

Annexure-III

APB, Post Graduate College, Agastyamuni, Rudraprayag

Best Practice - 1

Title of the Practice: Extending Lab access to nearby school level students.

The Context:

Curious and hardworking students are assets of any society. In order to increase the scientific temperament of students exposure to new techniques, labs and other resources is very essential. Every child is a little scientist in itself and is curious to know about various things happening around him/her. It is infact this curiosity that helps him to learn things and connect with the world. If properly guided and nurtured from beginning they can do wonders but it often happens that due to limitation of time, resources, environment around us etc. These innate curiosities tend to decline over time, and once lost it are very difficult to redevelop it. It has been observed by the science departments of the college that most of the students enrolling themselves for admission in B.Sc. – I year/semester had almost no or very little hand-on exposure to labs, instruments and experiments. Most of the times this happened because of lack of even the basic scientific instruments at the school level.

The Objectives of the Practice:

- **To develop scientific temperament.**
- **To motivate students for higher education.**

Practice:

It is therefore decided in IQAC meeting that college will make possible efforts to prevent this quality from fading away and channelizing this positively. For this our college extended its lab assess to nearby school students so that they can visit and use the resources for learning. They can interact with the college faculty and discuss their questions and problems. This will not only increase their interest in the subject but also motivate them for higher education. Another step in this direction was taken up in particular by the Physics department. The department issues the smaller instruments (Vernier calipers, screw-gauge, prisms etc.) for a few days at a time to those UG and PG students who are willing to explain/teach the workings/principles/practical's of these instruments to the school level students around their own places of stay.

Obstacles faced/Problems encountered:

It sometimes becomes difficult for the college staff to deal with the notorious students. However, by limiting the number of students visiting the school and that to along with their faculty helped in dealing with the indiscipline.

Impact of Practice/Evidence of Success:

The college has obtained positive feedback from the school teachers and administrators. Further, our own students (of UG & PG), who served as teachers for the school level students of their own locality, also feel that their own understanding of the subject matter improved once they tried to teach/explain it to someone

Best Practice - 2

- **Title of the Practice: Promotion of Distant Learning Courses under IGNOU & UOU.**

The Context:

A petition was filed by Mr. Daulut Ram Semwal regarding improvement of educational quality in the higher educational institutes of the state. A subsequent court order led the state government/ higher education department Uttarakhand to keep the number of admissions in the colleges for any particular course proportional to the number of teachers/ faculty available. This resulted in a severe limit (as compared to the years before the court order) on the number of seats in various programs. The students were dissatisfied with this decision and student unions were continuously protesting.

The Objectives of the Practice:

- **To promote distant education.**
- **To motivate students for higher education.**

Practice:

For dealing with this situation it was decided to promote distant learning. Distant learning courses under IGNOU and UOU were already running in the college but due to the newly imposed limitations on the number of seats in various courses the college promoted more students for registration therein. The students and parents were made aware and counseled about the various programs running under IGNOU and UOU. The students who keenly wanted to study but were unable to get seats in the regular courses can enroll and save their precious time and year.

Obstacles faced/Problems encountered:

The student questioned about the validity of courses run under distant learning programs. But proper counseling helped in clarification of the doubts. The fee structure of distant learning courses is (usually) more than that for the corresponding regular course and so many students were reluctant in availing these courses, initially. However, they were counselled that the fees includes the cost of study material to be provided to them and so they don't have to purchase any books from outside for their courses. Further the courses are free for students from the SC/ST categories.

Impact of Practice/Evidence of Success:

A record registration was noticed in various programs offered under distant learning by UOU & IGNOU. This also eased the pressure from the student representatives regarding giving admission to more students in the regular courses.