

BEST PRACTICES # 01

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE

Community Contact Programme

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE

The objective of the Community Contact Programme is to build a supportive link with the community of the state and extend assistance within the capacity of the college for betterment of the community. Through this community contact programme, the students will develop relationship skills and at the same time giving the opportunity to improve the quality of life of the community. Through these services, students learn about personal motivations, develop critical thinking, solve real world problems and at the same time practice academic material outside the context of the classroom. It will also teach them teamwork and development of leadership skills.

THE CONTEXT

The Community Contact Programme caters to the community at large. Clean up of state monuments, visits to old-age homes and orphanages, giving helping hand to marginalized schools, community lunch, awareness and sensitization programmes, medical camps and collection of data are some of the areas which the Community Contact Programme covers. The challenging issues that needed to be addressed are regarding time commitment, ensuring positive community impact and ensuring student learning in the process. The challenges faced are the assessment of the needs of the community. Building trusts between the institution and the people served is also important. The project design has to be flexible as plenty of rescheduling amidst are basically done because of the occurrence of bandhs and blockades. Setting up of realistic goals and ensuring continuity of the service is also another challenge. The expectation of the community towards such activities also needs to be addressed.

THE PRACTICE

According to the objectives of Indian Higher Education, education needs to promote equality and social justice and reduce social and cultural difference. Education should also foster in the students' attitudes and values needed for developing a better life. The Community Contact Programme helps instill in the student teachers the value of cooperative living and also the feeling of empathy. Coming in contact with various strata of society made the student understand the ethos and the build up of the community, thus helping them to become better human beings.

The uniqueness of the practice lies in the fact that it enables the students to come in contact and mingle with the community and its many facets. The clean up programme of the Kangla, the Nupilal Complex and the Bir Tikendrajit Park give them a sense of responsibility and a sense of contribution towards the state. The many visits to schools are extremely educational as they become in touch with school staff and students on a personal level. The interaction and contributions in terms of books, sports equipment and other necessities bind the students with the institutions and could feel a growing relation. The many visits to the old-age homes and sharing thoughts and interactions with the inmate's help enrich the students' knowledge and values every year. Moreover, the deep sense of commitment by the students to the society and community is definitely enhanced when they come directly in contact with the various institutions and individuals. The feedback from the students reflect enhancement of positive attitude and inculcation of values.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The end result of the community contact programme lies in the sense of contentment of the student-teachers, the faculties and most importantly the institutions/homes/places visited. The feedback received from the students indicate that their sense of responsibility towards the community and society has been increased and that they feel motivated and encouraged to perform such activities continuously. It reflects that their sense of empathy and role of a responsible citizen is triggered. Another evidence of success is reflected in the feedback given by the institutions visited. When they express happiness, joy and contentment in the visitation. The long-term success is felt in the change of attitude and values in the students after the community contact programme each year. Therefore, it can be stated that the objective of higher education in respect of the inculcation in the students the attitudes and values needed for developing a better life is fulfilled. And the add on success is in the changed attitude institutions/homes towards our students. They felt that students care for them and that the government educational college like DMCTE is not only to impart education and knowledge but also to share and instill democratic values in students.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

The problems encountered could be categorized into divisions. The first is the problem faced by the college or the teacher-in-charge. It constituted seeking permission from the authorities to conduct such programmes as there are many regulations and restrictions one has to follow in such a procedure. The problem of fixing particular dates and identifying probable home/orphanage/site to be visited is also a challenge and requires many consultations. The problem of resources was minimal as the college itself has enough staff and faculty to impart sensitization and awareness on education and other societal issues. The financial resource is another hindrance as not much could be contributed even though the needs and requirements of the target group is immense.

NOTES

In conclusion, the Community Contact Programme of DMCTE is a proved achievement of the college and it has served to fulfill much objectives of education and has catered to the needs of the community. Implementing this practice requires an abled committee to identify the areas/communities/schools that need an extra helping hand. It also requires like minded faculty and leaders who are willing to work continuously.

BEST PRACTICES # 02

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE

Annual College Week

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE

1. To inculcate in the students the value of sportsmanship and healthy competition
2. To make the student-teachers get acquainted with the procedures and knowhow and challenges of conducting school based activities
3. To discover the innate potential of the student-teachers and develop their personality
4. To enhance leadership qualities

THE CONTEXT

The College Week has been an integral part of D.M. College of Teacher Education since its inception. Education is not merely confining to scholastic areas. Every individual requires a sense of competition and sportsmanship in order to motivate and excel in his/her field. The College week Programme which is part of the co-scholastic activities develops all the three genres of education-reasoning, psychomotor and emotional learning. Involvement in these co-scholastic activities enhance the personality of the student-teachers. Moreover, the innate potential of the individual and their creativity surfaces during such activities. As student-teachers, the functionality of how to organize such co-scholastic events in their respective schools is a much needed and required knowledge. Involving themselves in these activities gives them a first hand experience on the arrangement and conduct of the programme.

THE PRACTICE

The College week was inaugurated on the 25th February with a March Past of all the students who were divide into four Houses-- Gandhi House, Tagore House, Dewey House and Rousseau House. Literary Competition was conducted on the 26th February 2016. The competition was done on Short Story Writing, Recitation, Debate, Ex-Tempore, Epom (Comedy) and Quiz. The Cultural Competition on Songs was conducted on 27th February. The items were Manipuri Modern Song, Manipuri Group Song, Folk Song and Western Solo Song. The Cultural Competition of dances were conducted on the 29th February 2016. The items were Traditional Solo Dance and Traditional Group Dance. The Indoor Games Competition was conducted on the 1st of March. The items included Carrom, Table Tennis, Chess, Badminton and Volleyball for both men and women. The Outdoor Games were conducted on the 2nd and 3rd March. The items were 100m Race, 200m Race, Javelin, Shot-Put, Discuss Throw and football. The prize distribution was held on the 4th March with a closing function.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The College Week had motivated the students to discover their potentials and innate creativity. This was seen in the later part of the session where the students became more open, more creative and ready to take on challenges. The value of sportsmanship was also ingrained in all the students.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

The only problem encountered was in the conduct of the events. As it was a week-long programme, students tend to get exhausted by the 5th day of the competition. Moreover, some students had joined in all the competition and clashes of the schedule was reported. Another problem

was in hiring mentors/teachers for the cultural programmes as it was basically very specifically traditional in form. Monetary involvement to hire the teachers were required.

NOTES

Future teachers require to have both scholastic and co-scholastic knowledge in order to educate the future generation of the state as well as the country. D.M. College of Teacher Education is setting an exemplary benchmark in imparting an all round education which will result in the betterment of education sector for the state as well as the country. "Nations are built in classrooms" is a quote which is ingrained in the philosophical structure of this institution.