

Best Practices in Academic Session 18-19

Best Practice 1

1. Title of the practice – Introducing webinars in college

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words) –

In the twenty-first century, with the greater advent of technology in the education system, there is a faster upgradation of knowledge base in and around the world. As an institution, it is imperative that we provide our students with as much world class knowledge as possible. However, physical seminars, involving resource persons from around the world cause major financial as well as infrastructural challenges, which HIEs are not always able to overcome.

When the smart classroom, complete with internet enabled smart board, cutting edge webcams and sound system was built in the college, the teachers envisioned a webinar unprecedented in any undergraduate college in the city, and extremely rare even in the country. Conceptualisation of one major international webinar led to the planning of smaller webinars before undertaking a major one.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words) –

There were two-fold objectives of the webinar:

- a) To promote world class knowledge among students
- b) To make the students aware of the technological advancement and its use in the pedagogy.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words) –

It was planned that the college will focus more on webinars than physical seminars. A series of webinars were planned, which were undertaken throughout the academic year 2018-19. It was also decided that the webinars will be incorporated as one of the **Best Practices** by the college and also will be followed in the subsequent academic years as well.

An annual **international webinar was planned on ‘Organised Higher Academics in South Asia’** in which five collaborating HIEs and two participating HIEs were included. The collaborating HIEs were certain departments of Rajshahi University, Bangladesh, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, Ambedkar University, Delhi, Hyderabad University, and Viswa-Bharati University. Two undergraduate colleges under the University of Calcutta were also present as participating institutions. The attending participants from all these centres could attend the webinar and interact with the resource persons in real time through virtual mode.

Speakers from different parts of the world like Chicago University, Murdoch University, Australia and others were present as resource persons.

The entire event was funded by the ICSSR.

The national and regional webinars organised prior to it and thereafter were funded by the college.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words)

Since one of the aims of the webinar was to organise it in collaboration with other academic institutions, the greatest challenge was faced in terms of convincing other HIEs and funding agencies regarding webinars.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

The students and faculty members were introduced to the concept of webinars. They got an exposure to the world class academic exchanges and also, engaged with the required technologies.

7. Resources required – an internet enabled smart classroom, high speed internet connection, meeting apps like Zoom or Google Meet platforms.

Best Practice 2

1. Title of the practice – Sarsuna College Book Exhibition & Reading Circle

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words) –

Books are the basic requirement of every educational institution and a well-stocked library is one of its primary pre-requisites. Belonging to the semi-urban locality, there are hardly any top-class book stores in the locality and the students as well as teachers have to travel a long distance to procure books. The college library in this academic session took an initiative to organise a book exhibition in the college in which various publishers and book distributors participated.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words) –

This was a drive undertaken by the institution, to introduce the students and teachers to the newly published books in various disciplines, specially to adjust with the newly implemented syllabi of different subjects under Choice Based Credit System.

The students got an opportunity to interact with the book distributors and publishers.

One of the objectives of this practice was also to promote local book distributors of this semi-urban area and make them acquainted with students and teachers.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words) –

Interested publishers and book distributors were identified and were invited to the college to display their collections. Along with books in core academic disciplines, books on other general topics and for light reading were also included. A part of the library premises was used for displaying the books.

Both the college staff members as well as the students had access to the book fair throughout the day. This allowed the students and teachers of each discipline jointly discuss about their book requirements.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

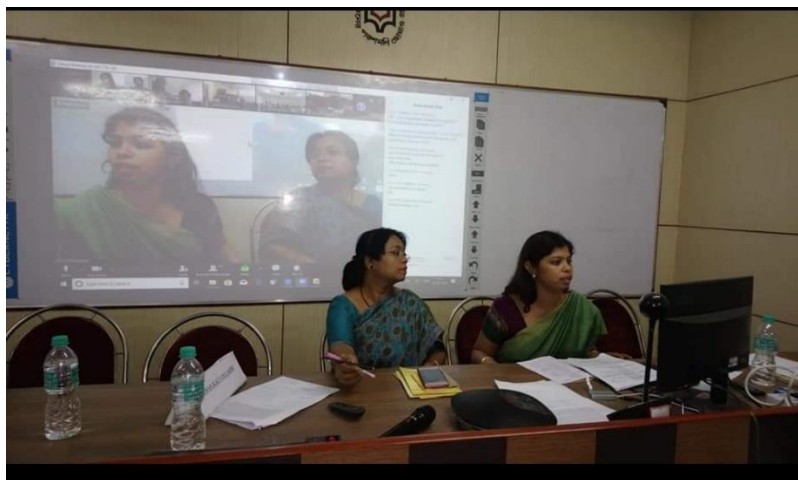
Students were encouraged to inculcate better reading habits.

This book exhibition and reading circle brought forth the need to organise a Book Fair in college premises so that both individual as well as library purchases can be made to adjust to the newly implemented CBCS syllabus in all subjects.

Departmental purchases to be made easier as there were a number of available options to choose from if a book fair be organised. It was tentatively planned that a BOOK FAIR will be held in 28th-29th August, 2019.

7. Resources required – a space for display, interested publishers and book distributors, tables to display books.

BEST PRACTICE 1: INTRODUCING WEBINARS IN OUR COLLEGE



BEST PRACTICE 2: SARSUNA COLLEGE BOOK EXHIBITION & READING CIRCLE

