



08942-241401(O)

6281988108 (O)

GAYATRI COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT

(Affiliated to Dr.B.R.AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY), Accredited by NAAC & ISO
Munasabpetta, SRIKAKULAM - 532401(A.P.)

DR. P. SRINIVASA RAO, M.A., Ph.D.,
Principal

Date : _____

Best Practice-I

Title of the Practice

Online learning and COVID preparedness

Objectives of the Practice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college had to make the difficult decision to close and conduct all activities online. However, later during the year at least some activities became in the physical mode. Moreover, the year was marked by lots of uncertainties and accordingly a new practice had to emerge to adapt to this new world. The objectives of this practice were threefold:

- 1). To ensure that the teaching learning practice goes on effectively in an online world during the pandemic by responding quickly and appropriately
- 2) To gradually reopen the institution as per GoI guidelines so that at least some teaching takes place in the physical face to face mode
- 3) To ensure COVID appropriate behaviors as well encourage pro social behaviors in all

The Context

There was an urgent need to rethink education as regular teaching was disrupted and the majority of the teaching learning process became online. Teachers have been forced to rethink their teaching pedagogies to accommodate online learning. Doing practical work in an online mode has been one of the most difficult obstacles. Other activities, such as internships, seminars, and field work, had to be moved online as well. Admissions and administration also became online. All these changes necessitated the acquisition of new skills in order to adapt to the changing environment. The impact on women's education was massive as many women students struggled to manage their studies with academics. Everyone has struggled with the loss of personal interaction. Research suggests that anxiety, despair, and stress have become frequent among students and employees. The college had to build the necessary infrastructure to support the online modality. The college also had to think about how to reopen at least some educational activities while ensuring that COVID appropriate protocols are followed.

The Practice

Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education.

- Upgrading ICT: The entire college was made Wifi accessible with a bandwidth > 50 MBPS and all faculty were provided institutional email ids, Google classroom and Zoom were extensively used to conduct online lectures, share resources and conduct internal exams and assignments.
- Training for ICT skills: Since the technology is new for several teachers therefore several webinars as well as FDP were organized.
- Developing innovative teaching pedagogies appropriate to online mode: Pedagogy was mainly participative with a focus on students engaging in group projects and giving PowerPoint presentations, as well as discussions and other activities. Besides online lectures, teachers used Powerpoint presentations, lecture recordings, uploading on Google drive, and Audio/video aids. Google Forms were used for taking feedback, research-based activities, maintaining attendance etc. All webinars, FDPs, workshops, DU exams, outreach programmes, heritage walk, pledge sessions have been virtual and conducted through ICT. Research by teachers focused on understanding the social context of the pandemic.
- Enhancing communication during lockdown: All students, faculty and other staff were in constant contact with each other through various means such as whatsapp, emails etc. Faculty groups and student groups were created and university/college communications were immediately posted on website/ student groups/ faculty groups through WhatsApp and email. At times a small support group was created online for helping a critical member.
- Developing tools for assessment: For online assignments online, it was important to develop assess the originality of content.
- Ensuring awareness about pandemic: The Covid Task Force of college developed advisories, facilitated on-campus RTPCR Covid 19 testing facility, and organized webinars.

Evidence of Success

Although the face-to-face interaction of physical classes cannot be replicated in the online approach, the college's response to the pandemic was appropriate given the circumstances. The following examples show how the college acted quickly and effectively:

1. In March 2020 itself all classes and other activities such as webinars and exams became online
2. The feedback survey and satisfaction survey taken during the pandemic year indicated that students were quite satisfied with the online mode
3. The examination results of the students during the above period indicate that students on the whole performed quite well.

contd...

Best Practice-II

Title of the practice

Welfare Activities to support underprivileged students to pursue higher education

Goal

Though there has been a phenomenal growth in the number of women enrolled in higher education since independence, the percentage of women students in Gayatri College of Science and Management under privileged background is much lower due to gender discrimination and financial constraints. Financial assistance needs to be provided to these students to enable them to complete higher education as once educated; these women can become a channel for improving the quality of life both at home and outside. By encouraging and promoting education of women, they can be empowered for a better future.

The Context

Majority of our students are from socio-economically challenged segments of the society. Personal interactions with students and analysis of the dropout statistics has revealed that familial and financial constraints prevent them from completing higher education and lead them to drop-out midway through the course. It was observed that supporting them with financial assistance would help them to pursue higher education. Hence, it was decided to generate funds to provide financial help in the form of scholarships, micro loans, etc. Besides financial assistance, students also need other basic necessities like meals, medical assistance etc. To meet the needs of the students, a number of schemes have been started.

The Practice

Our management believes in inclusive education and strives hard to raise funds from philanthropists to make these schemes sustainable. The schemes launched are as follows:

- Financial assistance through interest-free micro loans and scholarships:

Under this scheme, needy students receive interest-free loans to pursue higher education or to complete professional courses at our institute or at other institutes. As the fees of such courses are high, the needy students take loans and repay them at the earliest. Scholarships are awarded to students who are unable to pay the fees.

Contd. . .

- Mini meals:

Many of our students cannot afford two meals a day. They attend classes on an empty stomach and report to their jobs directly from college. We have launched the Mini Meal programme, where 200 needy students are given a balanced meal including a fruit on every working day. This programme has resulted in better health and improved academic performance of the beneficiaries.

Evidence of success

- With government supported scholarships, students successfully completed their education.
- With mini-meals it has been observed that the attendance and academic performance of the students have improved.



IQAC COORDINATOR


PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL

Gayatri College of Science & Management
Munasabpet-Srikakulam-532 401