

Introduction

Benchmarking 'best practice' as a means for continuous learning through sustainable innovations is familiar in the world of business management. In recent years, the approach is being adopted in many fields, including higher education. Many organizations are coming up with their 'best practices database' to demonstrate in practical ways what actually works in nourishing quality efforts. In the Indian situation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, charged with the responsibility to serve the quality cause of higher education.

A practice qualifies to a 'best practice' status if it resulted in high-value impact on any aspect of educational activity in an institution. Our institution has adopted the following best practices

1. Peer Teaching

2. Compulsory paper presentation by faculty members

1. Title of the practice- Peer Teaching

Peer teaching is not a new concept. It can be traced back to Aristotle's use of *archons*, or student leaders, and to the letters of Seneca the Younger. It was first organized as a theory by Scotsman Andrew Bell in 1795, and later implemented into French and English schools in the 19th century. Since then, it was an effective method of teaching as well as learning. And now, peer teaching is quite popular among students of all ages.

Peer teaching is one of the best ways to master a particular subject. It is a method of teaching, where a student instructs another student, wherein the former will be an expert and the latter a novice.

1.1 Objectives of the practice

The underlying goal of peer teaching is to promote active learning as well as participation within themselves. This paves the learner student to learn without depending upon the teacher, and to revise the topic again, on the belief that "To teach is to learn twice".

1.2 The Context

In today's competitive academic environment in higher education, professional approaches and best practices alone can act as catalysts for quality improvements in the system as a whole. Peer teaching is all about teaching peers and learning from their peers, which involves learners and teachers of the same or different, age groups or levels of intelligence. This assisted teaching helps the students to enhance their teaching skills. In addition to this, they get a platform to perform what they know which will pave them to drive away from the stage fear within themselves.

1.3 The Practice

In order to improve the communication skill of the students, they are encouraged to participate in peer teaching held during every session on different subjects. Through the direct interaction between students, peer teaching promotes active learning as well as participation within themselves. Student teachers enhance their own depth of knowledge in the topic by instructing others.

1.4 Evidence of Success

The main benefits of peer teaching include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Students receive more time for individualized learning.
- Direct interaction between students promotes active learning.
- Peer teachers reinforce their own learning by instructing others.
- Students feel more comfortable and open when interacting with a peer.
- Peers and students share a similar discourse, allowing for greater understanding.
- It enhances the student's level of creativity in expressing ideas as well as in grabbing new concepts, as the student may not feel hesitant to clear his queries. This will also uplift his knowledge limit and thus allow a greater level of his understanding.

1.5 Problems Encountered

The major problems faced in peer teaching practice like tutees' commitment, communication, time management, and lack of knowledge/ability to explain. These problems have affected the effectiveness of peer-to-peer tutoring program.

1.6 Contact details

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2. Title of the practice- Paper presentation by faculty members

Paper presentation is an individual competition where each participant is required to make a paper about a topic or area, and then present it in front of the juries. Presentation is very important for any profession like in a business in teaching and training or so on. Being able to speak efficiently is an asset for any profession. The success of presentation depends on the confidence and capability of a speaker. Anybody can give good presentation just by practicing and preparing for presentation.

2.1 Objectives of the practice

A presentation is a tool for communicating opinions and ideas of the speaker in front of the group of people. The main motto of the presenting paper is to improve their communication skills. It also provides an opportunity to learn in detailed about the subject which is a part of curriculum and develop effective presentation skills

2.2 The Context

The institute believes that a knowledgeable workforce can be a significant factor in institute's success. When the staffs have higher levels of skills and abilities, the institute as a whole runs more efficiently and is more effective at achieving its objectives and goals. The main purpose of emphasising presentation skills in higher education is to help develop professionalism in the learning environment. Effective presentation skills are important because they help to keep the presentation interesting, help the presenter communicate with confidence, and motivate the audience to listen. Effective communication allows students to learn what the teacher teaches. Moreover, in order to gain experience and/or improve presentation skill and keep themselves updated with the current issues, the faculty members, on every third Saturday, are required to present a paper on any current issue of his/her choice in front of the faculty members, on a rotation basis. For this reason, the institute has understood the power of presentation and how they are also helpful in influencing students.

2.3 The Practice

1. The paper submitted will have to be presented by the faculty on 3rd Saturday of every month.
2. Hard copies of the same are to be submitted before presentation to coordinator of IQAC.
3. The presenter will get 10 minutes to present his/her paper. 5 minutes will be given for discussion and question hour.
4. The participants will have to present their papers in MS-Power Point (ppt) format only.

2.4 Evidence of Success

Speaking at a conference is an opportunity to build self-confidence, improve communication skills, and grow leadership and influence. It also improves professional reputation.

Problems Encountered

In this era of technological advancement, faculty can enhance their presentation skills using high-tech equipment, thus improving their ability to present information in a professional manner. Common challenges include limited technical support, limited time, and challenges in using ICT tools in Teaching & Learning.

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