

J.S.M. College, Alibag-Raigad

7.2 Best Practices:

Best Practices 1:

- 1) Title : Book Bank facility for Economically Backward students
- 2) Objective: To help and facilitate the Students from weaker Economic group in their uninterrupted learning process.
- 3) Context: The central Library of J.S.M. College, Alibag started book bank facility for the economically backward students since the inception of the college in the year 1961. Since most of the students admitted to the college are from rural and poor family background it becomes difficult for them to purchase academic books for study. College library tries to minimise this financial burden of student's educational expenses by providing books at a very marginal price. In this scheme text books for various course eg. Arts, science and commerce run by the college are purchased. Till date total 8818 books have been added in the book bank collection of the college.
- 4) Practice: Every year students apply for books available in book bank scheme. Since the numbers of applications are more than the available books, based on students annual family income needy students are identified for sanctioning of the books, Book Bank facility is provided to Economically Backward students, which allows them to keep academic books. Book Bank facility is provided to Economically Backward students, which allows them to keep academic books for whole year/ semester. After their exams are over students have to return the books to the library which is later given to the next batch. Using this facility a user can borrow a book for the whole year paying just 1/3rd price of the book.
- 5) Evidence : Each year more than 150 students are benefited by this scheme. In the year 2020-21 due to Covid pandemic and lockdown situation students could not get benefit of the book bank scheme.
- 6) Problems Encountered and Resources Required : The Syllabus keeps on changing every three years. So the books have to be discarded accordingly. Due to this it becomes difficult to purchase sufficient number of books every year to cater the need of students from weaker financial background.




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Best Practice: 2 - Student Mentoring System

1. Title of the Practice

Student Mentoring System

2. Objectives of the Practice

- a) To ensure the academic and professional performance of the students up to their potential.
- b) To enhance the students attendance and academic performance.
- c) To enhance the percentage of passing of the students.
- d) To provide academic guidance through the schemes like remedial coaching.
- e) To identify the students problems and to guide them to resolve the same.
- f) To provide equitable service to all students.
- g) To create an informal informative association between mentor and mentee.
- h) To provide mentoring system to build the overall personality of the student, who can contribute to nation building activities.

3. The context

Students are categorised based on the basis of their core studies. They are divided into groups with 20 to 25 students per group. Each group will be having a teacher (Mentor). Under whom maximum of 25 students (Mentees) will be assigned. The Mentor will help Mentee to know the college and



activities of the college and will receive feedback from mentees to make more meaningful decisions in further for student community at large.

Also some students require special attention and counselling, they get platform to discuss their problems with the Mentor, accordingly they are directed to professional counsellor as and when required.

4. The Practice

This system has been implemented in the academic year 2019-20 in our college and was running well in the lockdown period too through online sessions and whatsapp group. With wide variation in the student population in regard to educational and family background the system ensure to provide a better understanding of individual students and bring out their maximum potential. It is also very important tool in mitigating the issues of drop outs and other individual problems of the students. Generally mentor remains in contact with mentees on regular basis through virtual or personal mode.

Two formal meetings with individual students or group of students in a year is arranged by the mentor where in the students mention their academic background, interests and their aspirations and goals, family back ground and expectations from the college. In the next semester, another meeting with students is planned to know their experiences, evaluate their performance and ask suggestions for improving college facilities and functioning. The mentor looks at the attendance and performance of individual student and suitable measures are taken. Parents are intimated about their wards performance and separate parent meetings are held in chronic cases to report.

Advance learners/ good performer are advised to join extracurricular activities, take up projects/ internships, while the weak academic performers are instructed to participate in remedial coaching. Students are also encouraged to participate in literary, fine arts performing arts and sports depending on their interest and talent. Students identified with personal difficulties and low self- esteem is guided to the counselling cell of the college. Based on the year in which student is learning, they are guided by the mentor, counselling on career opportunities and higher education especially to final year students is important part of the system.

5. Evidence of Success

Every mentor keeps the record of the mentee for further documentation. This is an ongoing process for the student in his/ her three years (six semester) duration in the college. The outcomes of this process can be evaluated both objectively and subjectively. For most students the academic progression has seen an upward trajectory suggesting better performance every year. Examples of students can be cited wherein the progress has been phenomenal. Students grow in their values and better understanding of the subjects. Quantitative data was useful for some questions and the responses analysed help us to solve student's issues to some extent.

Few students have personal problems which not get raised during their classroom sessions, but after taking personally students speaks about their financial or personal problems. In such cases needy students were given facility to pay fees in instalments by college authorities. In some critical cases even the fees were paid by mentor. similarly during the mentoring sessions the students were informed about staff selection and MPSC, UPSC exams. For needy students different sessions from professional counsellors were arranged by the college. Students are motivated to appear for said examination. Overall mentoring students personally helped mentees in different ways and mentor also gets internal happiness and work satisfaction by the entire process

6. Problems Encountered and Resource Required

Time to undertake this activity in an important factor for both the mentor and mentee to make the best of this process. With fixed meeting schedules every semester this factor is taken care but the number of students (approx 100-120) in large classes becomes a difficult task for mentor to have a strong hold over the students performance, this was solved by making smaller groups of 20 to 25 students per Mentor.

Due to COVID pandemic in the year 2020-21 problems of contacting and communicating with the mentees aroused as there was official lockdown everywhere. This problem was encountered by making small whats-app groups and holding online meeting of mentor and mentee. Some students faced problem due to poor network and few of them could not afford the smart phones or the required gadgets. This problem was overcome by talking to sarpanch of the village and providing internet facility from grampanchayat.

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