

Best Practice I

Title: Social Awareness Programme

Goal

Our Institute promotes social awareness programmes to inculcate an attitude of conscious service towards social issues. Besides their curriculum students actively participate in serving community by raising awareness for health, disease, cleanliness, sanitation etc. for overall well-being of under-privileged sections of the society.

The Context

Social awareness is the most important lesson to be imparted to students about various aspects of social problems. Dum Dum Motijheel College, a leading educational Institute located in South Dum Dum Municipality of North 24 PGS has a long history of organizing awareness programs as a part of its commitment to social responsibilities. Awareness programs such as sanitation of the campus and neighbourhood, tree plantation drives, and awareness events about diseases such as Dengue, Malaria etc., which spread through mosquito bites every year in the community, are arranged.

The Practice

- World Population Day was observed by NCC volunteers on 11.7.2019 in association with regular students of our institution. The day is meant to analyse how the population of the world affects our plans and programmes and find plausible solutions towards them. NCC volunteers designed a banner to raise awareness about population growth and its degrading effects. It was celebrated to increase the awareness of the people towards the world wide population issues.
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was conducted by NCC cadets on 2.10.2019 as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary in 2019. Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout the country as a national movement. The campaign aimed to achieve the vision of a clean India by 2nd October, 2019.
- NCC conducted Open Defecation free Awareness Program on 26.9.2019 to make the environment pollution free. Open defecation causes health problems and diseases which are linked to child mortality, poor nutrition, poverty etc.
- A national webinar entitled “Arsenic Contamination in Ground Water and in Soil and Subsequent Bio-accumulation in Edible Plants in Bengal Delta” was held on 27.6.2020 to aware people about arsenic pollution in water and the measures to be taken for pollution free water.

- NCC organized an awareness program on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' in August, 2019 which is a sensitive issue of girl child survival and their education. NCC designed a banner for the campaigning of the causes of girl child mortality and the measures for their survival.

Evidence of Success

Social awareness was raised among all the stakeholders and the community of the neighbouring places. Increasing numbers of students are now willingly taking part in such programmes. Awareness against the diseases is helping them combating the diseases affecting them and the community. These awareness programs directly impact society.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- More fund to organize such programmes
- Workshops to be arranged for the students to understand the necessity of such programmes and the importance of their participation

Best Practice II

Title : Regular Conduction of Student Centric Activities

Goal

A student centric activity is one that keeps students in centre and employs learning strategies that focus on students and are student-friendly. The institution employs many student centric activities such as organization of workshops, seminars, poster presentation, publishing wall magazines, festivals, special days, educational tours, career counselling and personality development sessions, sports, games etc. Seminar is always a forum from which students can develop scientific culture and enhance their aptitude in the subject. By poster presentation, the thought processes and creativities of students are presented. The NCC and NSS activities make students sensitive towards their duties and responsibilities within the society and community. The objective of such programs is to create a diverse and relevant spectrum of departmental activities and to merge those towards a common institutional goal. These activities develop the goal of education through various skills like soft skills, leadership skill and team building skills and strengthen the connection between a student education and the world they live in.

The context

As the institution believes that the student is the direct objective and the first beneficiary of education process, it promotes student centric activities. Students participate in these activities run by departments and the institution which help in shaping leaders in them; help in shaping their personality and academics. Co curricular activities are complementary to the learning process and are often created through a common charter of the academic institution. To develop their creativities, skill enhancement activities, such as, writing, speaking, organizational and professional advancements are encouraged through these student centric co curricular activities. Each department endeavours to build customized activities which make the students more inclusive as well as participative.

The practice

Each department started an effort to customize their activities keeping in mind the best interest of their students.

To impart general and academic informations to students they are encouraged to attend workshops, seminars or informational sessions, visiting reputed institutes, participating in events like career counselling sessions, science and technological camps etc. Quiz and debate competitions are also organized in some of the departments to develop the skill of public talk and to enhance the diversified knowledge on popular and relevant issues.

Besides these activities, National Science Day, World Environmental Day, World Philosophy Day etc. were chosen for celebration. As a part of the celebration, speaking in front of a large audience is promoted through debates, students' seminars and discussions. Publishing Wall Magazines, Poster Presentations develop their attitude of team building, skills and enhance their aptitude in the subject and development of academic culture.

Another practice is Career Counselling and Personality Development Programmes which help the students in shaping their personality and academics and in making the future prospect of careers.

Educational tours are also organized not only as a part of their curriculum but also as an initiative to enrich the students' knowledge and make their classroom teaching more interesting and refreshing.

Festivals, both regional and national, are observed as a student centric activity. They actively take part by involving themselves in the observance of the festivals, participating in cultural programme involving those festivals.

Sports and games are also student centric activities which keep them physically and mentally fit and fine.

Indoor games increase the mental health of a student. It helps in increasing the IQ and the presence of mind of a student.

Outdoor sports like football, cricket etc. builds the stamina of a student.

Student counselling and mentoring is the most important part of student centric activities.

A student might have encountered an issue that could hamper his or her academic proceedings and mental health. The faculties of the departments in this situation held personal interactive sessions with these students and their guardians whenever necessary. They are mainly guided by their mentors to overcome any undesirable situation.

NCC and NSS activities aim at developing character, discipline, secular outlook, ideals of selfless service among the young students. Those also aim at creating a pool of organized, trained and motivated youth with leadership qualities in all walks of life.

The student centric activities in our institution are listed below :

- Excursion to Daringbadi, Orisha, for understanding plant biodiversity of the region and collection of plant specimens for preservation was organized during 14.3.2020 – 19.3.2020.
- Cricket tournament was held on 18.11.2019 to 20.11.2019.
- Basanta Utsav (Holi) was observed on 7.3.2020.
- NCC unit observed Surgical strike day on 28.9.2019.
- NCC unit organized Swach Bharat Aviyan in October, 2019.
- World Population Day was observed on 11.7.2019 by NCC to raise awareness about the global population issues including population control.
- Local excursion in and around college campus for plant identification and collection was organized in August, 2019.
- A national webinar entitled “Arsenic contamination in Ground water and the soil and the subsequent bio-accumulation in Edible plants in Bengal Delta’ was held on 27.6.2020.
- E-wall magazine ‘Alchemy’ was published by Chemistry department on 2.8.2020.

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- A safety seminar in collaboration with Borosil was organized on 17.8.2019 by the department of Chemistry.
- National Science Day was observed in the college campus and a seminar was also organized on 28.2.2020.
- A Career Take-off and Personality Development program was organized by Teqvent Global and Student Personality Development Committee of Dum Dum Motijheel College on 20.2.2020.
- A Communicative English and Personality Development programme (CEPD) was organized in the college campus on 5.8.2019.
- Awareness Programme on Cyber crime in presence of IPS, and Commissioner of Police was organized on 17.2.2020.
- Indian Museum visit by the department of History was conducted on 9.11.2019 to enrich students' knowledge.
- Department of Chemistry and Department of Zoology in collaboration with iForNature – Nature Club celebrated National Science Day on 28.2.2020 by organizing a seminar. The speakers delivered talks on “Turtles” and “Snakes around us: Their conservation and threat in West Bengal”. They also published a booklet on species Identification of common Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians and Butterflies in and around Dum Dum Motijheel College which is located in a highly crowded urban landscape in Dumdum. The booklet is aimed to introduce urban citizens about the blooming surplus life around us that is thriving even in the presence of the anthropogenic constraints, and it is expected that by this, people will contemplate about the ecosystem of which we are a part and the reason for the survival of the own species. In this booklet biodiversity of Dumdum has been explored and diversity of butterflies, diversity of birds, and diversity of reptiles have been discussed.
- Department of Human Development organized a Quiz competition with their Honours students on 23.11.2019.
- Department of Human Development participated in an international seminar at Acharya Prafulla Chandra College on 06.02.2020.
- Department of Human Development conducted a debate competition with their students on 08.02.2020 in their department.
- Department of Chemistry organized a poster presentation on National Science Day 28.02.2020.
- Department of Human Development participated in one-day training programme on Human Rights at Rabindra Bharati University.
- An excursion was held by the department of Education in Shantiniketan, Bolpur during 23.9.2019 – 25.9.2019
- Agomoni Utsav pre-Durga Puja celebration was conducted on 25. 9. 2019.

Evidence of Success

In earlier years, we have witnessed limited student participation in these workshops, seminars, debates, wall magazines, cultural programmes, excursions etc. student centric activities. Presently, student participation in such activities has substantially improved. Students regularly participate with enthusiasm in creating the best output for the department and the institution. Overall organizational participation has increased and awareness has been raised among them regarding the involvements and usefulness in these activities.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- More teachers should come forward to increase the active involvement of students and to motivate them in various ways in such activities.
- To increase awareness about the usefulness of such activities it need untiring efforts from the teachers and the student body over a longer preparation period.
- Special mentoring sessions are required to be arranged to understand the necessity of such programs and the importance of their participation.
- More funds are required from the higher authorities for greater involvement of all the stakeholders in these activities.