

Best Practices (2019-2020)

Best Practice I

STEP – Strategised Target Excellence Programme

Goal:

To prepare the students to face the challenges of the modern world, to meet the HR requirements and to lead the creamy students to reputed HEI through academic excellence.

Context:

We have a heterogeneous group of youngsters with varying academic performance as reflected in their marks at the entry level. Besides, there is a section whose possibilities are hindered by adverse socio-economic milieu. The real challenge is to lift up all the diverse category of students from their existing positions.

Practice:

- In the first step' the mission, goals and vision are introduced to the freshers. This is attained through a four level process involving (a) comprehensive induction programme in the beginning of the course (b) entry level test and (c) a socioeconomic survey and (d) bridging to the nirmalgi academic community.
- The second step' is based on mentoring and activities of the Career Guidance and Placement Cell. The students are encouraged to set SMART goals through orientation programmes by experts and are motivated to achieve them.
- As a third step, training programmes of various natures extending for two to five days aimed at enhancing the employability of students are conducted every year. These sessions provide intensive coaching in group discussion, interview techniques, CV preparation, aptitude tests, competencies in global link language and numeracy.
- To enhance the competencies for the labour markets short term courses and courses to inculcate additional skills are offered. Various initiatives to build the proficiency in the IT skills is taken up at this stage.
- Entrance preparations to national reputed institutions are arranged at the department level making use of the resources within and outside the college.

- Other than the notice boards, a career portal is active in the college website and a career corner in the central library. Dissemination of the information regarding the course and job announcements is done through modern social media also. Online registrations for PSC, bank jobs and other competitive examinations are facilitated by Career Guidance and Placement Cell.
- The meritorious students are duly honoured on the merit day.

Evaluative steps:

The parents are brought into the stream for exchange of feedbacks through PSTA meetings. Inter-Department Quality Cell (IDQC) monitors and evaluates the teaching and learning activities to ensure attainments of the benchmarks. The College Council coordinates the semester-wise result evaluation.

Evidence of Success:

- The increase in the number of students qualifying the entrance examinations conducted by top ranking institutions goes to prove that this strategy has worked well.
- Among the arts and science colleges under the Kannur University, a good number of students from our institution are getting placement campus recruitments.
- The University level examination results during the last four years show an upward trend. Our PG students as well as recent alumni of UG departments are qualifying national and state level competitive examinations like JRF/NET/SET etc.
- The demand ratio of the college in connection with the admissions is a good indicator of the success of STEP.

Problems Encountered and Resource Required :

- The results of each semester examinations, if published by the university within one month of the examinations, could further enhance the effectiveness of STEP.
- The available working hours for the completion of the courses are in most cases, much less than the stipulated, due to the peculiar locational socio-political reasons, which has some adverse effects on the performance level.
- Shortage of eminent resource persons in the region.

Best Practice II

WE - (Women Empowerment)

Goal:

To empower the girls and women of different strata of the society in integrating with the social, economic and political mainstream.

Being rurally located students from the cross section of the society, from different social, political and economic milieu are admitted. Their aspirations, inner talents level of academic caliber also differ. The peculiar demographic composition (more than 80 percent girl students) offer us space to communicate with the women leaders of the future from different categories.

Context:

All girls are not of equal aspiration level and girls from socially marginalized are further lagging behind and needs constant companionship to track them into the main stream. The challenge is to bring in them clear idea regarding the social roles they can take up in different walks of life.

Practice:

- Build the confidence among the students particularly the girls of weaker social background this is achieved through monitoring, counseling, PTAs and PSTs
- Career goal setting and focused attention for upward mobility.
- Empowering for self dependency and bringing forth extra talents for earning and self employment like driving, fashion designing, stitching, embroidery and glass painting.
- Orientation for life skills and successful family life.
- Follow ups and companionship - PSC coaching, WWS and SSP.
- Evaluation, corrective steps and honoring exemplary talents.
- Social extension - self help groups, consultation, classes by home science departments.

Evaluative steps:

- IQAC conducts Students' Satisfaction Survey (SSS).

- Women Cell monitors and evaluates the various activities to ensure attainments of the benchmarks.

Evidences of success:

- Increased number of students (girls) opting higher education and non traditional courses.
- Contribution towards socio-political leadership
- The upward mobility of women in the society in many respect - political, social, Economic - outcomes is testimonials to the functioning of the WE in the right direction.

Problems Encountered and Resource Required:

- Break the inhibitions and preconceived notions of the youngsters.
- Communal orthodoxy preventing them from openness.
- The hectic workload and semester based class system limits the space for interaction with resource persons outside the campus.

Best Practice III

Title of the practice: NEST- Nirmalagiri Extensions and Service Training

Goal:

Formation of the students, by making them socially responsible and also getting them involved in empowerment projects of marginalized groups. This is achieved through the active participation of the students in extension activities. The extension activities of the college are broadly classified into two:

- Academic extension
- Social service activities (Dalit Sashaktikaran)

Context:

The institution believes in academic excellence and achievements. It equally believes that we have to equip our youngsters to be responsive and proactive towards the contemporary social realities and requirements. Hence, we have formulated a multi-dimensional extension programme under a single head named NEST which has the following three major themes.

- Academic extensions: The goal is enhanced learning by lending academic support to younger students.
- Inculcating socially responsible behavior among youngsters: Environment consciousness, gender equality and concern for the marginalized are the focused areas.
- Concern for the poor and the needy, motivating them to address the specific needs of their neighbours.

Practice:

Capabilities and achievements of the institution is shared with the community through well-prepared department level extension programmes like:

- Global link Language Development Programme - Spoken English and grammar classes by our students in nearby Malayalam medium Schools (Department of English)
- Aksharajyothi - Malayalam Class in English medium schools by our students. (Department of Malayalam)
- Sreyas - Classes to Self Help Groups, mainly women (Department of Home Science)
- Exhibitions and open-houses - For introducing lab equipment and facilities to student groups (Science Departments)
- Arms to the needy – A spontaneous act of voluntary social service by the Nirmalagiri community to the affected victims of natural calamities and pandemic crisis.

Specific needs of the local community:

- Mother Teresa Community Service Cell (General Charity Works)
- Love Plastic programme (Eco Club)
- Medical Camp and Blood Donation Programme (in association with Taluk Hospital, Thalassery and Kidney Foundation of India)

Evaluative Steps:

- The IQAC assessed the extent of services and efficiency of the programmes under NEST and suggested more grassroot level involvement for 'Dalit Sashaktikaran'.

- The active involvement of the student community as volunteers is appreciated by them and the local community. It is found to have a high impact in character formation and personality development of the youth.

Evidence of Success:

- The 'green lessons' of the campus during previous years have been duly acknowledged by the society.
- Rain water harvesting scheme
- Love Plastic Programme - green and clean initiative of the campus in association with SEED (Student Empowerment for Environmental Development) programme of Mathrubhumi Daily.
- A creative and organic relationship has been developed between the college and the schools in the neighbourhood
- Liberal contributions by our campus community for specific needs at times such as organ transplantation, construction of houses, pain and palliative care, other charity services etc.

Problems encountered and resources required:

- Problems arising due to lack of accessibility to the intended localities
- In the formal educational structure of Kerala, there is no specialized training in disaster management.