



SRI SANKARA ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
ENATHUR

BEST PRACTICES OF THE INSTITUTION

Title of the Practice-1: Weekly Forums for Students

Objective of the practice:

A weekly forum, dedicated for students, by the students and of the students studying in their final years is the need-of-the-hour as they embark onto the most-defining phase of their careers.

The objectives of Student Forum are:

- To kindle peer-learning among students
- To motivate leadership qualities
- To infuse competitive spirit and employability skills
- To acquaint the students with latest trends and happenings in their chosen field.

The Context:

- Teaching and Learning methodology at the school level are subjected to teacher-centric approach while college education has to make a transformation to student-centric approach. Such transformation is vitalized through forum activities which mandate for participative learning and peer-to-peer learning among students community.
- Students from rural background boasts of good academic record but come a cropper when faced with a competitive real-world scenario. There exists a widening gap between college campus and corporate. Forum activities would help

bridge the gap by boosting employability skills of students and make them market ready.

- In an age of identity crisis, students need to be given a platform like forums to discover their brand identity and embrace leadership roles.
- In an ever-evolving world with every latest technologies enjoying only short shelf life, students need to continuously update themselves of all the latest trends and state-of-the-art technologies in their respective field of study.

The Practice:

Every Department has a separate forum scheduled on a given day of the week. The forum is conducted in seminar hall and conference hall fully furnished with ICT facilities. Forum encompasses various activities such as

- Paper Presentation
- Group Discussion
- Debate
- Mock Interview
- Aptitude Training Sessions
- Invited Talk from Resource Persons.

Conduct of the forum was highly structured and streamlined in a formal way starting with preparation of Forum Invitations, Maintaining Minutes of the weekly meetings, and Faculty mentors for the Forum activities. Actively participating students were entrusted with greater responsibilities and organizing roles for the successful conduct of the forum.

Forums organized in various departments are listed below:

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1	PG DEPT. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE	IT ALERT FORUM
2	UG DEPT. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE	CARRER.SKILLS FORUM
3	COMPUTER APPLICATION	STEPPING STONES FORUM
4	COMMERCE	C-CLUB
5	PG DEPT. OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	JOURNAL ALERT FORUM
6	UG DEPT. OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	MANAGEMENT STUDY CIRCLE
6	TAMIL	POTTRAMARAI MANDRAM
7	ENGLISH	ENGLISH LITERATURE FORUM
8	MATHS	RAMANUJAM FORUM
9	PHYSICS	ALBERT EINSTEIN FORUM
10	MICRO BIOLOGY	BHAMATHI FORUM
11	BIO CHEMISTRY	RASAYANA@BIO FORUM
12	BIO TECHNOLOGY	WATSON AND CRICK FORUM
13	NSS	YOUTH FORCE FORUM
14		SANKARA SOCIETY FORUM
15		SAT SANG

Evidence of Success:

The success of the forum is quite evident from the apparent transformation in attitude seen among the students. Forums were the breeding grounds for the future leaders. Actively participating students in the forum were found to have performed exceedingly well in the corporate interviews. Forums also helped students scale greater heights in their careers. Passed-out corporate-placed students who were the products of Forum were invited by the departments to reach out to the current generation of students to provide mentorship programmes.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

The major problem encountered in organizing the forum was motivating students to actively participate in forum as students from rural background are inherently shy and have a laidback attitude. To address the problem, staff members were assigned to provide mentorship and to encourage the students to be engaged in various activities. The mentor would access every session of the forum and provide their valuable feedbacks about the performance of the students and ways to refine them.

Title of the Practice-2: Community college

Objective of the Practice:

- To foster and flourish the social community along with student community.
- To reach out to the society for promoting welfare programmes for ensuring well-rounded growth for the community as a whole.
- To provide orientation programmes and vocational training courses for people deprived of any formal education.
- To offer entrepreneurial skill-sets and self-employment programmes for women willing to work from home.

The Context:

- The illiterate and rural community is often neglected and left to the doldrums by the government organizations and corporate companies. A social responsibility to create self-employment opportunities for the under-privileged community is badly needed.
- Economically weaker sections of the community longing for aid needs to be given a helping hand by equipping them with necessary skill-sets at free of cost.
- Those people who don't have age on their side to get into formal training or burdened with the responsibilities of having to raise a family needs to given a scope to acquire the skill-sets they aspire of.
- There is a need to cater to the needs of academic students willing to hone their vocational skills and are interested in entering into workforce at the earliest opportunity.

The Practice:

- The Community college is conducted as week-end classes or afternoon classes.
- Candidates enrolled in Community College are trained up in various skill development courses like Desktop Publishing, Tailoring, Refrigerator Servicing, A/C Servicing, etc.,
- Expert Trainer from the respective field is roped in to inculcate the required skill sets to the trainees.
- To test the candidate's involvement and to motivate their active participation, various assignment activities are given.

- Finally examination is conducted to test the learnt skill-sets of the enrolled candidates and certificates are issued to credit the acquired knowledge.

Evidence of Success:

- People who attended and benefited from the Community College were appreciative of the efforts on the part of the Institution to have helped their cause.
- Many people graduated from the Community College have ended up venturing into their own start-ups after gaining the skill-sets.
- Initially only a handful of candidates got enrolled for the courses but over the years the number of enrolment reached closed to 100 as usefulness and trust-worthiness of the Community college caught everyone's attention in the society.
- The Community college became a hit among household women as it empowered them to become self-employable and independent.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

- Initially it was a big challenge to mobilize the concept of Community college as there were not many takers in the society.
- Many were averse to spare time from their daily rudiments to attend the training programme being conducted in the college premises.
- The candidates who were already employed and household women were irregular to the classes. But attendance was strictly maintained and that mandated the candidates to be present on all days.
- Financial burden were to be borne by the Institution as technically sound Trainers demand handsome pay packs for conducting the training classes, considering the courses were offered at free of cost to the candidates. But consciousness of social responsibility and adherence to the cause of society upliftment helped to achieve the mission.