HINDUSTAN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

7.2.1.Two institutional Best Practices

Best Practices 1 Earn while you Learn

Objective of the Practice

The objective of the practice is to support the economically challenged students. This practice gives them an opportunity to work after the college hours between 3.10 and 4.30 in the library. After college hours, the books remain scattered on the reading tables and are not placed in order on the racks. This would be segregated and arranged properly.

The artistically skilled students are used in designing the campus blaze, bi-annual newsletter and Hindlehar, annual college magazine. This would develop the skills of the students and give them hands on experience at designing. This work can also be done at home.

The context

By the implementation of this practice the student learn the work culture of an educational institution. They are given the financial assistance which would help them to stand on their own legs. They are given an orientation on the method of work expected from them. They are also taught how to value work whether it is small or big.

While designing this Programme, we considered the certain criteria to choose the students who really find it difficult to meet both ends meet. The scheme is adopted in the beginning of both the semesters and ends before the examination. They get enough time to prepare for the exams and pay the fees on time. The task of identifying such students was given to different departments. The class tutors who collect the details of the students and study the financial background and render the right help to them.

The practice

In India the number of students pursuing higher education is very less. Due to their financial crisis they are forced to work in hotels, medical shops, courier, driving cabs, etc. All these work nature put a full stop to their studies and they miss out the joy of learning at college.

Some students sign up for part time jobs on night at shifts. This becomes a heavy burden to the students.

The work at educational institution under the banner "Earn While You Learn" doesn't consume much time and at the same time, they are not strenuous. They also tend to get a soft corner from the faculty. Regular monitoring of their work gives them encouragement and assistance.

Since the college is situated in the out shirts of Chennai, many students have financial constraints to continue their studies. For many of them it is an opportunity to earn with dignity. Regularity of work is sought by the college. As students are not regular they find it difficult to continue the work and there by earn a little amount only.

Evidence of success

So far about 18 students are benefitted out of the scheme. They find it very useful in paying their exam fees and some dues. Instead of being idle away their time at the college campus between 3.10 and 4.30 and waste their time at home, they utilize it to earn and support their family. They learn to value time. The satisfaction that they get out of this is great. For the designing work the students receive a certificate of appreciation during the college day celebrations. This certifies their work culture and shows them a way to pursue such jobs after their course completion.

This also paves way for peer learning in designing work. They learn from other students about different software or method to do the work easily and perfectly. The students who have helped in designing and photography excel in media after their degree

Best Practices 2 Go Green

The college initiated a small but a firm step to protect and preserve the greenery of the campus and to enhance the green environment culture among the students. The students need to learn the importance of pollution free environment and to inculcate the importance of conserving the natural resources.

The context

The College initates to maintain green campus after the cyclone which uprooted large number of trees. Hence every month saplings are planted to mark the birthday of the management and staff of the college. Also initiatives taken to develop herbal garden and organic garden. Fresh organic vegetables and greens are sold to the staff of the college for minimum cost.

Keeping the notion of Zero Waste Campus the college created a Vermicompost Production Unit and Biogas in the campus. A certificate course was conducted for the staff on Vermicompost. The participants were taken on field visit to the Vermicompost Unit to learn about the preparation of pancha kavya, types of earth worms, processing of Vermicompost, collection and packing of manure etc.

To inculcate the importance of conserving the natural resources for its sustainable utilization, the Enviro-club of the Department of Biotechnology celebrated "World Honey Bee Day". The students displayed handmade posters to emphasize the importance of Apiculture and honey bees. The theme for the celebration was "Climate is changing". The club regularly conducts many activities regarding Environment protection.

Evidence of success

In the short term more than 50 saplings planted in the campus. Vermicompost certificate courses organized to the students and staff. The production from the vermicompost sold to the staff and students. More than 30 varieties of herbal and medical plants maintained in the garden. Students show keen interest to know the medical values of the plants.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

This involves huge investments and maintenance.