

## **Best Practices**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION**

#### **Objectives of the Practice:**

- Promoting the habit of reading books among students
- Promoting sharing of learning through discussion

#### **Expected outcome:**

Habit of reading books would help students in

- Enhancing communication skills
- Building confidence
- Generating more ideas about a topic/issue
- Inspiring group participation
- Exploring potentialities of self

#### **The context:**

It is a known fact that reading books is immensely helpful in developing one's personality. Books are a storehouse of knowledge and experiences of life. Research has shown that reading books is good for one's physical and mental health. Reading books help in building vocabulary, reducing stress, preventing age-related cognitive decline and increasing one's ability to empathize. However, it is observed that today Millennials learn more from the e-content and while chatting on social media, rather than reading the book and discussing with/among friends. So it becomes all the more relevant to revive the dying interest of book reading amongst the youth. It was felt that story telling is an interesting way to generate interest in a book. If the story of the book - its subject matter, insight; the major lessons it brings out are discussed in the form of a presentation and a verbal talk, it might leave a few students hungry for more and encourage them to read the book. Thus, this practice was initiated to talk about the books, attract the attention of the students towards it and introduce them to the wonderful world of books.

#### **The practice:**

Book discussion sessions were organized for each class over the semester. Three books were

selected for the semester July 2019- Nov 2019 viz. Wings of Fire: An Autobiography by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with Arjun Tiwari, The Gita For Children by Roopa Pai and Walking with Nanak by Haroon Khalid. PPTs were made to brief the participants about the theme and contents of the book. A few interesting excerpts reflecting the major life lessons brought forth by these books were also related. The participants were encouraged to share their views on the philosophy of life touched by all the books. The responses of the students as listeners in all such sessions had been very good. The interaction over the story of each book showed that the students liked such activities where they get engaged in deep discussions about the bigger issues of life.

Each session led to developing a strong connection amongst all participants which will surely help in building a knowledgeable and empathetic community over time.

**The constraints/ limitations are as follows:**

- More time is needed to bring out the true magic of the book in a large group.
- Regular sessions needed to be held for each class to keep them connected.

**Evidence of success:**

- The report from the librarian showed an increase in the number of students in the reading section.
- ‘The Gita For Children’ has been issued several times over a year.
- The inspirational messages and lessons brought forth by each of these books were received well by the students and enhanced their vision of the world.

**MOOC LEARNING SKILLS OF TOMMORROW**

**Objectives of the Practice:**

- To help the students to enhance their employment potential
- To provide a platform to students to facilitate them for digital courses
- To encourage the students to pursue online courses according to their learning goals, prior knowledge and skills
- To promote the IT literacy among students
- To inculcate the habit of self-study

**Expected outcome:** With the self-paced course students would be able to pursue the course of their choice and widen the horizon of knowledge.

**The context:** Education is formally provided to the students within class-room. However, knowledge explosion and access to the internet has changed the strategies of learning. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provides a valuable platform especially for skill based programs which can enhance the competence of students and help them build their academic profile. These short duration self-paced courses are easier to access and complete. The onus of learning is on student provided the student has access to the mobile phone/computer and the internet. However, as most of the students of the College belong to the lower economic background, not all the students have access to the technology. Considering the need of the day and for supporting the students, especially those who lack the required facilities, the College provides the platform for the MOOC courses. The students are encouraged to get them enrolled to the MOOC courses of their choice and complete the course within stipulated time period under the guidance of the experienced teachers.

**The practice:** Teachers helped students to enroll themselves in the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which were part of the Spoken Tutorial Project of IIT Bombay. Students were further guided and instructed regarding how to carry out the self-study. Teachers clarified the doubts of students. On getting the information regarding the completion of their respective courses, students appeared in the test to get the certification.

**The constraints/ limitations are as follows:**

- Not all students report for the course
- Due to lack of determination and self-discipline still course completion ratio is less than 100 percent

**Evidence of success:** Records of the Computer Science department indicate that number of students enrolling in these courses is increasing. During the 2018-2019 session, the number of students passed the course was 27 and in the 2019-2020 session the number of the students raised to 190.

**Details of MOOCs attended by the students during 2019-20 are as follows:**

Date	Class	Course	No. of Passed Students
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August 21, 2019	BCA Sem III	Advanced CPP	14
August 26, 2019	BCA Sem V	Advanced Python 3.4.3	8
August 28, 2019	B.Com Sem V(A)	Introduction to Computers	38
August 29, 2019	B.Com Sem V(B)	Introduction to Computers	34
September 09, 2019	BCA Sem V	Introduction to Computers	26
February 03, 2020	B.Sc.(Eco) Sem VI	Introduction to Computers	28
February 03, 2020	M.Com Sem IV	Introduction to Computers	42