

BEST PRACTICE 1

Title of the Practice: “Wama Saksham”

“Wama Saksham” in hindi literally means making women capable. The nomenclature owes its origin to our stated objective of empowering women; strengthening the inner and outer self. As a Best Practice as well as an extensive programme, Wama Saksham commenced in the premises (Sports Academy) of Government Meera Girls College on 9th January 2014.

Objectives of the Practice:

- To train students for their self-defense, physical and mental wellbeing.
- To enhance level of confidence and courage of girls
- To bring about overall personality development
- To facilitate empowerment of students.
- To make them aware about their health and hygiene.
- To inculcate significance of the human values.
- To make them aware about women rights and laws.

The Context:

Our college is girls' college and 70 percent of our students belong to rural and economic weak sections of the society. Empowering our students is the major objective of our college and also in tune with the mission and vision of our college. The programme is meant to make our students aware about the women security issues. The major challenge was to arrange for the funds to run this programme.

The Practice:

The programme is aimed at enhancing physical capacity and efficiency of the students ,to enhance mental strength, their behavior, gesture and posture and overall body language, communication skills with a view to instill courage so that they can face adverse situations and threats. This apart, training session on personal grooming, good food habits, yoga and meditation through Music, Judo, Karate and martial art are imparted. The programme also aims at creating awareness about issues like women rights, atrocities, harassment and domestic violence among students while keeping them informed about these issues. Road safety and traffic rules information is also given to students.

Evidence of Success:

The Department of Higher Education, Rajasthan has selected Wama Saksham as the Best Practice and highlighted in their report namely A Quiet Revolution in September 2018. The programme is running successfully by the Physical Education and Sports Department of the college. So far 9 batches in four years have been completed whereby 290 students have been benefitted in which approximate 65 percent students were ST students.

Problems encountered and Resources Required:

The programme was started in 2014-15 but it could not run in the session 2016-17 due to financial crunch. Thereafter, the programme ran successfully and students participated with enthusiasm, although the college could accommodate a limited number of students only. The programme runs after the college hours, therefore, students residing in nearby villages and periphery areas cannot join the programme. Mostly hostel students are the beneficiary of the programme. Tribal Area development Department has sanctioned 13 lakhs in the year 2017-18 for the activities under the said programme. The programme is gaining popularity and more students are interested to join the programme for which additional resources are required. Besides, additional courses can be started judging the success of the programme, for which more financial support is required. Due to financial constraints, outstation experts for training which could enhance the practice outcomes, is not possible.

BEST PRACTICE 2

Title of the Practice: NEW TEACHING PEDAGOGIES

Objectives of the Practice-

- New pedagogies bring out the students' best in the form of listening, speaking and participative skills.
- The purpose of these new teaching techniques is to exploit the strengths of both the faculty and the students.
- To provide the learners with authentic and engaging opportunities for learning.
- This breaks the monotony of regular classroom teaching.

The Context-

The classroom teaching is a routine feature in teaching-learning process and the need was felt to make the teaching-learning an exciting affair. Regular teaching consists of lecture delivery by teachers while the students' role is primarily restricted to listening. Participation of students is encouraged in these novel methods of teaching to ensure the active participation of the students as well as to arouse their interest and make teaching-learning an enjoyable experience. Both the teachers and the students were apprehensive of the success of these teaching techniques and initially the participation of faculty and students was low. The students from particular departments were trained by different faculty members and demonstrations were organized for faculty so that they could implement these practices in their respective departments according to the topics of syllabi.

The Practice-

Four new teaching techniques were introduced by the IQAC -Book review in 2015-16, Fish Bowl discussion in 2016-17, Café conversation in 2017-18 and Jigsaw method in 2018-19. The new teaching pedagogies are a unique feature of the college. These are different from the regular teaching practice prevalent in Indian Higher Education System. The IQAC organized a program on "How to write a book review" in 2015-16 for faculty members. Later, some of the departments of the college viz. Political Science, Sociology, Hindi, etc. made the students write book review on selected books. Fish Bowl discussion was demonstrated in 2016-17 by the students of M. Sc. Zoology on the topic "Biodiversity Conservation". This is a teaching strategy that helps students practice being contributors and listeners in a discussion. It proves useful for discussing topics in large groups. Café conversation was introduced in the institute in 2017-18

as a strategy to help students practice perspective-taking and voicing their opinions in a small group. The topic of demonstration was "Impact of demonetization on different sections of society" and the demonstration was done by the students of Department of Economics and Banking and Business Economics. This teaching technique was practiced by the students in various classes. As an IQAC quality initiative, the novel Jigsaw method was demonstrated to the faculty in 2018-19 by B. Sc. Final Year Students and the topic was "Types of learning behaviour". The department of Political Science practiced Jigsaw method on the topic "Governments". This technique is useful for cooperative learning in small groups. The Jigsaw technique is effective in helping the students to develop expertise on a topic or principle and practice self and peer teaching.

Evidence of success-

The novel teaching pedagogies have been institutionalised since their introduction in last four years. Different departments have made these pedagogies a regular practice as their teaching strategy. The institute's best practice of "New Teaching Pedagogies" has been included in the monograph "A Quiet Revolution" published by Commissionerate of College Education, Department of Higher Education, Rajasthan. It is a compilation of all the good practices affected in the state, which form the foundation of the 'Quiet Revolution' envisaged for higher education in the state. A few pictures of Fish Bowl Discussion and Jigsaw Method have been uploaded.

Problems encountered and Resources required-

Initially the novel teaching pedagogies introduced by IQAC received low response from the faculty. The students and faculty were both anxious about the new methods. On persistence and motivation of IQAC, the faculty members attended the demonstrations and later on started practicing them in classrooms with their students. No extra resources were required for the implementation of this practice.


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