

# **Institutional Best Practices**

## **Best Practice No: 1 “Enhancing Learners Leadership Skills”**

Development of certain skills in learners so that they will take up some productive activity in the society is the basic objective of higher education. Under this practice the institution has made efforts to develop leadership skills and decision making skills.

### 1. Objectives of the Practice

- ✓ To motivate the learners in bringing creative ideas for conducting certain events
- ✓ To develop skills on planning, organizing and controlling the events.
- ✓ To create an environment in which the learners can have optimum use of institutional resources
- ✓ To create branding of the institution through learners driven activities/fest
- ✓ To identify learner's leadership and management qualities
- ✓ To develop a sense of team work among learners

### 2. The Context

Following are the challenging issues in designing and implementing the practice:

- ✓ Different groups of learners bring multiple proposals for the event. Selecting one out of them and convincing the other groups becomes a challenge.
- ✓ The institution has limited budget for such practice, implementing the practice with limited budget and fund generation through sponsorship for deficit budget has been challenging
- ✓ The learners in the organizing committee of the event expect academic leniency from institute
- ✓ Learners involved in organizing the events often find it difficult to

manage effectively, both academic and co - curricular activities.

- ✓ Even though this practice aims at teaching the learners the importance of team work (group work culture), it is a challenge for the institution to create a culture of team work

### 3. The Practice

For implementing this practice the institution constituted a committee of teachers to guide the learners and monitor the events during planning and organization. This committee is headed by a teacher coordinator to coordinate between learners, teachers and the institution. This committee receives the proposals from the learners, the proposal is discussed in a joint meeting of representatives of learners and the committee, changes are made, if needed and final proposal is sent to the principal for approval. The is forwarded to the management by the principal with his recommendations for final approval and for financial support from the management.

The representatives of learners (core group) who initiated the idea of event become core group and they select few more learners as support group, they make sub-committees of learners for taking specific responsibility and task is divided among sub-committees like, publicity, marketing, fund raising, finding guests, arranging resources etc. while selecting the learners in sub-committees, learners are selected based on their interest in willingness and task is given based on their interests

Core committee decides the dates of event on consultation of teachers committee, decides lists of activities to be conducted during the event, prepares a detailed plan of conducting the event. And finally the event is conducted in which the colleges of Navi Mumbai take part since it is intercollegiate competition. On the days of event, all the staff is given certain responsibility of looking after certain activity like, singing, sports, elocution, etc. on the days of event, academic sessions are not conducted since many learners and the staff is busy in conduction of activities.

The institution gives all possible support, resources for such activities. A joint meeting of core group, event committee and principal is held to evaluate the level of success of the event and suggestions are made for improvements in future

4. Evidence of Success: evidences of success are, many good ideas come from the learners if they are given freedom. They learned how to plan the event, learned to listen others, their decision making skills improved. The learners who were involved in core group became more mature and more responsible and they acted as mentors for the other learners who acted as volunteers during the event. Institution became known to others due to intercollegiate competitions, involvement of other people. This helped in enhancing the goodwill of the institution
  
5. Problems Encountered: Multiple proposals were received from different group of learners and it was difficult to select one proposal. There was dissatisfaction among the learners when their proposal was not selected and it was tough job to convince that group of learners whose proposal was not selected to get involved in the event selected. Bringing coordination among various groups of learners was another problem since those groups were having different interest. Generation of resources was another problem due to high budget of the event.

**BEST PRACTICE NO: 2      “PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY CONNECTIVITY AND  
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES”**

**1. Objectives of the Practice**

- ✓ To develop a sense of responsibility among learnedness and bringing connectivity with the stake holders
- ✓ To create an environment so that learners should find easy to mark their presence in the society on different issues
- ✓ To identify the situations where the certain information can be easily communicated to the Society and other stakeholders
- ✓ To create awareness on social and environmental issues among the learners.

**2      The Context:**

The learners being part of the society, bring to the teachers certain issues of the society like addiction, gender discrimination, cleanliness, health issues etc and request the teachers, can we undertake any activity towards some of these issues?. The concerned teacher discusses with other teachers and with some of other learners and final discussion comes to the principal. Principal, based on teachers proposal, a committee of teachers is constituted for undertaking certain activity.

**3      The Practice**

After accepting the proposal of undertaking some activity for the society, principal constituted a committee of teachers and representatives of learners to conduct some survey and identify the issue and what is possible for the institute to take up some activity. The learners after making formal/informal survey propose to the committee what specific activity can be conducted. The committee takes the final decision to plan and execute the activity. Accordingly, a notice is circulated among all the learners in classes and appeal is made to register their names for social activity projects based on their interest. The committee makes a team of

learners as leaders who take the responsibility of coordinating among all the learners registered for the project. The leaders identify exact activity like, health checkup, educational, addiction issue etc. and select the locality where the activity to be conducted, they make a plan, distribute the work among the learners and ask for the resources form the institution. The possible resources are provided by the institution, activity is conducted as per the schedule and report is given to the committee at end

#### **4 Evidence of Success**

There are certain evidences of success of this activity. The learners started thinking about some of the issues of the society, their observation capacity improved to certain extent. They started discussing with the teachers about some of the social issues and feeling of their responsibility towards is created. They wanted to do something for the society but the problem of what can I do alone. Because of such activity, the learner got the plat form, group of learners is created, they received resources from the institution, guidance and support from the teachers they got and a feeling of self-responsibility towards the society is created among the learners who were involved in these activities. Due to some of these activities, learners created social relations among the people where the project was undertaken. The people realized and recognized the efforts made by the college students and extended their help during conduction of the activity.

#### **5 Problems Encountered**

Certain problems were faced while deciding an implementing the activities. The learners bought large number of social issues and it difficult to choose specific activity to be implemented, selecting the area, contacting the people of that area for their help. Time constraint was the another problem, because, the location of the projects were away from the institution, and the learners had to some time miss their academic lectures for involving in the projects. There was also an experience of rivalry among the local people where the project was going. When we took support of some people for the activity, the

opponent group was not cooperating. Some time getting consent from the parents of learners who were involved in these project was difficult. Teachers had to meet their parents and convince them, the learners are safe and teachers will take responsibility of their safety. The parents of female learners were not ready to allow their daughters to go to the rural areas and slum areas for social projects. Some of the parents were of the opinion, these activities may affect on the academic results of the learners. Another important problem was the continuity of the projects for longer period.