

Best Practices

I. STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

1. The Context:

The Student Induction Programme, is meticulously planned considering the needs of a student who undergoes a dynamic shift from school education to higher education. This transition and the adaption to the new environment can be challenging to the students who are fresh to the college. The socio, economic and cultural conditions may cause potential impediment to the academic achievement of the students. Such barriers and inhibitions can hinder the healthy development of the learners. And therefore the SIP is conducted to create in them a passion for acquiring a holistic overview of education as such. This would help the a student to confidently assimilate the differences and celebrate uniqueness.

2. Objectives:

- to uplift the level of the entrants
- to promote all-round development
- to facilitate a smooth transition of new students and make them feel comfortable in the new environmen
- to inculcate the ethos of the institution
- to help them build networking skills
- to motivate the students to plan and build their future

3. The Practice:

Student Induction Programme was initiated by the IQAC of our College. The Student Induction Programme has multiple layers that target the various needs of the new students. First part was to introduce them to the legacy, founding principles of the institution, the guidelines and take them on a virtual campus tour. The Secretary and Principal addressed the students and their parents on the formation, functioning of the college and the core institutional values. Information regarding transportation facilities were also given. Orientation was given by the HODs, class in charges and mentors in their respective departments as the student should feel free to approach the faculty mentor, when they face any kind of problem, whether academic or financial or psychological. Student Induction Programme had distinguished lecture series such as “Stages of Human Maturity”, “Health and Hygiene”, “Awareness on Sexual Harassment” which was followed by a practical session of Yoga. These interactive sessions provided an insight into human values, physical fitness and safety. Another interesting session was for playing the traditional games. SWOC Analysis was done by the class in charges and also mentoring was done by the mentors on environmental consciousness and human values. It was followed by feedback and valedictory session. With the cooperation of the students and the faculty members, the Induction programme was able to record the feedback of the students.

4. Obstacles if any and Strategies:

Obstacles: Some of the freshers were reluctant to express their problems.

Strategies: Right from the outset, the faculty and management were conscious about the students' difficulties and ensured that all the students will be guided and helped for smooth functioning. The class in charges were keenly watching, assisting and reassuring the individuals who were having difficulties.

5. Impact of the Practice:

As an outcome of the programme, the freshers were able to display confidence and successfully adapt to a new academic environment. They were able to establish positive acquaintance with the institution and its activities. Their performance, in the activities designed for the induction programme laid the foundation for their future endeavours.

II. UNIVERSAL VALUES

1. The Context that required the initiation of the practice:

The college was instituted in the early stages of national development with the motto of moulding the young women of the rural community through education. In keeping with the vision of the Mother Foundress, the sisters of the Cross of Chavanod committed themselves in mentoring of young minds with a deep sense of social responsibility. They inculcated an empathy for all living beings, thus beginning a long journey of love, compassion, giving, acceptance, empathy, justice and other precious values. This was not achieved in a moment by the individuals but rather made possible through practice, honing and redrafting the values at every stage. This in turn has breathed life into the principles on which the institution runs and serves.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To identify and define the values essential for social responsibility
- To raise consciousness in stakeholders regarding the crucial values
- To help stakeholders to convert values into action
- To have a balanced relationship with the socio-physical environment
- To inculcate values that will make life sustainable

3. The Practice:

The very founding principles have been framed with service at its crux. This facilitated an environment permeated by Universal Values for creating a compassionate world. As a college that has served the underprivileged it has been constantly conscious of the need for values like freedom, social progress, compassion, peace, tolerance, empathy, equality and so on. The student orientation programme, involving parents, teachers and senior students carries a strong message with a stress on universal values. Every day starts with a 'Thought for the Day' to be reflected on. This is a practice which in the long run inculcates human and universal values. RUN activities also encourage social responsibility. The various clubs and committees play a vital

role in instilling values. Independent activities / events too are done with the purpose of encouraging values. Each department organized programmes promoting the universal values through motivational talks and related activities. For instance, 'Shopping Sans Shopkeeper' focuses on honesty – a sale organized without any supervisory presence. Over the years, festivals like Pongal, Christmas and Diwali are celebrated by the college community to practice inclusiveness, tolerance and acceptance. The PTA meetings, retirement and farewell functions inculcate a sense of togetherness among the stakeholders. Often there are rallies conducted by various bodies to showcase these values in the local community. The Mentor Mentee programme, Value Education classes, student retreats etc. provide every student to comprehend the dimensions of personal integrity and social dignity.

4. Obstacles faced and strategies adopted to overcome:

Obstacles: Time constraint is a challenge given the rigorous attention to curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular pursuits. Organizing and ensuring smooth execution of these programmes have to be meticulously planned. The changing world brings out unprecedented, surprising challenges demanding new strategies as well as solutions.

Strategies: The mentor-mentee programme during the Hour of Blossoming plays a vital role in the ratio of 1:20. Every faculty takes special interest in the students of their departments and college at large. Student support via messaging apps is also done. The changing cultural climate of the nation like addiction to social media, coping with pandemic brings along its own challenges. Need-based programmes are organised to help the students to cope with the impending challenges.

5. Evidence of Success:

Feedbacks from the parents endorse the transition that has been facilitated and fine-tuned by the institution. The number of students who participate in service-oriented activities is a definite proof. Money, food and masks were distributed to the needy during the pandemic. The feedbacks from the stakeholders, subject experts, external examiners, visiting dignitaries vouchsafe how successfully the college promotes the core values.