

Title of Best Practice 1

Finishing school

The context that required the imitation of the practice: Navjivan Science College is only a grant in aid Science College in Dahod district. The majority population of the Dahod district consist of tribal people. Majority of its student come from such a family that their first generation reaches up to the college level education. The institute offers graduate degree of science in Gujarati medium. It is clearly observed that students are weak in communication in English language. The lake of self awareness, self confidence and grooming and body language and etiquette were clearly noticed. Moreover soft skills like Interview Skills, Presentation Skills, and Critical Thinking needs to be improve. After completion of their education job search, resume writing and cover letter must be known by the students.

Objectives of the practice: The objectives of finishing schools are life skills and Employability skills along with basic grammar and spoken English which help students a lot in their personal and professional life.

About Finishing School: The Gujarat government has initiated this traning programme to make students employable. The entire Finishing school training is divided in four parts – Set A, B, C, D, covering Life skills, Employability skills, functional English and spoken English. This training is an imperative for students as it helps enhancing the personality; the topics covered are non academic, which are essential for students growth and success. The institute and the appointed coordinators make special effort for the betterment of students future by arranging the batches to conduct this program. The training is started by explaining the importance of the Finishing school programme and how it is going to help them to build their future.

Self Awareness - The students were made to realise their strengths and weaknesses by doing the SWOT analysis activity. Along with related videos to explain them the importance of self-awareness, plus case study and quiz were arranged at the end of every session. This guided them on how to convert their weakness into strengths and how to capitalise on their strengths to create more opportunities in life.

Self Esteem, Self Confidence- Students understood the importance of having self esteem to increase their confidence , the correlation of both and the importance of these skills for acquiring job. Lot of stories and real life case studies were used to explain them.

Grooming and Body language and Etiquette-They were explained how the first impression is created in their first 7 meeting a person, and creates the lasting impression. And what types of outfit to be worn in the interview, to all the hygiene to be maintained to create first positive impression? Then through Body Language- they learnt how non verbal communication plays an important role in communication. Especially in interviews, how their confident body language helps them get their desired job. They learnt the correct way for a handshake, proper standing and sitting posture. Videos relating to this reinforced this concept for them.

Positive attitude and motivation - The students were made to realise the importance of the topic...importance of right attitude. Along with related videos to explain them the importance of positive affirmations, plus case study and quiz at the end of every session. This guided them on how to adapt to a positive mindset.

Team work-In Team work, the students were made to understand how to work effectively in the team, Importance and benefits of team work and got clarity on what are hurdles in team work. They also got lot of motivation through videos and real life examples.

Critical Thinking- Students were explained the meaning, importance, the use of critical Thinking in daily lives and the importance of keeping our mind active. Along with that they did a lot of quizzes and critical thinking exercises with informative videos.

Problem solving / Decision making - Problem solving skills is one of the essential key skills and owing to the current scenario, one should be equipped to handle the crisis. Student learnt methods to solve problems through affinity diagram and Absolute criteria method to take decisions. **Presentation Skills**- In this season students learnt about how to present confidently and the key aspects of Presentation and public speaking and how to master them. Understanding Importance of verbal communication and how it impacts the professional life with appropriate videos to make the learning more effective.

Impact of the Finishing school: The impact of the finishing school was clearly observed during placement fair, cultural activities and day celebration. During the teachers day the college was managed by students. The lectures and lab was conducted by students and teachers became judges and awarded best teachers amongst the students. The skill enhancements amongst the students were monitored during daily teaching and other activities which were done with students.

Best Practices 2

Title: - Social awareness through social activities by N.S.S. Unit

The institute is only a grant in aid Science College in Dahod district. The majority population of the Dahod district consists of tribal people. Social awareness campaign is needed in this tribal area regarding election, blood donation, infectious diseases, polio, thalassemia etc.

Goals:-

- ✓ Making the villagers aware about various social responsibilities like election, blood donation, girl child education etc...
- ✓ The villagers are made aware about various diseases like polio, Thalassemia, HIV etc...
- ✓ Developing proximity of the college students with the villagers and strengthening bond between them by organizing a special residential camp.
- ✓ Sensitizing students for paying back to society.
- ✓ To develop organizational and communication skills among the students.

Context:-

Social awareness campaign is needed in this tribal area regarding election, blood donation,

various diseases like polio, HIV, etc.

But due to lack of effective execution and result oriented mechanism, the desired goal couldn't be achieved. The overall progress of the villagers living in remote area is still restrained by various factors. Owing to lack of information, ignorance and outreach awareness programmes, life of these villagers is still encircled by various problems. Illiteracy, health issues related to unhygienic living conditions, superstitious outlook, the progress of the villagers that compelled us to organize an awareness campaign specially targeting these issues to bring about a change in outlook of the villagers. Moreover, such targeted activities would surely be helpful in sensitizing the students to pay back to society and to develop some of the vital skills among them.

Practice:-

The N.S.S. volunteers of the institute conducted a specific survey to collect the responses from the villagers of Dahod highlighting their life style and outlook. Some of key issue was suggested by District Medical Officer while they were practicing. The analysis of the outcome of the survey helped in selecting the topics of discussion and interaction with the villagers that provided a base for organizing an awareness campaign. A special residential NSS camp was organized at Nagarala village of Dahod district from 09/2/2020 to 15/2/2020. Apart from performing their routine activities, 50 volunteers have started communicating, interacting with the villagers to enhance their participation in the lectures and other activities organized for them. The NSS volunteers and the staff members along with the villagers carried out a cleanliness drive lasting till the end of the campaign. Daily lecture series, guidance sessions followed by question-answer session, entertainment-cum-enlightenment programmes, training sessions etc. gave comprehensive nature to the campaign. A visit of Sadguru Water and Development Foundation was arranged on 12/02/2020. The lecture series regarding method to save underground water, drip irrigation, check dam and apiculture was organized. The NSS unit of the institute and Gujarat State AIDS control Society jointly organized awareness programme for HIV/AIDS, TB, and Blood Cancer.

Evidence Of Success:- A change in villagers attitude towards cleanliness was clearly noticeable. The college received calls and invitations from the villagers to organize more training and guidance sessions on Yoga and Pranayam. The participated students appeared more sensitized and motivated as it has enhanced their participation in other social activities conducted by the college. The organizational skills among the students also appeared to be enhanced while organizing various programmes in the college.

Problems

Encountered:-

Participation of the villagers was comparatively less during day time owing to their engagement in agricultural activities. The attitude of most villagers seemed to blame the government machinery for every wrong and this led to dull response in the beginning of the campaign.