Best Practice - 1

1. **Title of the Practice: ICT Imbibed Classes**

2. **Objectives:**

- To enhance ICT classes among students for upward advanced categorize idea skills

- To support the teaching and non-teaching faculty to broadly use ICT techniques

- To enhance the E-learning and E-communication techniques for quick access

- To information and networking with all the stakeholders as this would provide excellent integration of ICT in every process.

3. **The Context/Challenges**

ICT is a practical in learning. It can carry a lot of profit in the enlightening sector as well as to the neighborhood at large. ICT is expected and the COVID disaster has proved the same by showcasing accelerated usage of the technology in every field including the educational space.

The following challenges were faced in making ICT an integral part of every student, faculty and non-teaching faculty:

1. Internet Connectivity: Due to huge campus area with different buildings/blocks spread across, the WI-FI range of internet was very weak in few locations.

2. Teacher's adaptability to technology and its associated aids: There were a few departments in the college with faculty facing difficulty in migrating their teaching methodology and assessment process from conventional to online techniques and blended learning especially during the period of pandemic.

4. **The Practice**

ICT is mainly an aid coming in different forms to help higher education system and the students in-terms of getting the course content prepared, circulated to larger groups of students and ease of transmitting the course material across locations.

With the usage of ICT techniques, the conventional teaching techniques got transformed to digital teaching techniques offering varied advantages like location barriers, ease of transmitting the course contents, video sessions- Live/Recorded, Self-paced learning, Multimedia contents etc.

For an institution to adapt to this revolution in teaching mechanisms, there are some key factors of consideration like:

1. The institution equipping itself with latest technological gadgets and tools for video conferencing, making the campus a WI-FI zone for ease of access in teaching – learning processes.

2. The Faculty re-skilling to accept and utilize these technology aspects in their day-to-day teaching methodolgy.

We, at Kasturba had accepted this paradigm shift in conventional teaching and making all possible logistic arrangements to fully utilize and take advantage of the techniques offered by ICT to deliver the best of teaching – learning experience to the students.

While the college is spread across an area of approx. 11 acres, the campus has been made a WI-FI zone enabling the students to access the material anywhere in the campus. While initially there were challenges and issues like WI-FI strength, data protection etc, the college took every step to leverage the best of equipment to overcome the challenges.

With college being an old establishment (established in 1987), there are many faculty who are senior and on the verge of retirement or in early 50's. The institute took every endeavor in-terms of training the senior faculty from various departments with a focus on ease of using the technological facets in educating the student community.

The extensive usage of ICT can be predominantly seen and its benefits can be accessed through devices like Desktops, Laptops and even through smart phones. As many students of our college come from rural background who cannot afford smart phone, the college has taken care to provide additional computers in the laboratories and libraries with access to internet so that they would not be deprived of these new digital learning platforms.

5 - Evidence of Success

The college has been on the fore-front of using ICT based Tools and techniques and also encouraged students to acquire knowledge and make use of these techniques. The college conducted webinars, co-curricular activities using these ICT based techniques making student learn through real-time sessions. The students are frequently shared Google forms to update their details or for any assessment, usage of google classrooms for circulation of important class material or announcements etc has helped the students learn these ICT techniques practically. These students in-turn would spread their knowledge to large student groups making our college to achieve goal#1 easily. With this, students were able to register and take various MOOC courses from Swayam – NPTEL portal, courses from IIT – Bombay Tutorials etc. With this, the students higher order thinking skills have been enhanced phenomenally. While students have been learning through the practical way, college took

enough care and steps for helping the teaching and non-teaching faculty also equip themselves with these ICT techniques by conducting trainings periodically. The faculty of Computer Science department also attends to the requests or doubts of the non-computer faculty and help by resolving them spontaneously making sure they are not disturbed or lose interest in learning these technological improvements.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems encountered are:

1. Poor WI-FI signals in all corners within the campus – The Wi-Fi signals were not strong enough for students to download the class material or to join online classes. The college had to install routers and repeaters at various places like corner class rooms, library etc. to strengthen the signal.

2. Data Security and virus attack threat: Slow speed of computers, signal problem in Internet, virus threat, load shedding, and lack of access of Internet.

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BEST PRACTICE - 2

1. **Title of the Practice:** "Charak-Mahrshi "– Green Park in the college campus

2. **Objectives of the Practice:**

The main aim of Charak Mahsrshi is;

- To create awareness to the students on environment protection.
- To instruct students and make them to involve in groups towards most outstanding environment practices.
- To spread an awareness in the neighborhood
- To protect the flora and fauna inside the campus.
- To create a conducive environment for the growth of plant species, tiny insects, moths and butterflies.
- To target for minimal wastage in the campus

3. **The Context/Challenges**

The members of Botany Departments of the college took initiative to establish and take care of "Charak - Mahsrshi". The main challenge faced by the team is in designing, implementing this park and to educate the students and menial staff on proper procedures and regular maintenance of this park. The approach to nurture a garden has to be carried out with proper care as it shapes a healthy future for that region and the upcoming generation. The other challenge was to identify a proper space within the campus in setting up the garden. The garden should have a proper soil, water facility and a proper security system in place. The team Charak-Mahsrshi looks at development and conservation as a decision-making process that must be understood and managed well.

4. **The Practice**

Environment sustainability and protection using best practices for a clean environment is a needed educational skill to be imparted to present generation students. Our Educational system need to emphasize this concept as part of a curriculum to impart needed knowledge to student community. The colleges have to provide a platform for students to experience their learning in environment sustainability. The Charak-Mahsrshi team and their student volunteers conducted many awareness programs and participated in practical activities of developing an environment friendly garden in college campus. The faculty guides the students on how to conduct program which helps students in better planning for activity and its successful execution.

Following are the key steps performed as part of any program/event planning and execution:
1. The team designs a brochure/flyer and the same is circulated.
2. A detailed execution plan is drafted for event by taking inputs from all he team members involved.
3. On the day of event, program is conducted as per the execution plan and geo tagged photos of event are taken.

The staff and students of the Charak-Mahsrshi team also collected the wet waste from the college campus and emptied it in the composting pit and few earthworms were added to the pit which was cultured in the college's Zoology Lab. The students of Botany and the caretakers of the park maintained the plant species and watered it regularly.

A few constraints faced by the faculty and students while doing these practices was:
1. Aligning the classes for both the staff and students was a tedious task, as academic schedules and timetable were fixed and studies should not be affected.
2. Proper instructions were to be given to caretakers as sometimes while weeding out unwanted plants, some good plants species were also weeded out.

Evidence of Success

The park's success was measured against the targets and benchmarks that team had set for themselves. The dry waste was collected segregated. After collecting dry waste from campus. The vermin-culture processing was started in lab initially with 50 earthworms cultured to 350 with regular maintenance in a span of month.

The wet waste which includes fallen leaves from trees & shrubs was mixed thoroughly at regular intervals. The earthworms cultured in lab were added to composting pit. The composting was started in December and organic manure was produced in February. The manure was used for plants in our college campus.

The plants species were maintained properly by watering, regular pruning, manuring and weeding. With this process, plants species grew well and team could spot small butterflies in garden. These results indicate effort of team- faculty, students and caretakers who worked meticulously to reach targets and benchmarks.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The two major problems that were encountered during the development of the environment park was

1. The monkey menace in the campus – The monkeys attacked the fully grown flower or fruits bearing plants and uprooted them completely. Small herbs and shrubs plants were partial destroyed.
2. The pandemic: As per the Government instructions, the institution was closed for a longer period due to the pandemic that has severely affected the park maintenance.

Due to these problems, it was a challenging task for the team to bring back the park to its shape. Lot of effort was put-in by the faculty, students and caretakers after the institute re-opened. The team Charak-Mahsrshi having the primary responsibility of the park maintenance again defined new strategies for implementation and brought back the essence of the park.

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