

Best Practice – 1 : Al Ameen Centre for Skill Education

Introduction

Skill based education nurtures and augments the art of learning process which will help to develop students with potential who can outlive in the contemporary scenario. Our institution place a strong thrust on developing practical skills and creativity for students so as to mould them to meet competencies and to encounter real life situations.

Objectives of the Practice

A separate wing established to provide skill based education in the campus and to provide technical training and enhancing creativity of students. To provide soft skill, life skill and capacity building training programmes to the students to increase the employability of future generations and also to develop students as job creators rather than job seekers.

The Context

The traditional academic system is simply based on theoretical approach where the students gains no knowledge about practical or real life environment. A gap always exists between theory and practice which may act as a hurdle students to meet competencies and make them employable. Introduction of vocational, multidisciplinary courses etc will supports students in their holistic development. Institution introduced various approaches towards skill based education like EEEEC, Organic farming, Soft skill, life skill training etc.

The Practice

EEEC – English Efficiency Enhancement Course – The major drawback faced by our students are that they lack communication skills which is a major hurdle that restrain them from being employed in Multi-National Companies and other reputed organisations. In order to make our students who are from rural and economically backward families to compete with the mainstream students, the college has developed EEEEC course that gave a compulsory theory and practical sessions for all students in our college. For the effective implementation of EEEEC, the college had appointed two separate faculties who have obtained training and are experts in the field of communication. The course syllabi is designed in such a manner that it is suitable to the concerned disciplines which offer academic flexibility.

Soft Skill Training – A soft skill club is introduced with few teacher coordinators and student coordinators so as to ensure that the students of this institution qualifies skills to make them competent for the job market. Various training programmes involving Group Discussion, Team Development, Letter drafting, Mock Interviews, Resume writing, Communication skills etc were undertaken.

Life Skill Training – The institution has a great emphasis on developing ethically sound and socially committed individuals as stated in its mission. To inculcate social and behavioural skills among students, various programmes are designed to improve creative thinking skills, EQ, interpersonal skills, empathy, problem solving etc.

Organic Farming: The students were provided both theoretical as well as practical sessions of undertaking farming with special thrust on organic methods. A project report was also submitted by the students depicting the organic measures adopted and the type of cultivation undertaken by each one of them. The students who lack the land for cultivation made groups with the students having land and the project progressed as a teamwork. This team work also developed leadership and coordination skills among the students and at the end of the course the students sold organic vegetables in a stall inside the College and thereby improved their marketing skills also. A training for students on mushroom production was also initiated by the Department of Biotechnology. And here the students were made familiar about a unique mode of mushroom production and the produce was also sold in the stall inside the campus.

Evidence of Success

EEEC - The students who lacked talent in English language progressed in gaining expertise in communication skills. The public speaking ability of the students enhanced which increased their self-confidence and enhanced their employability. The placement statistics of the institution is a clear picture showing the success of the EEEEC programme. The feedback received from the placement trainers are also an evidence for the success story of EEEEC. The college thus ensures greater access to the Marginalized Sections as stated by the NEP 2020.

Soft Skill / Life Skill – Training for students on skills in area of healthy food making was undertaken and based on this a food fest was conducted in the campus. Back to Basics – a look back towards traditional and healthy habits and life style was organised. Students were successful in preparing their

resumes in the best way and from the feedback collected from tutors it was evident that the communication skills also enhanced. More students joined in NSS and other departmental extension and outreach activities which depicts their moral commitment towards society.

MOOC Course on Organic Farming - The organic farming course is made compulsory so all students gets an opportunity to develop Systemic and critical thinking with reference to environment-people and economic-development attributes. The field project, community engagement practices helped to develop competencies such as teamwork, cooperation and reflective thinking among the students as a result of this interdisciplinary course. The gradual practice in organic farming will surely enable the students to initiate agro start-ups which will help to promote agro entrepreneurship in the country.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Academic autonomy - The College is affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University and adheres to the rules and regulations of the University. Therefore the college has limited freedom to incorporate compulsory courses in the curriculum put forward by the university. The lack of academic autonomy prevailing in the affiliated colleges thus became a major constraint to impart the multidisciplinary vocational courses as compulsory course for the successful completion of the programme.

Lack of Funds- Implementation of the vocational and multidisciplinary course demand huge fund which is a paramount in the smooth and successful completion of the course. Additional expertise has to be hired to provide the skills demanded by the employer which causes additional financial burden to the institution in addition to the regular running funds. It incurs additional expenditure for training existing staff in the specified areas to conduct these courses.