

Best Practice 1

1. Title of the Practice: Outcome Based Education

2. Objectives of the Practice :

OBJECTIVES:

- To focus on Specific Outcome of Learning (SOLS).
- To plan the course delivery and the intended result of education.
- To impart holistic education to create socially committed students.
- To facilitate the learner to acquire graduate attributes.
- To equip the learner with employability and entrepreneurial skills.
- To prepare the learner to clearly envision the attributes he acquires at the end of education.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES:

A programme with specific outcome imparts holistic education to students in order to create them as agents for social wellbeing and builders of a Nation.

3. The Context:

Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Tiruchirappalli , a 97 year old premier institution in the cause of women's education ,is committed to offer inclusive education to the marginalised and the local community, forming them into academically excelling and socially responsible individuals in the global era. In this competitive world, empowered women outshine in all the fields

and hence it is imperative to mould them into mature and competent personalities .At this juncture ,Education must help them to be academically excelling individuals committed to God and social growth.

Challenging Issues :Fast growth in the field of knowledge ,explorations and discoveries in the scientific field and innovation in the teaching methodologies .

4. The Practice:

Curriculum with specific outcome of learning had been carried out in three stages namely planning, preparation and presentation. Syllabus for all the courses of a Programme is prepared , presented and passed in the Board of Studies before the academic year. The schedule for the whole academic year is spelt out in the academic calendar with the thematic thrust for a year . Semester plan for each course with portions for tests, assignment topics, seminar topics, criteria for evaluation and dates for all of the above is available for the students at the beginning of the semester. Syllabus of each course with the elements such as Course objectives, course content in five units with specific number of hours for teaching, list of reference books and web links and Specific Outcomes of Learning is made available to the students for every semester at the onset of the semester.

Lesson Plans for each course are designed to implement the SOLs. The evaluation at the Continuous Internal Assessment test the acquisition of SOLs of each course. Seminars and assignments also help the learner fulfil the SOLs.

Lesson Plans provide a time bound framework to deliver the SOLs planned. Teaching includes the use of different innovative ICT techniques . Submission of assignments and reports of projects,field work, internship through information technology aids the learner to be techno savvy and enhances team building skills.

Uniqueness of this practice in our institution – Holy Cross has been following it for more than a decade using Bloom’s Taxonomical concepts to design the syllabus , to plan the teaching techniques and to assess the results.

Students of this college are highly commended on their pursuit of higher education and are proficient in their chosen profession.

5. Evidence of Success: Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

The analysis of the results of the students shows that there is significant improvement in the academic performance of the students .

Holy Cross students prove their mettle year after year by securing impressive university ranks.

The co-curricular activities such as field work ,internship and mini projects further enforce the programme and course outcomes and bolster the students' confidence and team and soft skills.

The extra-curricular activities and the mentor mentee system bring out the students' latent talents and high ambitions , moulding them to be socially competent high achievers.

Being learner centred, Outcome Based Education serves as an impetus to the students to become innovative entrepreneurs .

- Gives in depth subject knowledge to the students to fare well in the competitive examinations such as NET,SET etc.
- Widens the frontiers of their knowledge by motivating them to pursue lifelong learning
- Hones their employability skills thereby increasing their value in the job market .
- A recent survey shows that 80 % of Holy Cross students pursued their higher studies and 20 % took up jobs after graduation.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Problems Encountered:

Maintaining a balance in teaching techniques to multilevel learners in a classroom poses difficulty to the teacher.

Standard teaching techniques and systematic execution of the lesson plans sometimes hamper the growth of the high achievers and confound the low achievers.

Unwarranted problems like power cut and cancellation of classes due to unforeseen circumstances tamper with the implementation of the teaching techniques as per the lesson plan.

Construction of components of OBE such as Programme Outcomes, Course outcomes , Lesson Plans , Evaluation methods requires high standards of subject dexterity and demands a lot of quality time.

Resources Required to Implement the Practice:

More training to staff in ICT mode of teaching , Preparation of Programme Outcomes, Course outcomes , Lesson Plans and Evaluation methods.

Uninterrupted power supply to facilitate the smooth flow classes.

Best Practice 2

1.Title of the Practice: MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

2.Objectives of the Practice :

OBJECTIVES:

- To focus on giving the students a strong ethical foundation
- To amplify their faith in a supreme power .

- To inculcate a feeling of unity when all students pray together .

- To help the students appreciate the essence of ethical values.

- To build the students' character through the daily reflections .

- To hone the students' public speaking skills when they participate in the prayer service.
- To instill in the students an attitude of gratitude towards life.

3. The Context:

Holy Cross College believes in giving its students a strong ethical foundation as it is cognizant of the relation between character building and nation building. This moral footing which the students receive every day through the morning prayer service gives them the necessary inputs to lead an upright life. The college wants to be instrumental in giving every student a proper training base to lead a value-based life. A principled student will definitely eventually become a righteous and honorable citizen of the nation who contributes significantly in the nation building process.

4. The Practice:

An overall plan is chalked out for the entire academic year to accommodate every class from each department in the college and this schedule is duly acknowledged and signed by the Heads of all the Departments. The students of each department are given training by the teacher in charge, a staff from the English department. The students are given guidance in matters of intonation, pronunciation and content two days prior to their allotted day of prayer service.

The content comprises of a song, a scripture reading, an inspirational story that reflects on some value for life and a thought for the day which is included at the end for the children to ponder over for the day. The college Anthem is also sung every Monday.

5. Evidence of Success:

The students who get an opportunity to speak at the morning intercom prayer service get a good exposure at public speaking and this enhances their confidence level. Speaking into the microphone with the knowledge that one's voice is reaching out to thousands of other students and staff, is a mini achievement in itself and can do wonders to the students' self-worth. The students also get trained in the nuances of the English language like pronunciation, tone, intonation which in turn inspires them to continue in the journey to enhance their language learning skills.

The partaking in the divine exercise of the morning prayer gives everyone in the campus a spiritual boost and helps them to kickstart their day on a right note.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Problems Encountered:

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Prayer Time Table gets disrupted and therefore there is postponement of the concerned Department's turn for the Prayer Service .

Sometimes in spite of rigorous training the students falter on the day of their turn to speak.

Resources Required :

Nil

Prayers have a power of creating a pious atmosphere that helps instill certain values such as humility and discipline in the students. The Morning Prayer Service helps the students to imbibe a spirit of moral values in their youth which keeps them in good stead for life.