

G. PULLA REDDY ENGINEERING COLLEGE (Autonomous) :: KURNOOL

Best Practice-1:

1. Title of the Practice:

Two Week Induction Programme for I B. Tech students.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To impart knowledge about the Engineering programmes and to create an awareness on the importance of self learning among the student community.
- To promote the concepts of innovation, essence of Engineering and Physical fitness.
- To familiarize the students with the career options, opportunities for higher education and entrepreneurship.
- To create and build a cultural base among the young students to develop in them a personality with social concern and human values.
- To create and build confidence in the young minds to face the problems and difficult situations in life.

3. The Context:

The design and implementation of the practice is intended to address various issues which are related to the overall development and growth of an Engineering student.

The evolution of a young Engineering student into a successful professional engineer, would have to begin with an exposure to a wide range of events and activities, from culture to body matters.

Contextual features:

- Fresh students entering the portals of the college, with the intention of acquiring knowledge and aiming at overall development, must be initiated into the processes, early in their career. The programme acquires significance in this context.
- An approach to assimilate the various aspects of Engineering education, professional and human ethics, cultural practices and Physical fitness would be of immense benefit to a beginner. The programme extends this benefit to all the fresh students.

4. The Practice

The uniqueness of this practice is that, it would provide the fresh students with a direction, to make them realize the importance of attending programmes of this nature, where the knowledge transfer would be of immense value. The programme would provide a platform for the students to learn from various sources and focus on their overall development. It is a practice that is made use of by the College to initiate fresh students into the world of Engineering and professionalism.

The practice had been carried out for the last four years. No constraints were faced in the implementation of the practice.

The practice focuses on the various aspects of personality development, career options, alumni interaction, culture, Sports and Games, Yoga, Meditation and Essence of Engineering.

Spread over two weeks, the programme exposes the students to lectures / presentations / demonstrations on various issues. Guest speakers / experts / artists from different fields interact with the students during the two week long programme. The various components which make up the Two Week Induction programme are

- Service activities
- Physical Activities
- Literary and cultural activities
- Essence of Engineering
- Personality Development and Human Service
- Proficiency Modules

Field visits and practical sessions along with lectures / speeches / presentations are arranged, utilizing the facilities available.

The practice has the limitation of being planned for two weeks only. Due to the tight academic schedule, more time cannot be utilized for the conduct of the Induction programme. Social service activities and the field visits to understand the situation on the ground and interact with the society, need more time and this undoubtedly is a constraint. But given the efforts that go into making the two week programme effective, the constraint could be overcome to yield satisfactory results.

The practice and the participation in it would result in a good physical and psychological tuning of one's personality. It creates social consciousness among students. The cultural awareness imbibed brings out the human values and elevates the ethical standards among the student community.

5. *Evidence of Success:*

The targets that were set for the programme have been achieved to a considerable extent. The effectiveness of the programme and the confidence levels it has built among the students are indicators of the success that has been evident.

The belief of success has emanated from the following observations

- Attendance on all the two weeks is very satisfactory
- Student involvement and interaction levels are high
- Feedback obtained at the end of the programme clearly indicates the success levels achieved.
- The programme has resulted in promotion of innovation and culture among the students as evidenced by the many comments made by the students.

There are targets and benchmarks against which performance is measured like student attendance, active participation, enthusiastic response, involvement and above all interaction with the guest speakers / experts / artists / resource persons.

The results indicate that the programme has been able to influence and affect the student community through various guest lectures / demonstrations / performances / speeches.

The effects have been observed on the following aspects.

- Personality development
- Attitude and behavior
- Team work and leadership
- Human relations
- Interpersonal skills
- Service activities

6. *Problems Encountered and Resources Required:*

To arrange and organize the various activities, which are part of the two week Induction programme, a few problems have been encountered. Mostly, these relate to the finding of resource persons from various fields like Engineering education, Physical education, Art & Culture, Professional and Human Ethics and Performing arts.

To find resource persons and experts, who can guide the young minds and motivate them sufficiently besides imparting knowledge and wisdom, is a difficult job. Selection of appropriate resource persons and managing their schedules is work to be attended to with care and caution.

All the infrastructure and facilities are in place for conducting the Two week programme. Mobilization of financial resources does not pose any problem. Any additional commitments are also met by providing necessary resources.

7. *Notes:*

The institution is one among the few, in the region, which have been conducting the Two week Induction programme for the I B.Tech students. This could be setting a standard for others to follow and implement.

Best Practice-2:

1. *Title of the Practice:*

Ten minutes talk / presentation by students in each class.

2. *Objectives of the Practice:*

- To improve the communication skills of the students.
- To raise their self confidence
- To train the students in preparation of presentations / speeches.
- To positively impact the placement opportunities of the students by enabling them to face the interviews with confidence.

3. *The Context:*

Engineering students are required to be groomed to become able professionals having requisite skills in engineering, in the field of their study. Besides the professional knowledge and skills, the requirement of employable students by the industry / organizations, includes communication skills.

The talk / presentation by students is designed to address the core issue of improvement in communication skills. The challenges a student is likely to face, during the course of the study ,are many and varied. The most important challenge that a student has to address is communication.

The practice assumes significance in this context. Its implementation would pave the way, for addressing the basic needs, the employer would expect from the students, in the process of recruitment, that is communication skills.

4. *The Practice*

Realizing the importance of communication skills, the institution has evolved a practice of insisting that each student shall give a talk / presentation in the first ten minutes of the each class. In each course of study, the faculty would, by rotation, give chance for every student to give the talk / presentation at least once during entire semester.

The practice is followed in every course of study and as there are about five / six theory courses in each semester, the student will get an opportunity to give talk / presentation five to six times every semester. This would give the student enough preparedness. During the entire programme the student is presented with ample opportunities to improve and fine tune the communication skills.

The uniqueness of the practice in the context of higher education is that, the participation of students would give them exposure to public speaking, help them in enhancing their performance and develop their communication skills.

The practice has certain constraints / limitations in the sense that, not all the students are willing to come forward to present the ten minute talk / lecture. It requires a continuous effort from the faculty member to conduct the practice in a smooth and uninterrupted manner.

Students come to know of their deficiencies, drawbacks and inhibitions when they present their talk / lecture and there is always scope for improvement, better performance and fine tuning.

The practice had been carried out for the last few years and the focus is on achieving the desired results like, preparing students to overcome their inhibitions and

improvement in oral presentations.

5. *Evidence of Success:*

The practice had proved to be very successful and the performance against the benchmarks and targets is satisfactory.

The introduction of the practice and its implementation is yielding good results and the evidence of success is in the form of feedback, which is positive and encouraging. The practice is likely to aid the growth of communication skills among the students.

The evidence of success of the practice could come at the end of the programme of study with the placement record showing a steady rise. The long term impact of the practice could positively influence the recruitment related processes, where communication skills are essential and primary requirement.

The results, though preliminary in nature, suggest that the students are getting used to the practice and there has been a realization on their part that this practice would definitely benefit them in the long run.

6. *Problems Encountered and Resources Required:*

The implementation of the practice is not without problems and some problems have been encountered. It becomes difficult to motivate all the students to participate and perform. The problem lies with academically weak and below average students, who are unwilling to participate.

Some students are unwilling to take part in the practice and a possible reason could be not realizing the importance of development of communication skills.

It may not be possible to maintain the schedule drawn up at the beginning of the semester, because of several reasons like

- Student being absent on the day of the talk / presentation.
- Student wants postponement of the date of the talk.
- Student comes without preparation.

Required resources are readily available and the implementation would be possible in a smooth and continuous manner.

7. *Notes:*

The practice is very much relevant in the present day context of Engineering education, where every employer is expecting good communication skills in the candidates and the practice aims at the improvement of the same. It could be implemented / adopted by other institutions for positive results.