE FOR MASTER DEGREE**

2. **GOAL** – The undergraduate curriculum does not fully cover the many concepts, theories and approaches introduced in the postgraduate curriculum of the University. Hence, many students are at a loss when they join their pg courses. This course will provide students an opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge on concepts, theories and approaches which they will encounter in the postgraduate curriculum.

#### **Aims and Objectives: -**

- To help students acquire basic knowledge on PG courses
- To provide better insights to students wanting to pursue their PG courses
- To improve academic achievements
- To motivate students to pursue higher studies
- To train students on the challenges ahead in academics

#### **3. THE CONTEXT**

The Undergraduate curriculum is very limited in terms of covering the basic elements of the courses offered or covered in post graduate courses. Many students find themselves at a loss when they join their respective postgraduate courses. This is partly due to the semester system where very little time is afforded in a semester to complete the syllabus. This course will provide basic knowledge into many of the concepts, theories and approaches introduced in the postgraduate curriculum which has not been dealt with thoroughly in under graduate courses. The course will be totally out of syllabus, solely focused on preparing the students for their postgraduate course.

#### **4. THE PRACTICE:**

- Departments design a course which is not in the syllabus of the undergraduate but will feature prominently in the postgraduate curriculum.
- This course will be introduced as a non-credit course in the V<sup>th</sup> and VI<sup>th</sup> semester
- The course is to be taken by all students in V<sup>th</sup> and VI<sup>th</sup> semester.
- The course will have its own assessment system designed by each department.
- The course will be more interactive largely based on the flipped-classroom method.
- Students will be expected to give presentations at the end of each course.

#### **5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

- The department of English has been going on with this course as a model department for three years and evidence of success is acquired from students who have joined in different universities across the country.
- Feedbacks from passed out students suggest that they have advantage over their classmates.
- Students are confident when joining their pg courses.
- Students enter into the pg programme without intimidation.
- Students make use of their acquired knowledge thus giving them the edge.
- Students are better equipped and prepared to face challenges in pg courses

#### **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND OBSTACLES FACED**

- Being a non credit course students tend to give less importance to the course.
- Students are not pressured by exam which leads to poor concentration.
- Teachers are often faced with finding enough material for the courses offered.
- Extra work demanded on both the teacher and the students creates certain discomfort.

## **7. RESOURCES REQUIRED**

- Funds for organizing exposure programme.
- Course material i.e., materials on PG curriculum
- Remuneration for teachers
- Training for teachers
- Experts/resource persons

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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## **BEST PRACTICE – II**

### **1. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: VILLAGE ADOPTION**

#### **2. GOAL:** The goal of the Village Adoption program of Pachhunga University College is many folds. Some of the chief goals are:

- To conduct a scientific research in order to provide deeper and better understanding of the village whilst providing opportunities of research to students and faculties of the college.
- To provide informations vital to the development of the village through researches conducted in different fields such as, Geographical, Historical, Sociological, Political, Cultural, Literature etc in the Arts spectrum and Botanical, Zoological, Geological, Environmental etc in Science spectrum.
- To provide opportunities of learning and access to HEI through exposure programs and Educational tours for the village community.
- To assist the village in assessing the best possible ways of improvement and development that is both affordable and sustainable.
- To identify the potential of the village towards further growth and advances.

#### **3. THE CONTEXT:** The motto of the college is ‘Learning and Service’ and as such the college considered the need to branch out and render its services to places beyond the center so that the facility and knowledge of the college may be made available to those outside the college fraternity. The Village Adoption program will also provide many opportunities for students, scholars and teachers of the college to gain hands-on experience and understanding of the rural populace, rural system and habitat by conducting a series of researches based on their specialization. The findings of these researches will in turn generate a knowledge pool, which will be greatly instrumental towards understanding the requirements necessary to make advancements, developments and growth which otherwise was unidentified. The college will also provide a series of educational help by conducting college tours, special talks, hands-on training, counseling etc. on various issues related to the problems identified within the village adopted. Many villages within Mizoram are beyond the reach of Government aids and benefits. Although the program is not designed to provide relief to these villages economically, the villages adopted will be provided help from an academic stand point.

#### **4. THE PRACTICE:** Pachhunga University College’s Village Adoption Program is a self-financed program generated purely out of the goodwill and desire to serve others, present within the fraternity of the college. Funds for the program are donated by every teacher from their salary and researches are done purely on pro bono without any funding received from any agency. The college forms a committee with the Principal as the Chairman, and the committee decides by conducting various surveys on which village to be adopted.

##### **A. On research**

- Village Adoption Committee invites research project from all departments and teachers
- The Principal encourages faculties to pursue research in adopted villages
- Village Adoption committee grants funds for selected research projects
- Certain departments are clubbed by the Village Adoption Committee to conduct research projects on vital and relevant topics
- Project committee of the college facilitates and monitors research programmes.
- Students are involved in Departmental Projects on adopted village
- Departments conducts research activities with schools, NGOs, Village Council etc
- Research findings are published in a book form with ISBN

##### **B. On Capacity building:**

- Departments are encourage to write academic papers for publication

- Departments are also encouraged to organize at least one academic program for or in the adopted village
- Students are encouraged and afforded opportunities to participate in programs organized under the Village Adoption Program.
- Eminent persons are invited to deliver special lectures/ invited talks.
- Students of the adopted villages are invited for educational tour, laboratory visits, etc.

## **5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

- Research Findings and Publications: Faculties published their findings in National and International Journals. The Village Adoption Committee also publishes research findings in a book form with ISBN. 21 research papers have been published from the two phases conducted.
- Research Funding: The Village Adoption Committee provides funding for research projects from the contribution of the teachers towards the Village Adoption Program.
- Research Experience: Through the Village Adoption Program, the college provides opportunity for students of the college to be a part of a full-fledged research project. This research experience gained under their experienced teachers cum researchers is truly invaluable.
- Seminars and Workshops: The Village Adoption Committee organizes a number of seminars, workshops, programs etc. for students and community of the adopted villages.

## **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND OBSTACLES FACED:**

- Since the Village Adoption Program is a college self-financed program, funds are very limited to conduct deep researches.
- Adopted Villages often misinterprets the college's intention for want of monetary aid or anticipation of immediate transformation.
- Due to a very hectic academic session, departments and researchers barely manage time to conduct programs and researches in adopted villages.
- Discovered issues (especially, sociological and political) cannot be directly addressed by the institution sporadically.

## **7. RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

- Better funding source or agency
- Research Centre for Arts and Commerce stream
- Flexible Time-Table for Teachers and Students
- Experts/Resource Persons on critical issues related to Rural livelihood
- MoU with Rural Department of Government of Mizoram

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

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## **BEST PRACTICE – III**

### **1. TITLE: RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES**

**2. GOAL:** The College has built a foundation for research and capacity building within its own limit and capabilities. The aim of the practice is:

- To be a center of research and as noted in the college vision and mission.
- To provide a good environment for research and consultancy.
- To provide good exposure to faculties in terms of knowledge and knowhow by organizing seminars and workshops.
- To allow faculties to go for higher studies. A good quality teacher leads to good quality education.
- To encourage and expose the students to higher level of studies for their future studies.

**3. THE CONTEXT:** The College encourages research and academic developments and it promotes research activities in terms of doctoral studies and research projects. The college has 104 regular faculties out of which 60.57 % (63) are doctorate degree holders; 5 M. Phil and 34.61 % are P.G degree holders. Out of the PG degree holders 53.8 % currently pursue their doctoral studies. The principal encourages every faculty to join doctoral studies. Currently there are 36 research projects (12 major and 24 minor) from various funding agencies. The challenges within the state are research initiatives at a college level and creating infrastructure for research activities. Quality maintenance of research equipment also provides a challenge due to remoteness of the state. The college also organizes 2 international and 24 national level seminars workshops etc. for students and faculty exposure. The main challenge in organizing such programmes is the travelling expenditure of the participants from other states due to remote location of the State.

### **4. THE PRACTICE**

#### **On research**

- Research mentoring and sensitization programmes are organized.
- The Principal encourages faculties to pursue higher studies.
- Guest/Temporary faculties are engaged for faculties pursuing higher studies whenever necessary.
- Faculties are encouraged for faculty improvement programme in National/International institutes.
- Faculties are encouraged to apply for research projects
- Project committee is created to facilitate and monitor research programmes.
- IQAC also provides necessary information to faculties regarding research projects.
- Necessary infrastructure and laboratory renovations are done to aid research activities.
- Research instrumentations center is created to aid research activities.
- The college provides 24x7 power supply for research activities.
- The college library subscribes journals and purchase books for research.
- Timely release of funds for research activities.
- Good water supply for research activities.
- The college applies funds from State government.

#### **On Capacity building:**

- All departments are group into two departments each to apply funds from funding agencies to organize National Level Seminars.
- All departments have organized at least one Seminar/Workshop during the assessment period.
- Faculties are encouraged to present papers in National and International conferences/seminars etc.

- Departments are encouraged to organize programmes inside the college to provide more exposure.
- Students are encouraged to participate in these programmes.
- Eminent persons are invited to deliver special lectures.
- Necessary infrastructures and equipments are provided to organize such programmes. To accommodate such programmes two seminar halls are created.

#### **Constraints and limitations:**

- Though the college has a Research and instrumentation center the space is very limited to cope with the research activities of the college.
- The other limitation is the limitation by the university which does not allow direct supervision of PhD students.

#### **4. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

- a) Research Findings & Publications: Faculties published their findings in National and International Journals. Major achievements of research activities are as follows - discovery of new species of animals, landslide and disaster management, antimicrobial screening, diagnoses of diseases, pest management etc.
- b) Research Funding: The college has 16 research projects in the first cycle of NAAC assessment with the total amount of Rs.28,07,750. The number of research projects has been increasing ever since, and in the second cycle of NAAC assessment the college has 36 research projects amounting to Rs.2,83,81,370. The college also hosts two Women Scientist sponsored by DST. The college also promotes research by providing funds to faculty members with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 50,000 (Fifty thousand). Student project work has been started under Certificate Course in Pisciculture, DBT STAR College Scheme and through Institutional Biotechnology Hub.
- c) Research Scholars: The College also has 10 students under the joint Supervisor ship of faculties within the college. Recently two students under joint supervisor ship are awarded PhD degree.
- d) Seminars & Workshops: The College also organizes a number of International and National level seminars workshops etc. for students and faculty exposure.

#### **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

- The main problem faced is that the University does not allow direct supervision of PhD students.
- There is no provision for PG studies in the college.
- Other limitation is the funding for the construction of Research Instrumentation Centre. The college constructed the center with its internal fund.
- The remoteness of the location of the state sometimes hampers the availability of nationally renowned scholars and eminent scientist to participate as resource persons in the college organized programmes.

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## **BEST PRACTICE – IV**

### **1. TITLE: STUDENT CENTRIC LEARNING AND MENTORING**

#### **2. GOAL: –**

- To fulfill the motto of Learning and Service the college gives its best effort to be a student centric institution.
- Curricular transactions, academic programmes and co-curricular activities are planned to meet the requirement of the students.
- To build an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality between students and teachers.
- To allow students to share their personal problems regarding their studies, goals and aims.
- To provide support and guidance towards students.
- To ensure the academic improvement of the institution as a whole.

#### **Aims and Objectives: -**

- To plan curricular transaction and co-curricular activities.
- To create infrastructure and facilities for students.
- To monitor the academic/classroom teaching activities of the faculties.
- To provide individual attention
- To improve academic achievements
- To help students realize their potential
- To listen to grievances and problems
- To build an atmosphere of trust
- To build students' confidence towards achieving their goals

### **3. THE CONTEXT**

Students are the first priority in the college which is a student centric center. Efforts are made by the college administration, faculty and staff to become more student centric. Youths of today are facing a lot of problems in their personal and academic life. They are standing in a very critical juncture in their life; they find it difficult to make decisions which will benefit their future. Whatever situation they are in, they are in a cross road. The mentoring program addresses all these problems faced by the students, not only their academic problems but their personal problems too. The role of a college is not only to provide education for students but also to create good academic atmosphere so as to provide great academicians and good citizens in the society. In order to do that the college considers that mentoring program is very important in an institution hence mentoring of the students is implemented in full force.

### **4. THE PRACTICE: STUDENT CENTRIC LEARNING**

The college takes effort to become a student centric centre which is evident in the following procedure:

- The Administration plans the annual calendar and the activities to best suit the requirements of the students.
- Faculty creates lesson plans, work book and execute log book checked by the Principal and Vice Principal. The number of classes taken by each faculty is reflected upon in the Departmental Monthly Report (DMR). The DMR enables the administration to check upon the faculty's performances.
- Physical arrangements are made to be more student centric. Departmental faculty rooms have been re-organized for better student-teacher interactions.
- Internet Resource Centre- The College has a dedicated Internet Resource Centre with 18 internet-enabled PCs, and printing facility. Students can browse the internet, and work on their presentations and assignments. Students are allowed to print their documents free of cost. Free Wi-Fi facilities are made available to the students.
- Creation of computer laboratory, GIS laboratory and Language laboratory.

- The college has installed LCD/LED projector in all classrooms which allows the presentation of text, audio, graphics or video. This is more interesting for the students and improves the likelihood that they will comprehend the lessons.
- Study tours and exposure programmes are organized by the college. The college organizes 28 National/ Regional study tours and 27 study tours/field visit inside state.
- Micro projects are conducted by departments covered by the DBT-STAR College Scheme. These projects are not in the University curricula. These projects are published in journals and seminar proceedings.
- Student's awards are made available to encourage the students in their studies. Proficiency awards, merit awards, departmental awards, student of the year, best boy, best girls etc are awarded to encourage students.
- Students' participation in NSS, NCC, RRC, Adventure Club, Cultural Club etc.

### **STUDENTS MENTORING**

A program coordinator/head of the department makes allotment, allotting a certain number of students to a particular teacher. This forms a mentor – mentee group. Interactive and counseling sessions are fixed at a certain date and time. These interactive and counseling sessions lasts 30 to 45 minutes mostly. All mentors maintain personal files for all their mentees. Mentors are also provided with guidelines for the counseling session. This program is carried out department wise. Counseling and Interactive Sessions are mostly held under these topics:

- **Career Guidance:** Students are given career guidance based on their respective chosen subjects. Many students are unaware of the prospects awaiting them from their chosen field of study. Hence, mentors are really instrumental in guiding them towards their future career.
- **Personality Development:** Students lacks qualities and confidence necessary to become successful in their future endeavor. Counseling based on personality development is really important in shaping them to be a better person.
- **Social Outreach:** Through the 'Each One Reach One' program, students are given counseling on the importance of reaching out. Every student is encouraged to help others and those in need of help. This is effective in developing them to be better citizens.
- **Academic Excellence:** Counseling sessions are often conducted to review the academic performance of the students of mentee. Weaker students are motivated and given specific instruction on how to develop their academic performances. Results of the mentee are reviewed by the mentor and any student's problems are addressed in these sessions.
- **Problem Solving:** Many students come to their mentors with many different problems concerning their academic life, their social life and sometimes their personal life. Mentors give counseling on how to fix these problems that the mentees are facing in various aspects of their lives.

### **5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

- The college result has improved. The number of top ran holders, rank holders and pass percentage have tremendously increased.
- The colleges organize more exposure programmes and spend around INR 37 lakhs for students' exposure.
- Student progression is good.
- Students gain a lot of success through this program in their personal, academic life as well as in their career.
- Students learn how to make responsible choices and decisions in their lives.
- Students are better equipped and prepared to face challenges in many aspects of life.
- Changes in behavior and attitude.



## **ACCRUED BENEFITS**

### **Mentee:**

- Students gain a sense of responsibility, increase in awareness and information through counseling sessions and talks.
- Opportunity to speak to one's mentor and seek help, create a sense of belonging, talent display, support network, guidance, advice and counseling.
- Make the mentee realize the importance of responsible living.
- Creates awareness towards the necessity to improve in their academic performance.

### **Mentor:**

- Create an avenue to direct, support and offer help to students thereby fulfilling their role as teachers and guides.
- Creates a better rapport between teachers and students.
- More involvement in student's life.
- Role as advisor on personal and academic issues.
- Creates the need to be a good role model.

### **College:**

- Inculcates a spirit of discipline and responsibility.
- Creates a better environment between students and teachers.
- Enhances cooperation for smooth functioning of the institution.
- Enhances overall academic performance of the institution.

## **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND OBSTACLES FACED**

- Acquiring sufficient funding for student exposure.
- Time constraint
- Insufficient professional training

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

Mentoring is an important task which requires:

- Funds for organizing exposure programme.
- Investment of quality time and effort with students
- Continuous involvement
- Training for mentors
- Experts/resource persons

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