A Study on Innovative Teaching Learning and best Practice in Degree Colleges: A case study of St.John college of Humanities and Sciences

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Abstract - Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction to surge. The purpose of education is not only just making a student literate but it adds rationale thinking, moral conduct and self confidence Education has become competitive and so too the educational institutions, in order to survive the competition, have to improve the quality of their services. St.John College of Humanities and Sciences which combines technology, humanities and hospitality studies which have identified and implemented innovations and best practices to differentiate it among the competitors in educational field . This paper mainly focuses on some of the institutional best practices combines with individual faculty innovative teaching learning practices which ensure visible impact on the quality of higher education imparted by the institution. The best practices concern management information system, preparation of academic to map syllabus coverage, performance, skill building, employability, events by hospitality and management students, counseling and mentoring sessions etc.

Keywords – Teaching, learning, Degree College, Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's competitive world education has play significant role. Over the decades there had been tremendous changes in higher education system. Teaching and learning are becoming more dynamic where technological advancement has remarkable contribution.

Earlier, lecturers are conducted in a one-way communication mode where students sit quietly and listening words delivered by professor, busy taking down notes. However those days have been replaced to more innovative and creative by using ICT ,moodles to disseminate, share and facilitate knowledge development in students. In other words, our students are tired of the old school approach, they want study with something practical, relevant and useful for their professional life. As recent and upcoming generation of students are tech savvy as computer being in their flesh and blood and living in the era where they are provided with an opportunity to question on things and empowered to be partly responsible for their learning, creativity and innovation in teaching and learning process.

Education is a light that shows the mankind the right direction. As an academician it is our responsibility to convert education into a thrilling and fun loving process which has generate interest in the students and motivate them to stay back in the colleges and involved themselves in a creative and innovative work of their area of interest.

II. ST.JOHN CAMPUS -AN OVERVIEW

St.john college of Humanities and Sciences a division of St.john campus is established with the vision of imparting quality education and expanding opportunities to all the aspirants and across all realms of knowledge. It becomes a centre of excellence to serve as change agent in the society of Palghar by generating a pool of human resources trained in humanities ,science and hospitality management. The college offers bachelor degree programs in commerce which involve bachelor in banking and insurance, accounting and finance, management studies and traditional B.com. SJCHS at the same time offering courses B.sc in Information Technology and B.sc in Hospitality Management. The vision and mission of the institute are well publicized though its website, magazine, prospectus etc. The curriculum provided for these courses are effectively improved by resorting to action planning through developing academic calendar, academic diary and entering teaching plan of each subject into MIS .

The institute offers orientation programs, guest lectures, study tours, video lectures, field practicum, and industrial exposures, also as supplements to the curriculum. Every year college organizes science fest where students prepare and develop their projects. Department of Hospitality studies organizes them dinner /lunch which give students event management based learning experience.

Appraisal of faculty performance is done through 360 degree performance appraisal systems and the feedback

give by students, HOD and principal is communicated to all concerned. It is found that through this there is an improvement in performance of faculty each year which has greatly benefited to student community at a large. Students appraise the faculty through a structured format on a variety of parameters. Absence from class is substantiated through declaration signed by parents. Attendance is communicated to the parents regularly by sending them letters and if require personal counseling of parents is also conducted. Faculty development programs are periodically conducted to enhance skill ability of teachers.

Institution takes sincere and constant efforts in attracting eminent persons to visit the campus and interact with teachers and students. Alumni are considering as an extended family of St.John campus.   Every year management body is taking personal interest in Alumni meet which gets overwhelming response from passed students. As per instruction and bylaws of University of Mumbai Grievance committee, women development cell

and anti-ragging committee have been established. Under NSS program volunteers are adopting villages, Conduct Street plays to create awareness among tribal regarding "Vyasan Mukti Abhiyan", literacy awareness campaign also conduct by adopting tribal child every year. Placement cell conducts career guidance and provides an opportunity for placements by inviting well reputed companies in banking, IT and hospitality industries. Through the department of CERPT, institution provides an opportunity of campus placement to the students by inviting companies.

III.   INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN EDUCATION AT SJCHS

Introduction of events of innovations and best practices have resulted in substantial increase in the standard of the college which help to create its own BYB. Table 1 contains the Innovations introduced in the college during last 4 years.

Table 1: Innovative practices at St John College of Humanities and Sciences

SR.NO	ACADEMIC/CIRCULAR ASPECT	TEACHING AND LEARNING	STUDENTS SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION	GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP
1.	Total 100% coverage of syllabus, as mentioned by University	Regular faculty development programs	Remedial lectures for weak and slow learners	Biometric attendance System
2.	Provision for downloading old question papers from website	Use of SMART classroom ,Power point through LCD, Audio visual aids	Education loan facility from Model co-operative bank at lower interest rate.	All Classrooms are occupied with CCTV cameras
3.	Book exhibitions in the college	Declaration in case of absence in class	Campus placement to the final year students by inviting companies	Principal collecting Feedback through regular class visit
4.	Online portal MOODLE for accessibility of notes and additional information about topics	special coaching for elite and bright students by conducting periodical tests	Photos of academic and extra circular achievers in college magazine	Active and personal involvement of top management
5.	Subject wise library books in college website	Weight- age for attendance in internal assessment	Celebration of graduation day with Gown & scroll	Student participation in organizing events

IV.   BEST PRACTICES AT SJCHS

Time tested innovations are implemented in the form of best practices when they are worked out into a system which is durable and endurable some of the best practices adopted and implemented in SJCHS are listed in Table 2

Table 2: Best Practices at SJCHS

1.	**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**: St.John campus is the pioneer in adopting MIS all over the campus among different colleges in Palghar. By using MIS top management can keep track of teaching learning progress. Parents can monitor result, attendance of their ward.
2.	**MAINTANCE OF ACEDAMIC DIARY TO MAP SYLLABUS** Faculties are preparing academic diary to maintain record of syllabus completion as per their recorded and university mentioned syllabus.
3..	**SKILL BUILDING** To enhance and meet the requirements of industry job-
	specific skills are developed through Skill development programs. For developing communication skill students are provided with special lectures in CSSPD lab. CREPT AND STEP activities are conducted on routine basis to train the students for placements.
4.	**MENTORING AND COUNSELLING SESSIONS** The college conducts mentorship programs to support students, where faculty are playing roll of mentor, each faculty is allotted with 10-12 students College has appointed full time counselor.
5.	**FEEDBACK** Feedback from students is collected at a regular interval that is end of every semister.feedback is considerd as a valuable output and is collected through MIS on different parameters.Even on the basis of feedback given by students corrective actions are taken to improve quality of education.
6.	**LEARNING** Teaching Plan and aids are prepared according to the syllabus prescribed by University. At the end of every chapter assignments are given in all courses and subjects.

7.	**EXTENDED FACILITIES** Facility of library and well occupied computer lab are kept open till late evening. Free Wi-Fi facility is available in library for students and staff.
8.	**WELFARE FACILITIES** Students are provided with locker facility to keep their personal belonging safely.Separate provision is made for GCR and BCR. There is also provision for sanitary pad wending machine in GCR.
9.	**EVENTS BY MANAGEMENT AND HOSPITALITY STUDENTS** Student of management studies conducting event "SANTE", which mean MARKET .This event provide them scope to develop entrepreneurships skills. On other side students of hospitality studies conducting them dinner or lunch based on different themes every year, such as" ZUMTA PANJAB",'AREBIAN NIGHTS".
10.	**360 degree PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM** It is said that any assessment to be done alone by a superior may has its own drawbacks or biased, therefore each faculty being assessed should be given an opportunity for self-assessment, where they have to rate them on the basis of prescribed parameters. The college has adopted a 360 degree Performance Management System which gives scope for all the three components to be put together under one evaluation which include students community, faculties themselves and management of college.

V.   CONCLUSION

Thus, it is concluded that innovative teaching method are those which focuses on ultimatle aim of teaching and learning process and create interest among students towards education . SJCHS has contributed to bring change in philosophy and approaches towards teaching-learning process by introducing innovative teaching methods and best practices at all over the campus. Innovations have no boundary.

VI.   REFERENCES

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