

Best Practice 1

Empowered to Serve:

Programme for Awakening Social Conscience among Student Teachers

Objectives

- To become sensitive to the problems /issues in the society
- To generate a sense of responsibility or concern for the problems and injustices of society
- To identify ones role, rights, duties and responsibilities in the society
- To develop knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes in order to become engaged citizens who can help in addressing the pressing challenges of today
- To discover and develop one's own social conscience
- To treat everyone with human dignity and to acknowledge the necessity to share
- To provide opportunities to serve others/society
- To help students to grow into individuals who care for others and sensitive to the difficulties others may face
- To help students to become more self-reliant and cooperative.
- To develop cardinal relationships between students and society.
- To promote inter-cultural and inter-religious harmony and communion
- To foster inter-connectedness, kinship and eco-justice.
- To inculcate social responsibility and compassion to human suffering among students
- To encourage student teachers to become an asset to the entire community.
- To promote a college/ community where spiritual, moral and genuine human values are lived and witnessed.
- To be concerned with the welfare of the marginalized and socially disadvantaged
- To promote spiritual, moral and genuine human values

The Context

Mount Carmel College of Teacher Education for Women, Kottayam, envisions a life-oriented education that empowers the student teachers through a humanizing and liberative process to contribute to the transformation of society through openness to reality as well as to undertake the challenges of being socially conscious and socially responsible. The thrust of the programme **Empowered to Serve** is to establish a 'civilization of love' as envisaged and promoted by our foundress, Mother Teresa of St. Rose of Lima.

The Practice

Regular visits to Abhaya Bhavan- home for destitutes. National /international days of importance were celebrated. Food fest was organised to raise funds for charity. Tailoring class

for marginalized women was conducted. Community Extension programme in the six villages of Kottayam district was organised in collaboration with World Vision. Social visits to special Schools, old age homes were done. Students rendered assistance to the flood relief camps. Clothes, bed sheets and food materials were supplied to school students affected with flood. Service is rendered to Ashraya charitable trust - rehabilitation centre for patients of Kottayam Medical College. Value education classes and Self defense training were arranged occasionally for student teachers.

The institution collaborated with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Hyderabad, under Ministry of Education, Government of India and participated in the Vocational Education Nai Talim Experimental Learning (VENTEL) Action Plan. Various activities under the sub themes Vocational Education, Self-Reliance activities, Swachtha and Health Related & Community Engagement activities were planned and implemented.

The institution organized a one week online Summer Camp ESPERANTO for the inmates of Children's Home under the care of Carmelite Sisters of St. Teresa. 86 girls belonging to 8 children's home from 5 districts of Kerala participated in the camp. The camp extended for 5 days at a scheduled time from 7.30 am to 9am daily. The participants were divided into 6 groups about 10 student teachers were in charge of each group. The camp was made active and participatory with orientation classes, life skills training, action songs, quizzes, language games, awareness classes, handicrafts, cooking tips, physical exercises, journal writing etc.

ESPERANTO is an innovative and adaptive programme, which was designed to help girls feeling supported, safe and healthy during the pandemic. By using digital tools and online platforms the summer camp supported girls to remain engaged and connected with others. This camp helped girls to combat feelings of isolation and disconnects during lockdown and offered safe, girl-friendly spaces, supporting them to develop new skills, continue learning, and stay connected with their peers. The activities, lessons and competitions across a variety of topics, were helpful in developing self-confidence and life-skills in the participants.

Evidence of Success

The students actively participated in the food fest and the fund raised was used to distribute food and toiletries for the inmates of old age homes as well as to distribute bed sheets, food materials and clothes for the school students affected with flood. Weekly visits to Abhaya Bhavan- a destitute home, community extension programme and tailoring classes for the marginalized etc. generated compassion towards human suffering among student teachers. Participation in various activities as part of VENTEL action plan gave an opportunity to the student teachers to prepare cotton face masks, hand wash, reusable cotton She pads, Kitchen garden, kitchen waste/garden waste composting etc. Swachatha activities and free tuition for the school students were also conducted. The experiences received through VENTEL AP empowered the student teachers to transfer the acquired skills to the next generation. The online Summer camp

ESPERANTO was very successful and the student teachers who lead the camp could strengthen their own personal and professional skills thus becoming mentors within their communities. Based on the enthusiasm and interest shown by the participants as well as the feedback received, it was decided to conduct the summer camp annually.

Problems encountered and Resources required

Financial constraints proved to be problematic in carrying out the extension activities to the expected extend. The presence of women students alone posed many restrictions in the conduct of extension activities. Tight schedule of the B.Ed/M.Ed programmes as well as network connectivity issues also affected the efforts of the institution in awakening Social Conscience among Student Teachers.

Best Practice 2

Ambassadors of Change:

Mission to leverage the power of education for a better tomorrow

Objectives

- To educate, enlighten and encourage student teachers to become change agents
- To improve the capacity of student teachers to provide quality education
- To cultivate a climate for human and academic excellence
- To ensure empowerment among individuals through the development of professional competencies and skills
- To help every student teacher to become the person who is fully equipped and inclined to change the world
- To provide opportunities for student teachers to leverage the power of education to create a positive change among children
- To institute plans for providing free education for the disadvantaged sections of the society
- To develop linkages between schools / institutions to provide educational opportunities for children.
- To help student teachers identify that teaching is not merely a profession, but a responsibility.
- To help student teachers to understand the multi-faceted teacher's role that goes beyond teaching, and involves playing diverse roles to shape a child's learning, achievement, and behaviour.
- To evolve as a teacher who touch the lives of the students and make a difference.

The Context

In line with the vision and mission of the institution, the programme **Ambassadors of Change** was envisaged and initiated to leverage the power of education for a better tomorrow. The institution helps the student teachers to grow in the conviction that to

‘educate’ is a vocation. It aims to provide quality integral education to promote a climate for human and academic excellence with openness to learning, research, and the development of professional skills, so that work towards the empowerment of persons and transformation of society will be fostered.

The Practice

UGC career oriented Add on Certificate courses in Counsellor training and Computer application and Diploma course in computer applications, Online Teacher Training Programme, value added programmes, yoga workshop, personality development classes, communicative English class, Financial Literacy class, campus placement etc were conducted for the student teachers. Several orientation classes, awareness talks, webinars seminars and workshops are conducted. Student teachers participate in several intercollegiate competitions and even participated in seminars/webinars organized by other institutions. Several online training sessions were organized for the student teachers to incorporate digital technologies effectively in the teaching learning process. Students successfully complete massive open online courses offered by SWAYAM and other similar platforms.

Communicative English class and free tuition were arranged by the student teachers for the marginalized school students. Carmel Fest- Inter School competitions for school students are conducted every year. An online course in Video content creation helped the students to become proficient in using various video content creation tools and editing softwares available for laptops and smartphones.

Mount Carmel College of Teacher Education for Women collaborated with Coursera and initiated MCCTE- COURSERA learning programme to provide opportunity for the students and public to gain access to various courses and to secure MOOC certificates free of cost during the time of Covid -19 pandemic. MCCTE - Coursera programme offered 4547 courses of worldwide prestigious universities at no cost. The programme was initiated in July 2020 and lasted until December 31, 2020. Initially 1500 free student licenses were available and 1500 learners across the globe enrolled for various courses and obtained certification successfully.

The institution decided to extend its support to Sr. Alphonsa UP School, Chenamattom, a school which did not have sufficient number of teachers. For the last two years, our student teachers took the responsibility to teach the students and regular online classes were arranged in different subjects.

Evidence of Success

The several awareness classes, value added courses, training programmes etc. enlightened the student teachers and helped them in their journey towards academic excellence. Disadvantaged students benefitted a lot from the classes conducted for them by the student teachers. MCCTE- COURSERA learning programme provided opportunity for the students and public to gain access to various courses and to secure MOOC certificates free of cost during Covid -19

pandemic. The feedback received from the learners enrolled for COURSERA programme highlights the right step made by the institution in providing an access to quality education during the pandemic. Webinars, online courses and training programmes equipped the student teachers to effectively integrate technology in their teaching learning process. The online classes conducted for the students of Sr. Alphonsa UP School for the last two years accelerated the efforts of the institution to help student teachers understand that teaching is not merely a profession, but a responsibility.

Problems encountered and Resources required

Problems related to internet connectivity were a hindrance for student teachers in their online pursuit for academic excellence during Covid-19 Pandemic. The uncertainty posed by the pandemic delayed the commencement of classes and affected the successful implementation of academic initiatives planned for student teachers and for children in need. Lack of digital gadgets and proper internet connection among school students was a challenge many a times in providing free online classes.