

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice – College Timings for students (8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

Objectives of the Practice

- To allot equal importance to academia and part-time employment
- To encourage the students to become independent individuals in terms of income and economics.
- To teach them to share the family responsibilities, thereby leading to maturity.
- To help them assert their individuality and to expose their abilities and skills,
- To assist them in developing leadership qualities and self-competency.
- To facilitate entrepreneurial skills among students.
- To guide them towards maintaining work-life balance.

The Context

As most of the students of the Institution belong to comparatively underprivileged sections of the community, it becomes essential for the Management to provide opportunities and options that will allow them to stabilise their livelihood. The Management decided to fix the timings in a way which will provide optimum advantage to both the Institution and the students.

The first factor to be taken into consideration was the availability of transportation facilities. The number of buses/vans had to be continually balanced on par with the growing strength of the Institution. Another factor that played a major role was the inconvenience faced by staff and students who reside in inaccessible areas. Both factors are mutually connected and the development of transportation facilities has led to ease of access and convenience

The Practice

The system of day-college is reasonably new in places in South India and the Institution has been able to introduce this concept, which is highly favourable for students who have to work to pay for their education. As mentioned above, the students have been provided opportunities which have been unavailable to them hitherto.

The practice also permits students interested in starting their own businesses to learn the concepts and apply them at the same time. The Institution functions from early in the morning, thereby ensuring that the students are able to start their day afresh and grasp the lectures with utmost interest and attention.

The practice paves way for the approximately 50% of the students of the Institution who take up part-time jobs and hone the skills necessary to face the corporate and business worlds. The major limitation from the students' side remains in the fact that the day consists of continuous classes with only one break.

Evidence of Success

Over the years, the Institution has been able to witness the growth of students who have gone on to establish successful businesses and careers – the foundation for which has been laid during their Undergraduate study which provided them the chance to work and study all at once.

The Institution has been able to provide special attention to Placement training for those who are not already employed. The afternoon sessions are utilised meaningfully in order that all the students benefit one way or the other by developing their employability skills.

Coaching classes for professional courses like Cost and Management, Chartered Accountancy, Call Centre Management, Insurance, Net-Banking, Office Automation and Accounting Software, Medical Transcription, Mushroom Cultivation are taken up by students who are interested in enrolling in Add on certification courses.

The students have the added advantage of perfect attendance scores as the afternoon session can be utilised for all and sundry.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Staff and students travelling from remote areas are forced to leave their residences too early in the morning which may adversely affect performance.

Parents are hesitant to accept what they consider as part-time colleges, fearing that the certification may not be applicable. They also fear the completion of syllabus on time as per the curriculum designed by Bharathiar University to which the College is affiliated.

The timings affect the conduction of special classes in the afternoon session as students who work part-time will be unable to attend the same. At the same time, if the special classes are conducted, the students missing the classes lose out on the information shared and their attendance percentage may be affected by their absence.

Notes (Optional):

The practice has witnessed students bearing domestic and societal responsibilities simultaneously. It prepares students both for life and career. It moulds students' personality. The students are happy to take up additional career oriented courses and placement training without affecting their regular classes.