

Institutional Best Practices of Barpeta Girls' College, Barpeta

A. Extra Special Classes for Needy and Meritorious Students

Goal

The Goal of this best practice is to help the students academically so that they can learn their subjects properly. There are some students who cannot get what they need within the scheduled classes held as per the regular class programmes. Therefore, the attempt is made to provide them with more opportunities to learn.

Context

The backbone of an educational institution is the students. The prime objective of any academic institution should be to help the students to the utmost in their pursuance of knowledge in various subjects. The success of an institution lies basically in the learning outcome that the students show at the end of their academic programmes. But the students who come to seek education in this college are of various kinds. Some are meritorious, some are slow learners, while some others are just average. In a class where the number of students are around one hundred or more, it is not possible to give all the students attention as per their requirement. There is no difficulty in catering to the need of the average students in the regular classes held according to the class routines. But the meritorious students deserve special attention. They have to be provided with much more than they can get in their regular classes. Another important thing in this respect is that there are certain students who are below average and they are basically slow learners. They cannot cope with the pace of teaching-learning in the regular framework, and they have to be taken care of specially. Therefore, some extra efforts should be given keeping in mind both the meritorious and the below average students. For both these two categories of students, the nature of efforts has to be different.

Practice

Keeping in view the fact that both the meritorious students and the slow learners need special treatments, Barpeta Girls' College has adopted a policy to go through some extra special classes for both these two categories of students. The first thing that the college put emphasis on has been conducting remedial classes for the slow learners, who cannot keep pace with the other students in their regular classes. The teachers have been advised to come to the personal contact of these students and know their weaknesses. Then they have been advised to teach them keeping in mind their weaknesses. For the meritorious students, there has been a provision for tutorials in which they have got the opportunity to satisfy their knowledge requirements. In the tutorials the teachers and the students could come closer to each other and the students could satisfy their curiosity about the topic discussed. They could learn more than the regular classes could give them.

Evidences of success

This best practice has a very positive outcome. The meritorious students got benefitted by the extra special classes (tutorials) they were given, and they could get better results in the examinations. Moreover, the students who were slow learners could prepare themselves properly for the final examinations and their performances in the final examinations were also up to the mark. It had a direct impact in the pass percentage of the college.

Problems encountered and resources required

Of course, in pursuing this practice, the college had to face several problems. One of them was the economic backwardness of most of the students, for which they could not concentrate on their studies as much as it was necessary. The economic constraints in their families deviated their minds from education and they had to focus on other things in life simultaneously. Because of the social conditions many of them were in, some girls got married while studying at college, and as a result, many other things not related to education demanded their attention. All these factors sometimes created problems for successful implementation of the policy of extra classes, because often it was found that the students were not ready for extra efforts. Another problem was that the college did not have sufficient number of teachers in each department, for which the teachers become overloaded. The third problem is the lack of sufficient classrooms to carry out extra classes. The practice of extra classes can be more beneficial if the number of teachers and the number of classrooms can be increased.

B. Plantation and beautification in the college campus

Goal

Plantation and beautification of the college campus has been adopted by Barpeta Girls' college mainly to create a congenial and eco-friendly atmosphere in the college campus. The college treats this practice as an integral part of the process of learning. The teachers and the students get a very pleasing and peaceful atmosphere in the college campus for their teachings and learnings. Moreover, an awareness for preservation of the environment is also taught to the students with this practice.

Context

For the process of teaching-learning, the place in which teaching and learning are done must be suitable for such things. In a beautiful place, the teachers enjoy the process of teaching while the students enjoy learning. Teaching and learning cannot be done in a mechanical way. For doing teaching and learning in a proper way, both the teachers and the students should have to get an atmosphere that can be pleasant and peaceful for their minds. Plantation in a proper way can help an educational institution to create a congenial atmosphere for teaching-learning by making the institutional campus beautiful. Another important educational benefit of plantation is that it creates an environmental awareness among the students. The present-day students should be made aware of the degradation in the environment caused by many factors. They should also know that one important way of combating the environmental hazards is to grow more and more trees.

Practice

Keeping in view the need for creating a congenial atmosphere for teaching-learning in the college campus as well as beautifying the campus, the college has given utmost importance on plantation. The college has developed two gardens in the front yard and in the middle yard of the college campus. Both the gardens are full with beautiful flowers. Moreover, the college has regularly done plantation programmes, which has increased the greenery of the college. Even in the girls' hostel of the college, plantation programmes have been regularly carried out.

Evidence of success

The practice of plantation and beautification in Barpeta Girls' College campus has bore several fruits. Firstly, it has provided the college with a beautiful campus. The greenery inside the college campus is in its developing stage. It has also helped the students a great deal to inculcate in them an awareness towards preservation of environment.

Problems encountered and resources required

The main problem in respect of the plantation programme in the college is that during the flood season sometimes a large portion of the college campus including the hostel get inundated in flood water, causing great damage to the flower plants and newly planted saplings of other trees. Secondly, After plantation, it becomes necessary to look after the newly planted saplings. But the college does not have sufficient fund to keep a gardener who can look after the planted saplings. This job can be entrusted on the students, and they also do so satisfactorily. But their efforts only are not enough for proper maintenance of the gardens and other plants. So, the college requires a gardener so that the plants and saplings can be properly looked after at all the time.