

TEZPUR COLLEGE, TEZPUR

Best Practices adopted by the college to enhance the quality of teaching-learning process.

Best Practice 1: Cherry Picked Projects

Title:

The title of the best practice is Cherry-Picked Project

Objectives of the best practice:

1. To explore the knowledge of the students in the field of research activity.
2. To create a sense of awareness regarding students' project work.
3. To orient the students towards research activity.
4. To enable the students to gain an interdisciplinary view of project works.
5. To bring to light the best research projects undertaken by undergraduate students.

The Context:

Research work is an important part of today's education. It will help the students to develop a scientific attitude towards the various problems of personal and social life. The student gets acquainted with the scientific methods of enquiry. The practice will enable the students to get a wholistic view towards the research problems in different fields of study. The practice of selection of best project reports will also create a feeling of competitive mindedness and a desire to excel among the students. The practice will also create awareness among students about the importance of research activity.

The Practice:

The Practice was started in the year 2017-18. The College has decided that the research projects of the undergraduate students will be published in the form of a book named “Cherry- picked Project”. Students of 6th semester Major courses have to undertake a project work under the guidance of teachers of the department as a part of their syllabus. It is decided that each of the departments will select one student project which is adjudged as best by the department for inclusion in the Cherry Picked Project. The book is published by the Research Promotion Cell of the college and the college authority bears the expenses of the publication.

Evidence of Success:

1. All the departments select the best student project of the session for publishing in Cherry Picked Project.
2. The practice has become popular among the students also.
3. Students are now aware about the practice and they try their best to conduct their project work in the best possible manner.
4. Supervising faculties are also enthusiastic about the practice.
5. Awareness about the need of project work develops to a great extent among the students.

Problems Encountered:

1. The major problem encountered in this practice is time constraint. The project has to be submitted and sent for publication within the stipulated time period.
2. No specific grants are allocated for the practice. The expenses incurred are borne by the college.
3. Sometime it becomes difficult to select single best project from one department.
4. Problem of collecting the project works also occur sometime.

Best Practice 2: Inter Departmental and Inter disciplinary classes.

Title of the practice: Inter Departmental and Inter disciplinary classes.

Objectives of the practice: The practice has been started with the aim of imparting and inculcating knowledge and interest beyond their regular course of study. The practice has also been started to acquaint students to a holistic approach towards different aspects of education. This has become necessary as Higher Education has become inter-disciplinary in nature. Another objective of the practice is to raise the level of skills in students.

The Context: To grow the interest of the students towards disciplines beyond their core subjects and make them understand the relation between different subjects. For instance it is said that “History is the root and Political Science is the fruit” and so a student realizes the relation and importance of the dependence of each subject on the other. The practice would create awareness among students about the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge. Another challenge is regarding the selection of topics to be discussed as the topic should create interest as well as bring some kind of benefit to students.

The Practice:

The IQAC requested all academic departments of the college through its letter dated 15/12/16 to organize inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental classes. Accordingly most of the departments have been organizing such classes from time to time. The departments normally invite teachers from other departments of the college to give lectures on specific pre-selected topics. For example, the department of History invited a teacher from the Department of Economics to speak on the topic: ‘Industrialization during the colonial period in India’. In some cases teachers from neighbouring colleges were invited. This is a unique initiative for the college which is basically an Arts and Commerce College. Teachers from Science and engineering streams also come to deliver lectures in the department of Geography. This is also essential in the context of the changing scenario that has taken place in recent times in the Higher Education. The policy of introducing inter-disciplinary knowledge based system in Higher Education has been the motto and the college has tried to follow this through the above practice.

The college has also initiated a publication of some selected Project Reports submitted by the 6th Semester students as part of their syllabus. The selected reports are published annually in a book form named “The Cherry- Picked Projects”. This has been done to promote the concept of inter-departmental and interdisciplinary knowledge.

Evidence of success:

Inter-disciplinary and Inter-departmental classes help students develop a taste and interest in other areas beyond their core subjects, thus adding value to their regular course. These classes help clear doubts on topics that are related with other subjects. It also helps students to prepare themselves for competitive examinations as per their area of interest. In fact, Inter-disciplinary classes help students identify their area of interest. Students are exposed to new thoughts, ideas and development beyond their core subjects. It results in developing the curiosity to gather knowledge in their respective fields. It will enable students to follow the CBCS policy to be implemented by the affiliated colleges under Gauhati University from 2019-20 academic sessions.

Problems encountered and resources required:

The major problems encountered in following the practice are- time constraints, explaining the basic technicalities of a subject and transferring ideas to students who are from diverse subject background. Sometimes it is seen that the mode of Language in such classes also pose some problems.

The resources required to implement the practice is miniscule. The amount required to implement the practice is borne by the department themselves.