A.P.B. Post Graduate College, Agustyamuni, Rudraprayag

Best Practice-1

Title of the Practice: Access of e-content to the students via the e-Library in the College.

The Objectives of the Practice:

Some of the departments in the college had computers and internet connectivity but that was mostly limited for use by the faculty members. The students (and usually the P.G. students) had to mostly use their own resources to access any content (related to their studies either directly or indirectly) from the internet. With a functional and well-equipped e-library in the college the students can now access academic content from the internet during their free time in the campus. In this era of digital education and so much of high quality content (either part of syllabus or even beyond that) available in audio-visual forms, apart from the text content, the e-library is a boon for the students wishing to explore (and get exposure) beyond the conventional classroom-blackboard teaching. The e-library also serves as a first experience towards operating a computer (basic operations) to some of the students who unfortunately never got an opportunity to even sit in front of a computer. Moreover some of the courses currently running the college require computer labs for students (e.g. Computational Physics course in M.Sc. Physics and accounting etc. in Commerce). As the individual departments lack the computing resources to conduct the practical (on computer) sessions for many students together, the e-library is also used (depending on available time slots) by the students of such departments to do their relevant practical sessions.

The Context:

With the help of the Higher Education Department of the state the college was able to procure /establish an e-library in the college. During this session, on the initiative taken by the IQAC, the college was able to bring the e-library into functional mode. The e-library consist of 21 computers, with proper UPS backed power supplies, scanners & printers for use by the students. The internet connectivity is provided via SWAN (a govt. initiative to provide high speed internet to government offices, institutions and other public utility offices). This connection provides high speed internet (100 Mbps) to educational and government sites (other sites blocked by SWAN itself). The internet is distributed amongst the computers via local networking.

Obstacles faced/Problems encountered:

Some issues have been encountered in operating the e-library properly. With a shortage of teaching and non-teaching staff in the college overall and almost everybody being busy with their conventional duties (classroom teaching, practical & other office duties) during the college working hours, providing a designated staff for the e-library (to keep a watch on the students and help them

etc.) has been a challenge. Secondly the UPS with each computer can provide a (safe) backup of 15-20 minutes only. In case of long power-cuts (not so infrequent in this remote hilly location) the systems have to be simply shut down. A large power-bank or generators (with auto mode) is needed, but that can be arranged only with the availability of sufficient funds. Also sometimes the internet connectivity drops out (mostly due to snapping of the service provider lines due to on-going construction work of the all-weather-road project in the whole region). Though we are trying to procure some other form of internet connectivity (Wireless preferably) to overcome the connectivity issue.

Impact of Practice/ Evidence of Success:

The students (especially the PG Science students) have been very enthusiastic about the availability of e-content and general internet access to them. This aids them in their studies as well as get exposure about their field and the various competitive opportunities. It also helps the faculty members and lessens their burden to some extent (by serving as a sort of teaching partner). The dual purpose of computer-lab, only to a small extent though, served by the e-library has also been useful to the students as they were able to spend more real-time on the computers as compared to the past years.

<div align="center">**Best Practice-2**</div>

Title of the Practice: Coaching Program for Competitive Exams.

The Objectives of the Practice:

To prepare the college students for various competitive exams, along with their regular studies, it was realized that a proper classroom-coaching environment was needed. Along with good and appropriate study material, which is available in the library as well as personally, proper mentors and/or resource persons are a must for competitive preparations. A coaching program titled *Prerna* (प्रेरणा) was started in the college during the academic session to aid the students in preparing for the competitive exams.

The Context:

The need for some kind of proper classroom-coaching environment focused on competitive exams had always been felt. Unlike the bigger towns and cities, in the absence of any well-established private coaching institutes operating in this remote semi-urban hilly township this need was enhanced even further. This year the college contacted the District Administration (specifically the District Magistrate) and they decided to lend a helping hand to this cause. The District Administration employed a few resource persons (familiar with Civil Services Exams, Banking Exams and other similar exams) from their own end and started coaching classes for the college students. Some of our faculty members also provided their expertise at times. Moreover some member from the District Administration (DM, ADM, SDM) or some other officers (Bank P.O.'s etc.) also took some lecture-sessions for the students in these classes. These particular sessions were more about mentorship and their own experiences and methods/ resource/ tactics during their own competitive preparations. These free coaching classes are really a boon for the aspiring students, most of whom hail from the (relatively) low income groups of the society.

Obstacles faced/Problems encountered:

One of the major obstacles with the operation was the time period for conduction of these classes. These classes had to be operated without disturbing the normal teaching routine of the college/students. So these classes had to be operated either early morning (before the college starts) or late afternoons (after the college ends). This made it difficult for some of the students to attend these classes as they hailed from the nearby villages and transport facilities (to and fro) become rarer at such odd times (early morning or late evening).

Impact of Practice/ Evidence of Success:

The success of an effort to create a learning environment can only be judged after some time. But the enthusiasm of the students towards these classes despite the hardships caused by the odd-timings is reason enough to pursue such an effort. Moreover the students who attended these classes

were becoming more and more confident in general. Also a mind-set change in terms of setting definite goals and chalking out a path to reach that goal was also seen amongst the attendees.