

BEST PRACTICES OF THE INSTITUTION

i. Title of the practice: Prayer and uniform

Goal : The significance of prayer before doing a significant work in the Indian context is as old as the existence of human being on this planet. Earlier it was practised by saints, religious monks and others to control their desires to achieve perfection i.e. the ultimate reality of life.

Prayer and uniform (simple dress code) were self imposed as the directives of life in the path of success. They found it necessary to follow this to attain internal as well as external purity and sanctity to develop a sense of unity and equality.

In the recent past, during freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation had followed the same principle in his personal as well as public life. It is said that he used to begin his daily routine by prayer, and his dress code also was very simple, as we know, two pieces of cloth. The immense faith he had in prayer enabled himself to transform from an ordinary human being to an extraordinary human being.

Context : The present age is dominated by the inventions and discoveries of science and technology. On the one hand, these scientific and technological inventions like T.V, Mobile, Xerox shops etc., are the major threats to the student community in diverting their resource, attention and valuable time from the main goal. On the other side, the time is running out like anything in pursuit of knowledge and wisdom in too many directions beyond human comprehension.

Keeping in view, all the above instances as sources of inspiration, role model, and example, it was decided to implement the singing of national anthem in uniform in the college 10 min before the commencement of the classes compulsorily.

It was presumed, this practice would provide a rocky foundation in their course of learning so as to cultivate a sense of unity and discipline, patriotic outlook, respect for the institution by attaining concentration in the process of learning.

The Practice: Singing of national anthem in educational institutions starting from class I to class XII is a common factor in all the educational institutions across the nation. But this practice is a very rare in higher educational institutions. But in our institution this is in vogue for over last ten years. In the beginning of every academic year, during orientation programme for first year students, faculty members would brief the significance and necessity of prayer and uniform in higher educational institutions and hence this practice of singing national anthem and wearing uniform is going on regularly with enthusiasm.

NCC and NSS volunteers take the maximum effort in compiling the students in lines, giving cautions and other related works, Sports director of the college monitor the overall practice and other faculty members including the principal participate in this morning prayer without fail, It is not an exaggeration to say that this practice has been a tradition in our college that provides moral strength to our students, a unique step in their personality development.

Evidence of success: Any practice with good intention yields slowly, “**slow and steady wins the race**”. Though the success of this practice is invisible, but it is immeasurable. It is not the materialistic growth but a moral and spiritual stamina that would instil a positive outlook in the life of the students. The impact of this practice among our students is visible in their behaviour in and outside the class room, in relation with their teacher, parents and ultimately in their academic performance. Even the passersby before our college during the prayer stand for a while as a token of respect. **Imitation is the best form of appreciation.** Some other

higher educational institutions in our place also started to follow our tradition. This evidence is more than enough to prove the success of *best practice* in our college.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Since this practice does not require any financial requirement, no problems are encountered in the implementation of this practice.

ii. Title of the practice: Speaking Tree.

Goal : Speaking tree is a regular column in the daily, "The Times of India". This concept might be derived from the pages of history where Lord Buddha was enlightened with the eternal truth of "Desires are the root cause of all miseries" while he was meditating under the tree.

The column is featured with a picture of a banyan tree and some philosophical, religious, moral and intellectual issues or aspects are discussed by eminent personalities from different fields of knowledge across the country. These discourses act as a "torch bearer" to the society where people are suffering from ignorance, intellectual bankruptcy, desires and materialistic way of life.

The context: Education, what it used to be called a process of spiritual purification by means of acquiring knowledge and wisdom to replace ignorance and stupidity a couple of decades ago, has lost its meaning, glory and significance now a days.

Now a days, education has been reduced to get a degree certificate filled with marks either by hook or crook devoid of all ethical, moral, human values, social responsibility, vision and forethought. It is considered as a tool to get a lucrative job indeed! Either for social craze or for false prestige without realizing the potentiality of education, the students are victimized both by the parents and the institutions.

It is in this context, a crucial period, where the students are in need of a *torch bearer* who could lead them to reach their goal properly. That *torch bearer* is none other than the teacher. The social responsibility of a teacher in shaping the future of students is remarkable indeed!

It is the duty of the teacher to make the students realise that there are certain other issues that can make their texts worth, meaningful.

It is at this juncture, the idea of giving something valuable beyond the texts, and outside four walls i.e. a friendly discussion on "A Thought for the Day" under the shade of a tree in the college campus under the title "*speaking tree*" came into being.

The Practice: Putting an abstract idea into execution needs lots of preparation, mindset and effort. Reading of "a thought for the day" appears in any news papers either in local or in English is not a new one. But discussing it in the presence of friends and faculty members from different angles would give an insight in to it. Such endeavour would certainly give an aesthetic touch to their prescribed curriculum and would stretch the horizon of their learning limitation, and ultimately would contribute for the development of their personality in the right perspective. In addition, this practice would also develop the habit of reading news paper a regular one.

This concept of giving an aesthetic touch to their learning was put to discussion in one of the IQAC meetings and accepted with one mind to start this practice without much delay. During tea break (11am – 11.30 am) every day students would gather with 'a thought' for discussion in the presence of faculty members. Much light would be thrown on the topic by looking at with a contemporary relevance. Till today this practice has been a continuous and successful one with much enthusiasm to learn various aspects in the sphere of knowledge.

Evidence of success: The evidence of success of this practice is once again apperered both in their word and deed. The expansion of their comprehending ability could be seen in their approach to the topic and in its presentation. The impact of this practice is that, majority of the students are free from stage fear to express their assertions in the right perspective. The level of confidence in approaching the problem is also increased correspondingly. They have discovered the truth that knowledge is not one's own property but could become the intellectual property of anybody, who works for it.

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