

NIEPA Workshop on Reforms in Assessment & Evaluation Process in Higher Education on 23rd January, 2023

A workshop on Reforms in Assessment & Evaluation Process in Higher Education by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) was held on **23rd January, 2023** for all the IQAC members and Controller of Examinations of the College. Dr. Garima Malik, Assistant Professor, Centre for Policy Research in Higher Education, NIEPA was the Resource person. The main purpose of this workshop was to engage in discussions and deliberations on issues which might help to improve the examinations/ assessments practices in the State of Telangana. The team from NIEPA has put forth questions/points for discussion on varied aspects which would bring forth tangible changes in the current evaluation system.

The points discussed elaborately in the workshop are as follows:

- Critically evaluating the current examination system.
- To study whether all the courses have pre-defined learning objectives/outcomes and to find out whether exams are helpful in measuring the learning objectives eventually realized by the students.
- Resources needed to achieve the changes
- Feasibility in bringing about these changes.
- Role of technology in evaluations and how can it support the evaluation process?
- Major changes to be brought about in the current evaluation systems of the student
- Role of stakeholders in improving the current evaluation system? (VCs, principals, faculty, students)
- Change from rote learning to continuous learning to increase students' employability skills.
- Effectiveness of different evaluation systems-online, assignment, project based learning, industry connect etc.
- Prevalence of Plagiarism and how to prevent it?
- Changes with regard to teachers, examination method, and students?
- Questions to ask students and teachers
- Who else should we survey or interview?
- Strategies to determine what a student knows and can do.

- What determines students' success? Discussion
- Methods to increase the learning capabilities of students
- Facilities (Labs, libraries, training and development centers) available for the students their learning development, what is lacking by the institutions, and what can be done for the same?
- Support from the stakeholders for learning and development of the students.
- Is language an issue for the students

The Resource person presented the importance of the above mentioned points and discussed various concerns faced by the educational institutions. The faculty/participants actively involved in the deliberations and gave suitable suggestions to the key issues posed by the Resource person. Some of them are follows:

1. **Evaluation of the current examination system:** The evaluation pattern is as follows:

Internal- 40%

External- 60%

External Examination- The students are declared passed if they secure a minimum of 40 percent marks in the external and overall 40 percent in external and internal examinations.

Internal Examination- The college has continuous evaluation methods to assess the learning outcomes of the effectively. The internal assessment comprising of 40% of the total marks which is apportioned as follows:

- a. Written examination of 2 internal assessments with 20 marks average taken to measure the subject knowledge.
- b. MCQs of 10 mark covering all the units.
- c. Assignments of 10 marks to measure the depth of the knowledge.
- d. Seminar/Viva voce of 10 marks to measure the communication and presentation skills.

The college wants to bring in improvement in students' participation and high commitment from teachers to make the evaluation system more beneficial.

Learning Objectives/ Outcomes

To achieve the Program outcomes is the objective of the institution. The college conducts induction program at the beginning of the academic year and few departments also conduct diagnostic tests to know the students' level of understanding. During the three year program, students engage

themselves in group projects which also make them knowledgeable in the subject.

The end semester question papers are set as per Bloom's Taxonomy where knowledge, critical and analytical thinking are taken into consideration.

Is examination system about Rote Learning? How can it be changed?

- The institution follows Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). The evaluation is done at throughout the semester and questions are predictable.
- Engaging learners in Project-based Learning (PBL) helps to overcome rote learning. Project Based Learning and testing is considered the best assessment method.
- Minimizing the student-teacher ratio would help teachers to focus more on the students and ensure quality learning. The workload calculation of teachers needs to be more justifiable.
- Innovative methods of assessment can be initiated when the student-teacher ratio is congenial.

Need of Resources & Technology

- Resources and technology is required for classroom teaching, online teaching tools, evaluation like conduct of MCQs.
- Blended Learning works well as teachers from other colleges connect through online mode to give Lectures.
- To incorporate PBL, the students require access to journals. The college library uses N-List where the students are enrolled to access a wide range of books and journals. E-adhyaan Kosh is another repository of notes, PPTs and videos which students can access through the college website.

Plagiarism

The teachers use plagiarism software while assessing the projects and assignments. The students take the guidance from their teachers while choosing or working on their research projects. The presentations of students are recorded and also uploaded on YouTube. The strength of the students in the class stands as a college specific problem.

What determines Success?

- All round development of students
- Building confidence among students
- Imbibing in them the passion for life-long learning

- Gaining knowledge and its application.

Improving Learning Capabilities and Support from stakeholders

To improve the learning capabilities the institution needs good infrastructure and well equipped Labs. The Students have to be counselled regularly and emotional support has to be given to help them cope with diverse challenges which sometimes hinder learning. The institution caters to the learning needs of nearly 4000 students and many of them are first generation learners. To help such students, classes are imparted initially bilingually. The college also has a strong mentor- mentee system to help the learning needs of the students. The students are given opportunities to learn through extension lectures and talks.

Industry Connect

The College started new courses like BBA e-Commerce, B.Sc Gaming in 2022-2023. To teach the papers the institution has roped in industrialists. The feedback from students on their teaching is appreciable. The college has a Placement Cell where Short Term Courses and Certificate programmes are conducted every year.

Should the evaluation and assessment be changed to 50:50 for internal and external respectively?

The evaluation and assessment process should be effective. If college incorporates 50:50 for internal and external examinations respectively, the students may not get through the examinations if they miss to write either of them. The ideal ratio is 40:60 for internal and external respectively. It is also important to maintain 75% of attendance as a mandate for students to appear for examination.

External Examinations: The external examinations are held twice a year. Some of the innovative methods of conducting the external exams can be open book system or open-ended questions. Institutions depending on the paper can also opt for Practical oriented paper instead of the usual end exam. Questions based on real life situations, problem-solving and critical thinking can be asked to test the students.

The session was fruitful as varied aspects with regard to the reforms in evaluation and assessment were discussed elaborately. The participants had an enriching session as the team from NIEPA made the programme highly interactive and participatory.

Members Present:

1. Prof. K Padmavathi, Principal
2. Dr M.Vasudha, Vice Principal
3. Dr T. Annie Sheron, IQAC Coordinator
4. Dr K Vijay Kumar, CoE
5. Dr M Nancy Serena, Addl. Coordinator, IQAC
6. Dr. M.J. Eliat, Addl. CoE
7. Dr. D Pushpa, Addl. CoE
8. Dr. Uma Maheshwari, Asst. Professor of Commerce
9. Dr. R. Prasanna, Asst. Professor of Commerce

