

Best Practice 1

Title of the Practice:

Mentor System Goal

The mentor system assigns a faculty member to every student, the faculty member is called the mentor for the student. The mentor plays the role of a personal mentor for the student in all matters. Given the hectic schedule and the number of students in a class it becomes difficult to have an extended communication on subjects and other issues with an individual in the classroom. Since the mentor works with a limited set of students and after successive, supportive interactions usually persuade even the shyest individuals to come out of their shell. This system aims at bringing out the best in an individual.

The Context: The students mostly come from humble backgrounds and have never been exposed to a diverse and challenging working environment that an engineering college offers. Peer pressure, social problems, performance anxiety, stress usually leads to a student underperforming in his/her chosen stream and may leave a lasting impression in their future lives. Parents, given their work schedule, may not be in a position to lend ears to their Child's problems or teenagers preferring not to discuss problems with their parents. Here is where the mentor plays an important role, by being the person who can listen to all the grievances and suggest remedies. The relationship of trust created, acts like a morale booster to most student who gradually open up to conquer their fears and to explore major challenges in life and to become better individuals.

The Practice: The mentor periodically meets his wards to discuss various issues ranging from personal to professional. The frequency may be fixed as per a schedule or unscheduled as per the needs of the ward. The academic performance may be recorded and reviewed and suggestions provided for improvement. In case of difficulties in understanding particular topics, they may be also directed to the seek help of subject teachers. Personal problems may not be documented to honour the privacy of the individual. In case of severe psychological problems, the ward may also be referred to undergo professional guidance. The parents may also be brought into any of the discussions, if the situation demands. The nature of interactions will not only create interest in the subjects by clearing simple hurdles that a student faces, but may also create a path for the student to achieve his desired goal in his chosen career.

Evidence of Success: The primary performance indicator is probably a student opening up and showing an eagerness to perform in his chosen program. The confidence gained will always lead to better interactions in classroom, better attendance and eventually improved performance in tests and examinations. Students reaching their long-cherished goals and having a blossoming career is still an immeasurable reward for any teacher.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The matters that impede the process could be any of the following:

- No formal training for the process.
- Lack of experience.
- Lack of time due to hectic schedule.
- Lack of interest.
- The wards not easily participating in the act voluntarily.
- Eroding moral values and family ties.
- Lack of a structure or hierarchy in the organization may disrupt the process.

Resources required could be:

- Skilled and motivated manpower to handle the task.
- Time allocation for these activities.

A cubicle where conversations could be carried out in private.
Making provision for gaining exposure or increase participation in technical, cocurricular and extracurricular activities in the institution.

Creating avenues to participate in external events to gain exposure.

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice:

Writing scientific papers and publishing it in Indexed Journals among faculty members of the college.

OBJECTIVES

Increase the number of research projects among the staff. Increase the number of publications in indexed journals. Encourage inter disciplinary/ multidisciplinary collaborative research efforts to introduce best practices based on evidence.

THE CONTEXT: Writing and publishing research papers are an integral part of the professional life. This will not only help in obtaining knowledge and increasing the number of projects in hand but also it opens the way for best evidence based practice in the profession.

THE PRATICE: The first part of the practice includes, encouraging the teachers to write the scientific papers. Then the written manuscripts are verified by the research and ethical committee. Once the manuscripts are ready, the ways are identified to get it published through various means. The papers are presented in the workshops, conferences and in national and international journals.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS: - The faculties are benefitted because of their professional growth.

PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED

- More qualified members are required in doing advanced researches
- More budget provision is needed in certain studies
- Less number of senior experienced faculty is another problem in conducting advanced research.