

Best Practice -1

COUNSELING AND MENTORING SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS

Objectives of the Practice:

To minimize dropouts, improve performance and reduce stress of the students through personal counseling.

The Context:

The administration of Holy Cross College, since its inception, have identified the students undergo various problems of stress- personal, academic, physical, mental, irrespective of their socio-economic background.

Students are new to college life, culture and customs.

It creates a lot of stress, especially to the students who are away from family for the first time. Students from educationally weak background feel complex and hesitate in class and unable to perform well due to inhibitions.

Considering the student-teacher ratio in classrooms, it is mostly difficult at times to give personal attention to students in class.

One solution therefore, is a 'Teacher-Mentor' and a trained counselor who can form the bond with students in the true sense.

Mentoring is required for students to achieve emotional stability and to promote clarity in thinking and decision making for overall progress.

The Practice:

- Each teacher is assigned around 15-20 students (varies from department to department) for the complete duration of their study.
- They meet as per the timetable, clarify and share various problems which may be personal or academic.

- The mentors encourage the students to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and sports.

- Their academic performance and other activities are all recorded.
- The mentors also keep in touch with the parents on their attendance, test performance, fee payment, and examinations on frequent basis.
- The mentors also counsel the students in need of emotional problems.
- When the students have any problem in any department either with the staff or with work completion the mentors speak with the respective staff and sort out the problem.
- Mentors take special care of weak students, who are given advice on how to study, prepare a time table for study and clarify the doubts and also given notes to study.

- Students problems are discussed with the departmental heads, other faculties and necessary action taken to solve it.

Evidence of Success:

Evidence of success of the practice includes university examination results, better results in the examinations, improved attendance, less drop outs, increased participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities, better discipline on campus and respectful relationship between teachers and students. The students are more relaxed and have a healthy relationship with the staff.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

This practice requires committed teaching staff that has the desire to help students beyond teaching hours. There are no limitations or constraints faced during implementing the program.

Best Practice -2

Q.R CODING OF PLANTS IN THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Objectives of the Practice:

The main objectives of taxonomical information for digitalization using new techniques of QR code are as follows:

To incorporate the plant species information to QR code such as

- a) Vernacular name of the plant
- b) Botanical name of the plant
- c) Family of the plant
- d) Category of the plant type such as Herb/Shrub/Tree and
- e) Number of such species present in the college.

To visualize the plant information through scanning the QR code.

The main benefits of QR code assigning to the plants is that, any student or any interested person wants to know about the information of a plant. He or She is to scan the QR code attached to the plant with his or her mobile phone camera to get the information quickly and on the spot itself without going into library or to meet the subject expert for information search to know about the plant.

The Context:

The Department of Botany maintains greenery which consists of Wild, Medicinal and Ornamental Plants. The garden caters to the needs of students for their taxonomy practical. Earlier the Scientific Names on the Name plates were displayed. But from June 2021 onwards QR codes were assigned to the plants in the campus as per directives received from O/o the Commissioner of the Collegiate Education, Hyderabad.

The Practice:

The QR (QR stands for quick response) codes are machine readable optical label that contains information about the tree/plant to which it is attached. The QR codes data about an item generally used for location, identification or track that points to a website or application. The QR code consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white back ground, which can be read by the camera of the mobile phone and processed using the software until the image of the QR code in the image can be accurately interpreted.

The Evidence of success:

It helped a lot to the students / persons who want to know about the information of the plants such as family, scientific name of the plant, medicinal values of the plant etc.

Many students had given good feedback regarding the QR Codes. It inculcated enthusiasm in students to know about plants.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Technical problems were faced to generate QR Codes.

QR Code not permitted to store large information.

It requires QR Code software which is run with support of OS.

For reading QR code requires QR Scanner. Hence technical knowledge and OS supported mobile is required. QR Code image has to be laminated for longer life.