

Best Practices

PROVIDING MOBILE PHONES TO NEEDY STUDENTS DURING LOCKDOWN PERIOD UNDER BIBI GUJRI MEMORIAL DIGITAL FACILITATION SCHEME

Objective of the Practice:

- To enable students who cannot afford a smartphone to attend online classes.

Expected Outcomes:

Providing mobile phones to needy students during lockdown period to help students to attend online classes.

- Interact with their teachers.
- Receive notes and as well as submit their assignments on WhatsApp/Google classroom.
- Ensure that their studies are not disrupted.

The Context:

As the Covid-19 crisis caused classes to move completely online, a few students from marginalised backgrounds were left in the lurch due to lack of devices and internet access. These students were unable to attend classes online because of the unavailability of smartphone.

These students were not having smartphone because of poor economic conditions or their siblings were to attend the class at the same time and there was only one smartphone in the family.

Therefore, a proposal to buy smartphones for such students was submitted to the Honorary Secretary of the College Managing Committee which was approved.

The Practice:

A circular was sent to all the classes through class whatsapp groups seeking information regarding such students who could not attend the online classes for want of smartphone. A total of six students were brought to notice by the teacher incharges. Hence, six smartphones (Realme

Brand) were bought and entered into the library stock register. The students were called and issued the devices through the library after advising them for the responsible use of smartphones.

The constraints/limitations are as follows:

- Due to limited outreach and possibility of interaction with the students, the message of the college's initiative to buy smartphones for the needy students could not reach all the students and therefore, the request for smartphones was received from six students only.
- The students had to bear the cost of an internet connection themselves.

Evidence of success:

- Six students availed the benefit of the smartphones issued by the college to them from time to time.

ONLINE COUNSELLING SESSION FOR STUDENTS DURING PANDEMIC

Objective of the Practice:

- Psychosocial tele counselling of the students in order to ensure that they are able to handle social isolation, focus on facts and reject rumours, handle emotional problems and also support their near and dear ones.

Expected Outcomes:

Online Counselling of students was scheduled to help the students cope up with the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic by

- Reducing their stress
- Suggesting ways of dealing with worry
- Generating a sense of hope in them
- Suggesting some appropriate ways to cope up with the emotional and financial challenges.

The Context:

Minding our minds became an important issue during the Covid-19 pandemic. The most common emotion faced by all of us was fear. Fear of social isolation, feeling lonely or sad, angry and irritated, anxious and panicky was the situation faced by all of us. Fears and stress were worsening our mental health condition, social isolation was making us moody and irritable. At this time there was felt a need of a psychosocial counselling session for the students so that they could get rid of their fears and anxiety and to instill in them a new hope for a better life ahead.

The Practice:

Counselling sessions of 150 college students were carried out in order to ensure that the students could interact with their teachers in a warm and nurturing environment and share their deepest fears and worries about what is happening outside and within them without being judged. The college aimed at providing the students a platform where they could express the feeling experienced and the mental, emotional and financial problems encountered by them.

The constraints/limitations are as follows:

- Due to confidentiality issues some students are not able to speak their heart out at phone.
- The understanding of the issue reported was limited to the matter reported by the students vocally. Direct face to face communication could have resulted in a better understanding of the situation and hence resulted into better emotional and moral support.

Evidence of success:

- Most of the students reported that they felt relieved both emotionally and mentally after having a word with their teachers.
- The students suggested that such sessions should frequently happen so that they are able to identify their strengths and overcome their weaknesses.

- It helped the college authorities to design flexible fee payment system and select students for earn while you learn scheme and then adopt and develop a compassionate approach towards them who have been seriously affected by the pandemic situation.