Best Practice - 1

1. Title of the practice

Authentic Learning

2. Objectives of the practice

The students of the institution are mostly from a less privileged background and when they are exposed to unfamiliar situations they lack the ability to solve problems and make decisions. To prepare students to face real-life situations and to develop their abilities the institution adopted Authentic Learning and designed the below objectives for practice.

- To make involved in learning rather than merely listening to lectures and memorizing notes.
- To help acquire higher-order thinking skills easily and faster.
- To encourage divergent thinking by offering authentic tasks.
- To emphasize cooperation and collaboration through peer learning.

3. The Context

The institution always strives to promote Quality Education to the students. It implements various methods of teaching-learning such as lecture, discussion, and demonstration from time to time. Through all these methods the understanding level of the students increased whereas the involvement, interest, participation, and quest for learning in the classroom were comparatively low. In today's trend, the students expect that the teaching to be student-centric learning. The institution also constantly focuses on the attainment of learning outcomes of the students and outcome-based education. To augment the learning level of the students the practice of Authentic Learning was implemented. In that, the students are learning by doing rather than learning by listening or observing. It allows the students to explore, discuss, and enhance their critical thinking and creativity. It prepares the students for the real world and helps them to make career decisions for the future.

4. The Practice

The association activities of the various Departments enrich Authentic Learning.

The Department of Computer Science widens the programming skills of the students through programming languages like C, C++, and Java

through practical. The association yearly conducts Debugging and web designing activities for the students to exhibit their technical skills, proficiency in programming language and creativity. The final year students are made compulsorily to undergo projects to assess their understanding level of the subject, creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

The Department of Management Studies professionally trains the students to develop their managerial and marketing skills, leadership qualities, decision-making abilities, organising and analysing skills through the activities SWOT analysis, Case Studies, New Product Development and Management Games. Through Industrial Visits, Industrial training and Projects students are exposed to real-life industrial environments rather than classroom theoretical learning.

The students of Commerce learn financial literacy, marketing skills, tax planning and administration skills by participating in activities such as Best Entrepreneur, New Product Launch, Commerce Exhibition, Logo Creation, Slogan Writing and Situation Problem-Solving. These activities enhance the students' understanding level and pave the way for creativity.

The Department of Corporate Secretaryship practices the analytical and secretarial skills of the students in the field of accounting, taxation, company law and general law through the activities One Minute Secretary, Mock Board Meeting, Paper Presentation, and Exhibition. They also undergo Institutional Training and Industrial Visits.

The Department of English creates a student-centred environment through a lot of activities.The communicative skills are polished through activities like Essay Writing, Poetry Writing, Oratorical, and Proverb Recitation. Their critical thinking and sense of imagination are enhanced through the activities like Invitation Card Designing, Poster Designing and Collage.Literary Tableau help students to connect with the characters and their conflicts in a meaningful way.

The Department of Mathematics not only teaches the basics, fundamentals, concepts and theories of mathematics,it makes the students apply, analyze and demonstrate through Math Exhibitions and PowerPoint Presentations.

The Institution provides Event Management Training for the students through Elite Circle to inculcate leadership skills and team spirit.They are

given training in the areas of event management planning ,organizing and execution of events.

5. Evidence of Success

The achievement of authentic learning among students is gauged by the observation of the staff at various levels. At the end of each course and programme the students' understanding level, analyzing skill, critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving attitude, organising skill, peer learning and participation was observed.

- The understanding level and analyzing skill of the students is evident through effective paper presentations, seminars, project reports and industrial training reports.
- The analytical and creative thinking of the students is obvious through the exhibitions. In math modelling and subject-related exhibitions, students apply the various concepts and problems learned as theories and demonstrate the skills which they have acquired through learning process.
- The students' problem-solving ability is identified through case study analysis.
- The critical thinking of the students has been recognized through the activities essay writing, debates, oratory and collage.
- The quick decision-making ability and leadership qualities are revealed through management games, mock board meetings and case analysis.
- The organising skill, team spirit, coordination and participation of the students is clearly exposed through the event management programme, in which the students organised and conducted an Interschool Literary and Cultural Meet for more than 80,000 school children from 10,603 schools across India.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Time

The transition from a content-driven system to the students performing system is not only challenging but also time-consuming.

Faculty Guidance

Authentic Learning is real-life education, when it is implemented can provide optimal learning opportunities to students. Faculty should understand the concept and should not misrepresent the term authentic to qualify the student's inferred learning in a classroom only referencing them with real-world situation aids as examples. Faculty should be a life skilled co-creator.

Space

In traditional teaching methods learning was confined to the physical classroom. In Authentic Learning students were exposed to a new learning environment to interact, collaborate, explore ideas and strategies. Increasing the learning space is a requirement to engage students with learning about the world around them.

Teamwork

Enormous work, dedication, planning, consultation, flexibility and networking are required for Authentic Learning. The faculty should coordinate, coach, consult and communicate for this significant goal.

Best Practice - 2

1. Title of the practice

Creating Competitive Environment to Enhance the Student Quality

2. Objectives of the practice

The institution focuses on creating an ecosystem for the enrichment of student quality through competitions. Thus the following objectives were designed. By creating a competitive environment the students will be able

- To identify their ability, skill and knowledge.
- To develop self-confidence and communication skills.
- To make them realise their potential through active participation.
- To acquire team spirit, leadership qualities and organising skills.

- To build a strong character and aid to handle failure, disappointment and stress.

- To stimulate critical thinking ability and problem-solving capability

3. The Context

The institution's student population predominantly constitutes a segment on different levels and backgrounds from the society. The majority of the students are either first graduates or with single-parent, thus the societal background they live and mode of their lifestyle highly influences the behaviour and attitude towards learning.

The students' medium of language is primarily regional, Tamil medium and communication in English are minimal. This has become a major obstacle resulting in a lack of self-confidence, stage fear and inferiority complex among students.

The institution identified the students faced a lack of interest, involvement and volunteering in activities due to fear of failure. So the institution provides an opportunity to the students by creating a competitive environment and help them to bounce back from failure to face life positively through all pressures and challenges. The institution adopts competition as one of its strategies to improve the quality of students

4. The Practice

The institution initiates the quality improvement of students through competitions via department associations and extension programmes.

Association activities
The department associations conduct all their activities as competitions. The competitions supplement with the programme they undergo thus widening their standard and also link academic knowledge with practical experience

Quizzes like Literary Quiz, Business Quiz, Math Quiz etc., Exhibitions related to the core area, Essay writing, Short Story Writing, Poetry Writing, Proverb completion, Slogan writing, Debugging, PhotoShop, Best Entrepreneur, New Product Development, SWOT Analysis, Case Studies, Management Games, Math Modelling, Paper Presentations and Adzap are conducted as competitions and ensure optimal student participation. This imparts students an opportunity to explore their comprehension towards

subjects parallel to departmental events thus improving their calibre in co-curricular activities, strengthening their academic self-concept, managerial potential and leadership qualities.

Cultural

The institution conducts an Interdepartmental cultural competition, BAC fest every year. The institution offers a chance for students to demonstrate their dramatic knacks through On Stage events like Group Dance for boys and girls, Solo Song, Group Song, Mime, Adzap, Comedy Time and offer Off Stage events like Wealth from Waste, Pencil Sketching, Mehandi, Flower Arrangement, Collage, Rangoli, National Integration and Clay modelling for students to learn and enjoy. Through these competitions, the institution supports the students to bring out their intrinsic talents. It provides a sense of achievement to accomplish goals, inspiration to be the best, a critique to move forward and an attitude to accept defeat.

Sports

All sports, games and athletics are conducted Department wise as interdepartmental competitions. Through team sports, the students learn to drive resilience and persistence. Sports events like Basketball, Volleyball, Throw Ball, Cricket, Football, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shuttle and Tennicott aid students to learn to handle situations and induce their sportsman spirit by developing social skills, companionship, learning to work in teams and valuable life lessons. Through athletics, ample opportunity is provided to engrain self-confidence, build discipline and improve self-esteem.

Christmas Carols

Every year inter-department Christmas Carols are conducted as is a friendly competition to share the joy and nurture their keenness irrespective of religion, culture, and background. This captures the beautiful emotional crossover of remembrance and celebration.

Gardening

As a healthy competition, the garden in front of the office was divided and allocated to every department for maintenance.

The students are acknowledged, appreciated and recognized with prizes and awards for their participation and involvement in all the competitions.

5. Evidence of Success

Success for the enhancement of quality through the competitive environment is perceived by the following

- The augmentation of students is recognised from the inception of their participation in all the events. The students are observed based on their participation in association events and involvement in class and academic accomplishments.
- The students have won many prizes at various intercollegiate competitions and sports events.
- They are also perused on initiation and volunteering responsibility on co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
- The appreciation from external examiners during practical exams and viva voce is taken as positive feedback for student quality improvement.
- The critical analysis, reviews, opinions and performance feedback from outside stakeholders like the experienced panel Jury of various competitions are good evidence for student quality improvement.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems Encountered

- Disappointment and discontentment on failure exist among students
- Competition creates a feeling of resentment and complexity among students.
- Misunderstanding and rival spirit among students can be seen.
- Since all the competitions are conducted parallel to the academic schedule, time allocation for practising and organising the competition becomes difficult.
- Time management is a major obstacle as the institution faces a challenge in groundwork time for organising the events and competitions within.

Resources Required

Competitions require manpower and money, it demands time, effort and resources.

- **Space**

Space is a major requisite for any competition. The conference hall, seminar hall and open auditorium are not adequate to conduct many competitions simultaneously.

- **Paucity of funds**

The paucity of funds is a major challenge to conduct a wide range of competitions.

- **Judges**

Getting specialised judges for a variety of competitions are yet another challenge.