



BHIMAVARAM INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

(Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to JNTUK Kakinada)

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Best Practice - 1: MENTORING SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS

1. Objectives of the Practice: To minimize dropouts, improve performance and reduce the stress of the students through personal counselling.

2. The Context: Students undergo various problems of stress- personal, academic, physical, and mental. Students are new to professional college life. It creates a lot of stress, especially for hostel students who are away from family for the first time. Students from educationally weak backgrounds feel complex and hesitations in class and are unable to perform well due to inhibitions. Statistics reveal an increasing number of suicides and dropouts. Considering the student-teacher ratio in classrooms, it is difficult at times to give personal attention to students in class. One solution, therefore, is a 'Mentor' who can form a bond with students in the true sense. Mentoring is required for students to achieve emotional stability and to promote clarity in thinking and decision-making for overall progress.

3. The Practice

- Each teacher is assigned around 15-20 students for the complete duration of their study.
- They meet at least once a month to discuss, clarify and share various problems which may be personal or academic, etc.
- The mentors encourage the students to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and sports.
- Their academic performance and other activities are all recorded.
- The mentors also keep in touch with the parents on their attendance, test performance, fee payment, examinations etc., on a weekly basis
- The mentors also counsel the students in need of emotional problems.
- When the students have any problem in any department either with the staff or with work completion the mentors speak with the respective staff and sort out the problem.
- Mentors take special care of weak students, who are given advice on how to study, prepare a timetable for study and clarify the doubts and also give notes to study.
- The Chief Mentor of the department takes the progress of counselling of students by mentors.
- Students' problems are discussed with the departmental heads, and other faculties and necessary actions are taken to solve them.

4. Evidence of Success: Evidence of the success of the practice includes university ranks, better results in the examinations, improved attendance, fewer dropouts, increased participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities, better discipline on campus and respectful relationships between teachers and students. The students are more relaxed and have a healthy relationship with the staff.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: This practice requires committed teaching staff that has the desire to help students beyond teaching hours. There are no limitations or constraints faced during the implementation of the program.

Best Practice -2: DIGITALIZATION PRACTICE IN THE INSTITUTION

1. Objectives of the practice

- To ameliorate the digitalization in teaching, learning, and evaluation processes.
- To aid the integration of ICT into administration purposes.
- To inculcate a paperless learning ambience to protect the environment
- Develop the skills and confidence of students and effective use of digital technology to support teaching and learning.
- To encourage higher-level thinking and creativity through ICT.
- To determine the practical use of technology integration.

2. The Context: An inexorable shift to the world of digitalization, the institution embraces digitalization throughout the entire academic and administrative processes. Digitalization pervades all processes, administration, formats, and goals of higher education teaching, learning, evaluation and research. This digital transformation includes the increase in the use of digital media and technologies for teaching and learning, research, support services, administration, and communication, as well as the need for students and faculty to develop digital skills for their current and future endeavours.

3. The Practice

The institution provides digital learning resources to implement effective teaching and learning techniques and to support the extensive use of ICT-enabled tools. The institution has 6 ICT-enabled classrooms to promote digitalization in curriculum delivery. 180 computer terminals with Internet-connected, 140 Mbps bandwidth of Airtel & BSNL Internet connection and 24/7 Wi-Fi facility are available for effective usage of ICT. The institution has Advanced English Language Skills Lab for communication training. Apart from this, applications like Webex, Zoom Meet etc., are also used for sharing knowledge.

E-Classroom is used to create a virtual learning environment and distribute classwork, share study material, upload sample question papers, provide e- assignments and share announcements. The internal evaluation and assessment are carried out through E-Classroom. MyKlassroom.com is a cloud-based social digital e-learning platform, enriched with a variety of features and used by teachers to connect and collaborate with students to make learning more meaningful, interactive and engaging.

The institution has SWAYAM-NPTEL local chapter and students are encouraged to enrol in SWAYAM-NPTEL courses. SWAYAM PRABHA channel is also available free for visual learning on various topics. The institution has fully automated LMS software in the library and has remote access facility, it is equipped with DELNET. The institution has subscribed E-Journal Portal, KNIMBUS, JGATE Online Periodicals and e-resources like DELNET, NPTEL, IIT SPOKEN TUTORIAL, INFLIBNET- NLIST, EBSCO and NDLI are available in the institution. WEB OPAC is used for searching for the books available in the library out of campus and J-GATE is used for barcode scanning.

The Institution has Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) Local Chapter and students are encouraged to enrol in Online Courses.

The institution implemented digitalization in the administration which includes updating the students' admission details, fee details, distribution of Transfer Certificates, updating the details of the staff, payment online, fee collection, UPI facility, etc. Individual E-Mails in the domain, Exclusive Social Media Pages and Groups, and SMS Tools are used for communication purposes and dissemination of information.

The institution induced digitalization in the examination processes; the Exam cell is equipped with Computers, Printers, a reprographic machine and a copier machine. It communicates with the faculty through domain mail ID. The examination circulars, question paper setting circulars, evaluation process etc., are communicated.

4. Evidence of Success

The increased use of mobile applications of the learning platform is clear evidence of the success of the digital learning tools provided by the institution. The interest level among students in peer learning and digital learning has been gradually increasing. The teaching faculty is also motivated to use more of this learning resource in delivering the knowledge content to the students. The digital learning platform provides motivation to learn and enhance the skill sets of the students by registering themselves for online MOOC and SWAYAM- NPTEL courses.

The institution utilized the ICT platform in an effective manner during the COVID-19 crisis to conduct various online events that results in 100% utilization of ICT. The class work and circulars are carried out online mode. The institution has hosted a number of webinars presented by subject specialists that helps the students to learn in their own comfort. As the institution already adopted the usage of digital platforms pre-pandemic, the faculty members and students find the transformation towards digitalization to be quite easy.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Technical issues confronted during usage of ICT
- Shortage of gadgets as students are from economically downtrodden background
- Digital Literacy - Requirement of technical proficiency
- Although digital learning is enriching, students do not find a virtual classroom as engaging as a traditional one.
- Security issues exist as an online platform has been a fertile ground for cybercrime

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