

Best practices for the year 2015-16

- I. Talent Search program**
- II. 'Earn While you Learn' Scheme**

I. Title of the Practice: Talent Search program

2. Objectives of the Practice

The talent search program of the college helps to identify the students whom we can send to various events at university, district, state and national levels and this helps them to shape their future too.

3. The Context

The number of students in the college is more than 2,500. These students are studying in more 20 combinations and finding a common time for them without affecting their curricular activities is a challenge in a college with this much of strength. So lot of planning and careful execution of the program is needed.

4. The Practice

On 3rd and 4th August 2015, talent search program was arranged and only participating students were given off from the classes. Competitions were held in the events like singing (folk, classical, western :Vocal, instruments), dancing (Classical: Bharatnatya, and others; western; folk dance), drama, elocution, rangoli etc with a total of 24 events where 72 students were declared won in these competitions.

5. Evidence of Success

We expected good number of students to participate to select the best talents. That became a reality with some of the events showing many participants. These students were later sent to levels of competitions. As evidence of success our students got 12 prizes in literary and cultural competitions held at intercollegiate level conducted by Univesity of Mysore Students welfare division. At South zone Youth festival our students viz., Sachin Ganapathy participated in the Debate competition and Santhosh Prabhu participated in Quiz competition.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

With restricted funding to support for the students financially, some students back out from going by travelling to far away places for competitions even though they are talented. And even the teachers are not able to always accompany as they are unable to miss classes.

II. Title of the Practice: 'Earn While you Learn' Scheme

1. Objectives of the practice:

- i) To minimize the drop outs from the college due to financial reasons
- ii) To support meritorious and needy students to earn a reasonable amount every month to meet their expenses.
- iii) To expose the students to the real working environment
- iv) To inculcate hands on training and thereby, work experience
- v) To inculcate the values of hard work and dignity of labor

2. Context:

- i. The college is short-staffed as regard to both teaching and nonteaching staff members. Owing to this, works on the maintenance of college records, museum management etc., were severely hit. The college provided various part-time job opportunities such as Office assistants, Library Assistants, Data entry Operators and Museum maintenance assistants.
- ii. Majority of the students in the college hail from rural areas and their parents are dependent on agricultural income. In the absence of regular fixed income and problems faced by the farmers due to vagaries of the weather, students find it difficult to meet their expenses such as college fees, hostel fees and overhead expenses. The state government/University of Mysore has launched a scheme of 'Earn while you learn' with a view to arrest the drop out of the students owing to financial constraints.

3. **The practice:** Applications from the poor meritorious students desirous of earning in their free hours were invited by displaying the circular on the college notice board as well as in the department notice boards. A committee headed by the Principal as the Chairman scrutinised the application forms submitted by the candidates and assessed their academic performance as well as their family income. A short list of probable beneficiaries was prepared and called the candidates for final round selection and also to seek their opinions on the identified areas of work. Students with knowledge and skill in the use of computer were given the data entry work and other office works. Others were posted to various departments for the maintenance of record. Each student was paid Rs. 60 on an hourly basis for five days in a week and there was a scope for a student to earn Rs. 1,200/- in a month that would take care of their monthly expenses.
4. **Evidence of success:** i) Dropouts were reduced ii) The income in the form of honorarium eased their financial stress which reflected in the increase in their academic grades. Thus, the 'Earn while you learn' scheme not only helped the meritorious and financial needy students to overcome the stress but also improved their academic performance.
5. **Problems encountered and resources required:** The scheme enables poor students of the final year undergraduate study to earn honorariums through part-time employment. The college could offer the benefit of the earn while you learn scheme by offering part time jobs for a maximum of 30 days to 30 poor students of final year degree who assisted the staff in the office and the departments. Financial assistance is required for the sustenance of the scheme.