

Best Practices

Best Practice 1

1. Title of the Practice: Mentoring

2. The objectives of the practice are:

- To promote mentoring relationships between students and faculty and to encourage active participation by both parties
- To accompany the students in the journey of college life.
- To enhance students' educational, social and personal growth through learning from the experience of mentors
- To maintain a close link between the college and its students.
- To enable mentors to keep in touch with student life and college development through interaction with mentees.
- To attend to student distress in class or academics
- To nurture and bring about a culture of discipline and excellence among the students and faculty.

3. The Context

With 1200 and odd students belonging to 45 diverse tribes and sub-tribes, it is evident that the college is catering to almost all the tribes of the state and some others from the various states of Northeast India. The students who enrol at Don Bosco College, Itanagar come mostly from rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh belonging to age group of 18-21 years. These age group students are globally recognized as periods marked by opportunities for development and the emergence of mental health vulnerabilities. Thus, mentoring has become an effective tool in helping the students to cope up with the demands of academics and their personal growth.

4. The Practice

Don Bosco College, Itanagar, follows a comprehensive measure in order to practice mentoring of the students. The college, for the said purpose, has Mentoring Cell in place. To make the practice more effective the Mentoring Cell has brought out a well-planned mentoring

manual which helps in the process of mentoring. The Mentoring Cell has devised a mechanism which is as given below:

a. Division of Mentor and Mentee: Mentoring Cell takes charge of division and distribution of the students of the college to each faculty of the college. Students of Ist, IIIrd and Vth semesters are equally distributed to each faculty. The mentor-mentee list is given to each faculty and displayed on students' notice boards and circulated in each class WhatsApp Groups. The mentor accompanies the mentee all through the three years of college. However, those mentees who choose a different department are assigned to the concerned department faculty.

b. Common Meeting of Mentor with the Assigned Mentees: The Mentoring Cell provides a common day for meeting for all the mentors to meet the mentees. The date of meeting is circulated to students and faculty. On the assigned day the mentor meets all the mentees and discusses with them the importance and significance of mentoring in college. The mentor then helps the mentees to fill up the mentoring manual which is kept with the mentor for reference and to check the progress of the mentee.

c. Personal Meeting between Mentor and Mentee: Personal meeting between mentor and mentee is done through the mentor who makes appointment with the mentee and follows them up. Each mentee has to meet the mentor at least three times each semester. During mentoring the mentor discusses areas of interests of the mentee, academic performance both past and present, set short term and long-term goals, attendance in the college, assess and guide through the internal assessment and university exams, help register their self-image. The mentor also reflects with the mentee on relationship, aspirations, peer pressure and other issues which the mentee raises.

d. Follow up by the Mentoring Cell Coordinators: The Mentoring Cell Coordinators follow up each mentor and takes stock of the progress of the practice of mentoring.

e. Mentoring Manual Lockers: Each mentor is provided with a locker with key to keep all the manuals of the mentees assigned to him/her. This is so to give privacy and have confidentiality in the process of mentoring.

5. Evidence of Success

The clearly noticeable attitudinal change among the students is not only evidence of success but most rewarding. The College has managed to integrate the students as Bosconians.

We have succeeded in creating an institution where human values, academics and personal growth of each student are integrated. It is evident from the impact made in the areas of academic performance, discipline, participation and involvement of students in various clubs, movements and cells of the college. The college as a whole and the students in particular have taken this aspect seriously. This has brought about a qualitative change and will create people who are intellectually alert, morally upright, religiously oriented, socially conscious, culturally distinct and nationally integrated.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

This college undoubtedly had its constrictions and challenges on its way as it is not easy to bring down the barriers between students-teacher relationships. Over the years with conscious efforts through several programmes, study, and involvement of students and teachers we have created an atmosphere of healthy relationship, integration, solidarity, co-existence and pro-existence among the students in this college.

With the increase of the number of students we have become financially viable as far as the running of the institution is concerned. However, lack of infrastructure is another humongous challenge.

Best Practice 2

1. Title of the Practice: Clubs and Cells

2. Objectives of the Practice:

The practice aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To participate in developing the college students and in forming their personality with balance and integrity.
- To develop the talents of the students and improve their capabilities and assist them in acquiring useful knowledge and experience.
- To get the students accustomed to participating in social activities, to develop brotherly relations among them, and to develop a harmonious relationship based on mutual respect among themselves and their professors.
- To provide students with means of comfort, convenience and assurance.
- To associate students with their society and to enforce their feeling of belonging to their country and their nation.

3. Context

In today's world of information technology, the impact is felt strongly with the coming of mobile phones among the students, some positive but mostly hampering the growth of the youth. Appreciating the importance hobby activities play and its role in bringing up young students, the college clubs have been formed with a view to promote the cultural, sporting, social and artistic activities of the college. The clubs in the College collaborate through various committees with the various Faculties in supervising the extra-curricular activities. Besides the mandatory cells the college has twelve clubs which were formed keeping in mind the growing need.

4. The Practice:

All the clubs, cells and movements comprise of two Assistant Professors as Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator and eight students function as executive members with portfolios such

as President, Vice President and core members. The coordinators disseminate information to the executive members and they perform their responsibilities with the help of club or movement members. Every student of the college is expected to join at least two clubs or movements. The purpose is to decentralize the responsibilities and allow students take up active role in their holistic growth and carry out social responsibilities.

Each club in the beginning of the academic session brings out an annual action plan where the coordinators and student executive members through a meeting deliberate and make the plan. The plan is then given to the principal for approval which is then reflected in the college calendar. All the clubs carry out various activities according to the plans.

The three **NSS** units of the college, with 300 volunteers equally represented by boys and girls, participate in social service, blood donation, awareness camps and other events. The **NCC** Unit of SD/SW Army wing with 34 cadets emphasizes on social services, discipline and adventure training. The **Women's Cell** addresses and monitors any harassment or grievances of the female students and employees within and outside the college campus. The **Discipline Committee** comprises of teachers and students with the objective of helping the students follow the rules and regulations laid down by the college.

The **Eco Club** promotes participation of students, learning about and improving their immediate environment. The **Sports Club** strives to impart quality education through sports and healthy lifestyle. The **Red Ribbon Club** equips the students with correct information on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment as peer educators and increase voluntary blood donation. The **Art Club** through the medium of art engages in art activities and reaches out to others through art. The **Cultural Club** preserves and instills the rich cultural values, customs and traditions of the land by taking charge of all the cultural events. **Bosco Youth Care** animates the youth of North East especially Arunachal Pradesh. **Good Samaritan Club** a welfare body of students reaches out to people twice a month. The **Literary Club**, under the Department of English, looks after the literary events and the college magazine. The **Media Club** documents every event in the college and promotes filming and photography skills.

5. Evidence of Success

The ambience of the campus speaks volumes of the evidence of success. All the students being members of one club or the other keep themselves occupied. The clubs have been

instrumental in building stronger student and faculty community. It has encouraged personal development through communication and exploration of different interests. Collaboration among students belonging to different ethnic groups has been a major success. The clubs have created opportunities for students to develop team work, leadership qualities, problem solving skills, and time management. The project of beautifying the basketball gallery and Dorjee Khandu Memorial Stadium of the college was successfully completed by the Art Club members. Eco Club have been in the forefront in looking after the environment within and outside the college. The clean and beautiful landscape of the college filled with trees and plants adds to the serene atmosphere the club has created for everyone. All the clubs have created avenues for students to bring out their talent in various fields. Every semester a sports tournament is held in the college campus where every class participates in basketball, volleyball, badminton or football tournament by the sports club. Every semester the cultural club holds traditional dance and singing competition. Social engagement with the communities nearby has grown. Each outreach programme by the clubs to the neighbouring villages and schools have helped students develop their social skills.

6. Problems encountered and Resources Required

One of the major bottle necks in the functioning of the clubs has been the resources. To carry out various activities and organize events we lack both the financial and infrastructural resources. However, with the limited resources we have been able to carry out various activities and events. The outreach of the clubs has been hampered due to lack of the above said resources. However, the clubs and cells have contributed toward the sensitization and has been fulfilling the social responsibility of the college.