

First Best Practice:

1. Title of the Practice – “Moulding better citizens”

2. Goal

The College has been promoting higher education in Science, Humanities and Social Sciences for the last five decades in Imphal East District. The need of the hour is not merely promoting higher education but to provide a stepping stone for individuals who would adjust and contribute to the society. Now the number of individuals with university diploma/degree is on the rise. These educated young students may have become successful being employed or able to pave themselves a path leading to wealth. And they may have earned respectful reputation too, in the profession they chose, but majority of them turns out to be lacking good human quality. And this is a sad trend while the society needs individuals who can adjust and contribute to it. The College aims to mould individuals who would cater to the needs of the society.

3. The Context

The present curriculum serves only to produce degree holders and the main aims of education to bring about an all-round development of holistic approach are not clearly reflected from it. Believing in the flexibility of the curriculum, the teachers of the College decide to transact the curricular and co-curricular activities with a humane touch so that the college keeps moulding individuals with good human qualities and not merely with university degrees.

Translating the above idea into the reality is indeed very difficult. The Volume of content in the syllabus are huge and the available time is too little taking into account of the innumerable strikes, bandhs and blockades in Manipur. The only means left is the optimum utilization of the available teaching time followed along with the challenging issues to plan, implement and to carry out systematically so as to fulfil both the classroom teaching-learning and also give relevance to real life happenings and for the future too.

4. The Practice:

In the beginning of every session, the departmental heads discuss with their teaching and non-teaching staffs about the distribution of workloads and to proceed on with the teaching-learning process, encouraging the students to stay fit mentally, physically, morally and spiritually along with different platform of interactions. As such the teacher provides situations for student-student and student-teacher interactions. When the unit is completed, the teacher act fully relates what the students have learnt in the class with day-to-day life and also discusses the impact to the society. The teacher then asks the students to surf the internet to collect more information/knowledge. When enough time is at hand, the teacher initiates for a classroom seminar/discussion to widen the scope of the learning through sharing and transfer of learning. This step in the teaching-learning is taken up with the conviction of bringing out the latest qualities in the students and also to make them sense the applicability of the lesson(s). This also makes the students realize what the society needs and also of their role.

While carrying out the day-to-day teaching-learning processes, the teachers themselves indulge in the research works to be more proficient in the profession of teaching.

Having understood the utmost requirement for the students' involvement in the social-related issues just to be complete human beings, the College organizes co-curricular activities pertaining to the safety of the environment while transacting the curriculum side by side. In this context, it is worthy to mention that the College intends to create a green zone within the campus which is located in a semi-urban area where construction of concrete buildings is very much on the rise. The buildings of the college are in the midst of green pastures surrounded by polluted water bodies. Steps have been taken up to maintain the green lawns that serve as play fields for the students and local youths as well. There are few ponds for water storage in different corners of the campus.

During the NSS camps, under the guidance of teachers, the students of the College clean up the ponds, gardens, water bodies, lawns and the surroundings of the College and they also plant trees in and around the campus. Staff and students of the College planted 150 saplings in the campus while celebrating "VANMAHOTSAV, 2012" in the Modern College campus. The celebration has been unique and it has been a proud privilege for the Modern college to have been chosen as the only venue in the entire State.

Besides the above activities, the College students have been taking part in NSS camps, venturing to different communities to take up community cleaning programmes, etc. These programmes provide opportunities to the students for interactions with people with different cultural/religious backgrounds and these also provide the young students with a better insight of the social problems. Through these curricular and co-curricular adventures spanning over a period of three years, the students are prepared to contribute to the society while conveniently adjusting to it.

5. Evidence of Success

Success is a big term. Successfully moulding students from different localities with different backgrounds to become individuals with complete human qualities besides becoming graduates in a span of three years is indeed a Himalayan task. And finding the evidence of transformation of individuals is all the more difficult.

The College does not have a mechanism to detect the change taking place in the personality/mentality of the individual students. But the teachers decide the observation of the students from a closer perspective is the only means to note the transformation, if any, within them. Since the taking up of the mission seriously, the teachers observe the atmosphere, group dynamics and the outward manifestation of the nature/character of the individual students while organizing NSS, Blood Donation, Community service programmes, etc.

Of course, participation of the students in the said programmes a few years back was still there. But now, it is a joy to watch our students seriously involved in the humanitarian causes. Earlier fewer students turned up for donating blood in the Blood donation camps but encouragingly, number of students volunteered for the same in

the recent blood donation camps. And now many students, both boys and girls, volunteer to take part in social-related programmes. And it is satisfying to observe that more and more students apply for joining the NCC and many of them are trying for Defence services to serve the people and the nation as well.

The observable manifestations in the general character of our students apparently indicate the partial success of the College in moulding individuals capable of catering to the needs of the society.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The College which is a co-educational institute is situated in a semi-urban area surrounded by people with different cultural and religious backgrounds. As would have been expected, students from all religious backgrounds are admitted to the College every year. And it is not at all easy to organise activities in the College as the students have different beliefs as influenced by divergent cultural and religious background.

While the ground reality of insufficient time available for the organization of curricular and co-curricular activities looms high, the unsettling atmosphere of the state of Manipur tarnished by violence, road blockade and bandhs create demoralizing hindrances to the chalked-out programmes of the College. But it takes the undeterred efforts and spirit of the College system trying to materialize the lay out objectives.

The College, being a government institute, is funded by the state government for smooth functioning and carrying out the curricular and co-curricular programmes. But the fund earmarked for the said activities is meagre. Though the teachers feel that widening the scope of the desired programmes with more funding would pay in terms of moulding up young students for their effective role in the society, helplessness lingers due to the paucity of fund.