

7.2.1 Best Practices

D) Socratic Club:

Objectives:

- 1) Preparing students for effective critical thinking.
- 2) Developing communication skill.
- 3) To instill confidence of public speech among students.
- 4) Creating awareness among students about political, economic, social and cultural issues in the country.
- 5) Providing platform for students to train for elocution and debating competition.

The Context:

Students speak comfortably in their day to day informal talk , but when it comes to standing and speaking before audience they hesitate. The lack of confidence and fear of public speaking is a great obstacle in the overall personality development of students. This necessitated a platform for students to connect with each other and build art of public speaking. This helps them improve their English communication.

The Practice: The meetings of Socratic Club are held every Saturday in the afternoon. The topic for speech decided by the in charge of Socratic Club after consulting with the principal, faculty members and students.

Evidence of success: Socratic Club greatly improved student's critical thinking and public speaking skills which helped them to bag prizes in debate and elocution competition. The alumni of D.D Shinde Sarkar College attribute their success in academic and professional life to Socratic Club.

Problems encountered and resources required:

- 1) Motivating students to hunt for extra reading and bring them on the stage for first time.
- 2) The participation of large number of students puts pressure on physical infrastructure.
- 3) For effective discussion, a well-equipped physical resource with modern electronic gadgets should be installed.

II) Saraswati Club

Objectives

- 1) To boost confidence and proficiency among the faculty members
- 2) To refresh faculty members from monotonous teaching of syllabi
- 3) To keep faculty members abreast of latest research in their subject and specific area of their interest
- 4) To keep faculty members updated in subjects other than their own

Context:

Faculty members perform the daily activity of teaching to students from various classes. However, only teaching syllabi results in monotonousness among them. To get rid of from lack of confidence and the knowledge about other fields, faculty members needed a platform which was realized by the Constitution of Saraswati Club.

Practice: The Saraswati Club was inaugurated in the academic year 1995-1996, since then the meetings of the club are held on every Wednesday. A researched paper is presented voluntarily by one or another faculty member. The paper is followed by deliberations and active participation of all the staff members.

Evidence of Success: Regular meetings of the Saraswati Club have successfully molded timid and inept faculty members into confident and proficient ones. This reflected in their classroom teaching, students results and personal qualifications and achievements.

Problems encountered and resources required:

- 1) Timidity, lethargy and phobia on the part of some faculty members to present research papers.
- 2) Need of modern electronic gadgets for effective presentation of papers.

III) English Grammar and Vocabulary

Objectives of the Practice:

- 1) To enhance English language competence of the students with accuracy and fluency.
- 2) To enrich English language vocabulary of the student.

The Context:

Being an English medium college, all subjects are taught in English. Hence, all students are inevitably required to have perfect understanding of

English language for their better learning. But it is quite difficult for some students especially who come from vernacular schools or colleges. Therefore, college has initiated this activity that only smoothens the burden of English as foreign language but makes students comfortable and confident while using it. Under this activity students are given a verb one day before and vary next day, they are supposed to make usage of the verb into all types of English tenses with correct sentence composition. For this activity college has designed a vocabulary workbook that comprises thousands of difficult words selected from the syllabus. This workbook is compulsorily distributed to the students at the time of their admissions. During this activity students are asked the meaning and spelling of ten consecutive words with correct pronunciation from the workbook. If students fail or forget to perform, they are subject to bear penalty, the penalty is returned to them after correcting the activity the next day. These tasks are randomly assessed by teachers every day during the lecture.

Evidence of success: The regular practice of the above tasks has brought about many positive and qualitative changes among the students. It has made students proficient in the usage of English language as a result their academic performance is improved. Most importantly English is no more barrier to the students who come from Marathi medium schools. Apart from the academic purpose, students utilize English language fluency and knowledge for exploring future opportunities.

Problems encountered and Resources required: This practice consumes extra time during evaluation and interrupts the lecture.

IV) Mobile Library:

Objectives:

- 1) To inculcate the habit of reading extra books, meaning the books other than those which pertain to the syllabus.
- 2) To overcome the shortage of space in the library.

The Context:

It was observed that students mostly read the books only on curriculum and neglect the extra reading causing a lopsided personality. Moreover, the institution runs short of adequate space in the library making it necessary to find some way whereby students would no longer need to physically visit the library every time they need the books. Under this practice the librarian and teachers having off

lectures visit every class twice or thrice a week along with a trolley containing plenty of books on both curricular and extracurricular subjects. The student's pickup any book they want based on recommendation of the teachers or their choice.

Evidence of success: The success of this scheme is evident from the fact that the library has now turned out to be thinly crowded unlike the overcrowded earlier. Further, the students are now found to have become habitual in asking for books for extra reading.

Problems encountered and resources required: The thin attendance of the students in classes poses a problem in reaching out to them.

V) Blood Donation Camp:

Blood donation camp is organized every year in the college on the occasion of death anniversary of our founder president and principal Late Dr. Aabasaheb Shinde, a visionary and dedicated educationalist.

Objectives:

1) Blood is the thing that cannot be manufactured. It saves the lives of human beings. So, donation is the only source to those who are in need of blood.

The Context: We realized that we have sizeable pool of the donors and we can share some responsibility of proving the blood to the society. Organizing the blood donation camp on the occasion of death anniversary was a fitting tribute to our guiding force.

The Practice:

A Blood donation camp is organized by taking help of local Government Hospital of specialized NGO. The details of this event are brought to the notice of the students and the faculty well in advance. The volunteers from the students and faculty come forward either to donate blood or to assist the medical team. The medical examination like blood group, hemoglobin, weight, blood pressure of the donors is done by the visiting medical team and the physically fit volunteers are allowed for blood donation.

Evidence of success: 50 bottles are collected in every camp. This endeavor towards the noble cause is well appreciated by government and non-government agencies. The donors get a certificate and 'Donor Card' that facilitates the supply of the blood to them or to their close relatives in case of need in future. The health of donors examined in the camp.