

BEST PRACTICE: 2019 20

ICT Integration and E-Learning

Earth for all: Environmental consciousness to students



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Best Practice -1

ICT Integration and E-Learning

Objectives of the Practice

To equip teachers with modern technologies in teaching and make them adaptable to engage next generation learners.

To help students in their regular academic activities by providing them tutorials which students can use at their convenience.

To train students on competitive exams in online mode which will help them for higher education and job opportunities.

To engage students in flipped learning, so that classroom hours can be utilized for advanced discussion on the topics.

To help slow learners to learn at their pace at the comfort of their home.

The context

Technology enhanced learning is gaining much importance in higher education sector. Many universities are moving to online education as this mode provides not only easily accessible education but also affordable education. The use of ICT in education sector is gaining importance in our country too. Students who by any chance miss their regular classes, can use the recorded sessions and other study materials if ICT methods are adopted.

Most of the entrance examinations to universities, JAM and NET exams are conducted online. Students of our college, majority of who come from rural areas face difficulties during such exams as they are not familiar to such technologies. Proper training for online exams will surely enhance their chances to be successful in such entrance examinations.

The Practice

ICT team was formed under IQAC in the year 2017 to spearhead the ICT activities. College has installed moodle LMS and teachers are using it extensively to deliver course contents, online internal examinations and training for competitive examinations. Construction of the video recording facility was completed in the previous academic year with all state-of-the-art facilities. Major practices done in the present academic year are

1. Online screening test: As per the decision of Academic council dated 22 July 2019 a screening test to be conducted to classify students in to advanced, medium and slow learners. Moodle LMS was used to conduct the screening test. All first year UG students were enrolled in to LMS along with

their class teachers. The tests were conducted as per the scheduled time table. Results were downloaded, analyzed and students were classified to advanced, medium and slow learners.

2. Online audit courses: The audit course for the first semester UG Students – Environmental Science was conducted as a Massive Open Online Course. The course contents were prepared by the Department of Geology & Environmental Science in association with IQAC and were deployed in moodle LMS. Students made use of these tutorials and exams were conducted in the computer labs. Finally, the results were sent to Pareeksha Bhavan for further processing.
3. Christ opencourseware: Academic council approved the suggestion from IQAC to establish an E-learning portal through which College can share the benefits of online education to community. The online portal Christ OpenCourseWare was established with the help of industrial partners. The platform has four quadrants a) Video tutorials b) Lecture notes c) Practice questions and d) Facility to chat with the course facilitator.
4. Infrastructure for ICT: Following items were added to ICT infrastructure - a) Tablets- Twenty tablets were purchased to conduct online examinations as the computer labs were busy with regular practical hours. a) Lightboard- an inhouse developed Lightboard was installed in video recording room. Teachers can record their lectures facing the camera and can use the board to write the lecture points. b) Teleprompter- to help teachers in recording of video tutorials. c) Started a YouTube channel Christopencourseware to upload video tutorials for the benefit whole student community. Appointed a full-time videographer/editor to help teachers in creating video tutorials.

Evidence of success

Sixty percentage of teachers have equipped themselves with the necessary knowledge and started to use their skills in moodle LMS and other ICT resources. The online screening test was extremely useful to access the learning levels of every single first year student and to provide them the necessary modes of study patterns to improve. Two audit courses, Environmental Science and Disaster Management were successfully completed as MOOC. Six courses were uploaded to the college's dedicated learning platform Christ OpenCourseWare. With the new gadgets and the collective efforts of all the teachers and the newly assigned professional video editor the college uploaded a total of 124 scholastically supplementing video tutorials in Christ OpenCourseWare Youtube channel. Students were excited with the new mode of visually enhancing teaching, which they could go back and replay or re-read to their pace at the comfort of their home and the less stressful new mode of online examination.

Problems encountered and Resources Required

Infrastructure facilities like computer labs and internet connectivity should be increased to meet the increased demands of online education. Some teachers were reluctant to adapt with the demanding new technology which they found sophisticated. Students who were deprived of the necessary gadgets during this unprecedented times faced difficulties in accessing the moodle LMS. Number of computers labs in the campus along with the number of computer systems in each lab should be increased and students are to be allowed to use their smart phones in the classes.

Notes

Policy level decisions should be made to popularize the use of ICT in college campus. More teachers should be given training on using ICT tools.

Best Practice -2

Earth for all: Environmental consciousness to students

Objectives of the Practice

To inculcate a sustainable lifestyle to students.

To reduce the carbon footprint of the College.

To introduce environmental consciousness in aspects of Teaching and Learning.

To stress the importance of recycling.

The context

Even though College is on the fore front of Environmental conservation; many of the students lack proper orientation on waste segregation and treatment. Ever changing climate in the region has resulted in droughts as well as unprecedented storms. Energy demand of the institution is rising and there should be measures to cope up with the demand.

The Practice

All VIP's who visit College for seminars, workshops or other academic functions are requested to plant trees in the college premises. Thus students become more aware of the importance of forestation.

Under the "EntaeMaavu" Programme the students and teachers of Biodiversity Club were able to develop mango saplings and distribute to other colleges and schools.

Biodiversity Club and Botany Department maintains 20 cents, as "*Santhistal*" where the rare endangered and threatened plants are planted and maintained and thus encourages the students to build a healthy ecosystem.

Star vanam (Nakshathravanam) is maintained -a joint venture of Bhoomithrasena and Botany Department to signify and spread the awareness of medicinal plants in Indian herbology.

Poly-house farming by Biodiversity Club and NSS units of our college creates the awareness on biopharming and respect to farmers.

NSS units started the "PENDRIVE" in which they collect the plastic body of used pens. Such pens are recycled by adding new refills and selling them at a low reasonable cost. This motivated the students to recycle possible materials and make the best use out of a non-biodegradable commodities.

The Environmental Science Department sensitizes the students by preparing logos and slogans. Separate cans are arranged to separate organic waste.

Solar panels are installed and the excess energy produced is given to KSEB under the on-grid scheme.

Rain water harvesting is implemented with a capacity of 25,000 liter.

Check dams are made in College garden and premises to help rainwater seep in to groundwater.

Evidence of success

General environmental awareness has been increased. College campus has become cleaner. Ground water level in the surrounding areas increased. Students became more aware of the existing ecological imbalance and adopted practices like recycling and the usage of non-biodegradable commodities to their maximum extend. Students recognized the importance of conservation of threatened plants and the esteemed usage of Indian herbal plants in the field of medicinal herbology. Conservation of energy is practised by the use of solar energy which is a much more practical source of energy in a huge scale as compared to the fossil fuels.

Problems encountered and Resources Required

Food waste are dumped in the college garden. The plastic carry bags are scattered. More waste bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes should be put at different parts of the garden and around the campus.