

BEST PRACTICES (SSR)

BOOK BANK FAIR UNDER THE PROJECT 'SAUGAAT'

Title: Fostering a Culture of Sharing: "Saugaat" Book Bank Fair

Objective of the Practice:

The "Saugaat" Book Bank Fair aims to instill the spirit of sharing among students and teachers by providing them the opportunity to exchange books. Its objectives include:

1. Offering books to students who cannot afford to purchase them.
2. Ensuring uninterrupted studies by providing textbooks.
3. Easy access to materials related to competitive exams and other study resources.
4. Encouraging the reuse of books by allowing them to exchange their books.
5. Promoting a love for reading among students, thereby reducing screen time.

The Context:

Since 2020, the college has consistently organized an annual Book Bank Fair under the "Saugaat" project. This event provides approximately 4500 books across various disciplines to students free of cost. Over the years, it has successfully instilled the value of sharing and fostered a strong reading culture. Students are increasingly coming forward to donate their books from previous classes and other valuable books to make them available to interested readers. To encourage students to bring good books, we have started awarding a prize for the best book received under this scheme in the year 2023. Another measure of success is that students eagerly anticipate the book fair as an opportunity to acquire books they otherwise wish to buy. Additionally, the fair has the added advantage of diverting students' interest from mobile phones to books.

The Practice:

The fair is widely advertised through notice boards, banners, WhatsApp groups, and the college website. A schedule ensures all classes have equal opportunities for the exchange of books.

Constraints:

1. Limited Availability: While around 1000 books are made available each time, certain students' specific book requests might not always be met due to limited stock.
2. Time Constraints: The fair can only be organized for one day due to time limitations, but students are provided with opportunities to visit the Book Bank twice a week.

Evidence of Success:

1. Approximately 4500 books across various disciplines were made available during the fair.
2. Enthusiasm Among Students: The fair generates excitement among students, fostering a sense of satisfaction through the act of giving and receiving.
3. Interest in Literature: Students show a keen interest in literature and general knowledge books.
4. Reduced Screen Time: The fair successfully shifts students' focus from screens to books, promoting healthy reading habits.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Title: Promoting Self-Dependence Through Experiential Learning: "Earn While You Learn"

Objective of the Practice:

The "Earn While You Learn" scheme aims to promote the concept of experiential learning and facilitate students in becoming self-dependent. Its objectives include:

1. Providing financial support to students enrolled in postgraduate Commerce courses.
2. Offering part-time work opportunities within the College.
3. Enhancing students' practical skills and work proficiency.

The Context:

This scheme provides an incentive for interested postgraduate Commerce students to work part-time within the College, earning money to partially finance their education. They are offered opportunities to work on teaching, research-based assignments, assist in the library and IQAC unit of the College. So far, around 20 students have benefited from this scheme.

The Practice:

Students enrolled in the scheme are given part-time assignments related to teaching, research, library assistance, or the IQAC unit. This setup not only provides financial assistance but also offers students practical work experience that enhances their employability.

Constraints:

1. Limited Number of Positions: Only a specific number of students can be accommodated in the scheme at any given time.
2. Balancing Work and Study: Students need to manage their part-time work alongside their academic responsibilities, which can be challenging.

Evidence of Success:

1. Improved Confidence and Proficiency: There is a visible change in the confidence level and work proficiency of the students involved.
2. Successful Placements: Many students have secured immediate placements outside the College. One or two have cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) for lectureship and are now working within the College itself. Those placed in the corporate sector or banks are notably ahead of their peers due to their work orientation and learned work ethics and skills.
3. Increased Applications: The College has received a growing number of applications for this scheme, not only from those seeking financial support but also from those aiming to gain valuable work experience.

Conclusion:

The "Earn While You Learn" scheme has successfully promoted self-dependence through experiential learning. By offering financial support and practical work opportunities, the scheme has significantly enhanced students' confidence, proficiency, and employability, paving the way for their professional development.