



INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

GANJAM COLLEGE, GANJAM

Best practices

The college adheres to the 4I & 1D Model, which involves identifying, implementing, institutionalizing, internalizing, and disseminating best practices.

Best Practice 1:

Title of the Practice: Mentoring System Mechanism (MSM)

1. Objectives:

The mentor system is designed to support the overall growth of students throughout their college experience. Additionally, it seeks to keep parents/guardians updated on their children's academic advancement, enabling them to provide proper guidance.

2. The Context

The mentorship program necessitates ongoing engagement between students and mentors. At the start of each semester, mentors and students should convene to outline semester objectives and review the student's previous academic performance. Meetings between mentors and students are required both before and after internal assessment tests to evaluate the student's progress and address any challenges they may be facing. Each faculty member in the department will serve as a mentor and will be responsible for a group of students as devised by the Head of the Department, providing guidance and support to empower students in making decisions and building self-confidence beyond their academic pursuits.

3. The Practice

Upon arriving at the campus, each student is paired with a dedicated faculty member who serves as their mentor throughout their time at the college. The mentor's role encompasses guidance, support, and serving as a positive influence and advisor for the student. For many students hailing from different regions, adjusting to life away from home can be a challenge, and the mentor plays a crucial role in assisting them to acclimate to campus life. Additionally, parents who may initially feel uneasy about their child being away from home can communicate with the mentors to stay informed about their child's progress and well-being. As students progress through their college journey, they will encounter various choices such as selecting elective courses, pursuing job placements, and engaging in extracurricular activities, all of which the mentor can offer guidance on.

4. Evidence of Success

The college mentors have been instrumental in supporting the students, and feedback from both parents and students indicates that the mentorship system has significantly contributed to the successful completion of courses. Parents have expressed appreciation for the regular updates on their children's progress. The positive outcomes of this approach include improved attendance, better campus discipline, respectful teacher-student relationships, increase in academic achievement, and a reduction in dropout rates. Furthermore, this approach has enhanced students' employability and their enrollment in higher education.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The Mentor System Mechanism (MSM) requires regular updates on student activities, grades, and attendance. Sometimes, students are unable to communicate their issues, making it challenging for mentors to encourage them to open up. Despite all efforts, there are instances where the system fails to meet its objectives, leading to student dropouts or exam fail. Due to academic pressures, faculty lacks the time and ability to drive the implementation for optimal results. This underscores the need for further improvements to achieve better overall results.

Through this approach, the college has successfully managed its operations across various stages, attracting students mostly from rural areas with open-minded viewpoints, giving the institution a unique global appeal. Despite differences in background, the students are united by their pride in being part of this esteemed institution, overcoming the challenges and barriers present in their academic pursuit.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES:

Sl. No.	Programmes	Description
1.	Mentor-Mentee Meetings	Mentor-mentee meetings are regular sessions between a mentor and their mentee to discuss progress, goals, and challenges. These meetings are held once in every month in which Departments notify the students well in advance about the date, time and place of the meeting. Mentees are encouraged to discuss various academic as well other issues with their mentors and then later takes up these issues to the principal. They discuss any challenges or obstacles the mentee is facing and brainstorm solutions together..
2.	Career Counselling Programmes	Mentors facilitate Career Counselling Programmes through which the mentees gain first-hand knowledge about different career options in both Government and Non-Govt. sectors. This helps

		<p>them learn about job market trends and industry requirements as also make informed decisions about their future career path.</p>
3.	<p>Juba Sanskar Programmes</p>	<p>Mentors facilitate Juba Sanskar Programmes for the mentees which fosters a culture of social responsibility, patriotism, and character building among them. The program's objectives include Inculcation of values like discipline, respect, and empathy while promoting patriotism and national pride among the students. These programmes are aimed to shape students into not only successful but responsible, empathetic, and socially conscious individuals who can make a positive impact in society.</p>
4.	<p>Communication Skill Development</p>	<p>Mentors collaborate with the Department of English for communication skill development among the mentees. Effective communication skill development is essential for students to succeed in academics, career and personal life. Skill Enhancement Compulsory Course is designed to enhance the communication skill among the students. Students are taught aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication and trained for Group Discussion, Presentations, Interviews, Active Listening, Leadership and others skills.</p>
5.	<p>Community Outreach Programmes</p>	<p>Mentors encourage their mentees to volunteer in community outreach programmes in collaboration with NSS, NCC and YRC wings of the college. As a result of this effective mentorship programme, students volunteer in Beach Clean Programmes, Plantation drive, social awareness rallies, Blood Donation drive, electoral literacy campaign and others. By organizing Street Plays they spread awareness on social issues like child marriage, female foeticide, migrant labour, AIDS, human trafficking and others. By participating in Community Outreach Programs, students can become active citizens, develop valuable skills, and make a meaningful impact in their communities.</p>

6.	Disaster Management	Developing disaster management skills among students is crucial for building resilient communities. The college and its peripheral area are prone to cyclonic storms. Hence, mentors facilitate their mentees to learn Disaster Management skills such as each as First Aid, disaster risk reduction strategies, such as mitigation, preparedness, and adaptation. The institution reviews and updates disaster management plans and skills primarily through its curriculum which is a part of Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC) to ensure students are prepared for evolving disaster scenarios.
7.	Electoral Literacy Programmes	Mentors support the mentees in taking part in Electoral Literacy Programmes conducted by the Electoral literacy Club of the college. These programmes are aimed to educate and empower the students to participate in the democratic process, teach students the fundamentals of democracy, voting systems, and electoral processes. Students are educated on voter registration processes and encouraged them to register to vote while keeping them informed about electoral laws, rights, and responsibilities. It also inculcates among them critical thinking about political issues, candidates, and policies.
8.	Student Feedback System	A Feedback System for students is essential to help them track their progress, identify areas for improvement, and develop a growth mindset. Every year IQAC of the college collects feedback from students on curriculum implementation, teaching-learning-evaluation, infrastructure, learning resources, student support programmes etc. Mentors encourage the mentees to respond with constructive feedback that can help the institution identify patterns and areas for improvement, empowers the students to take ownership of their learning, fosters a culture of continuous improvement, and supports academic success.

Best Practice 2:

Title of the Practice: Identification and conservation of flora and fauna within the campus and the community

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE:

The primary goal of this practice is to protect and preserve various plant and animal species within and around the college campus, provide natural habitat for the flora and fauna to flourish, reduce carbon footprint, use the campus to teach students about conservation, enhance campus beauty, foster a conservation mindset towards the environment, and cultivate the necessary skills to address environmental issues and challenges.

THE CONTEXT:

Given the growing ecological concerns, it is crucial to take immediate actions to promote eco-friendly practices. The college has initiated several programs aimed at reducing the carbon footprint while preserving the flora and fauna some of which are unique to this geographical area. The college campus with its lush greenery serves as a natural habitat to the flora and fauna which thrive here without any hindrance.

THE PRACTICE: Students of the Departments of Botany and Zoology have taken the initiative to identify and document the floral and faunal species existing within the campus supported by NSS and YRC volunteers. These Departments have created Conservation Plans to protect and preserve the identified species and their habitat within and around the campus. Student volunteers regularly monitor and maintain preserved areas to ensure their health and biodiversity. Our goal is to create a campus green space network by connecting preserved areas to create a larger, cohesive ecosystem.

The Coastal Ecosystem within which the college is situated offers the students the unique opportunity of observing and taking part in the conservation of rare species including the estuarine, the marine, the riverine and the lagoon ecosystem and the migratory birds that flock to the locality during winter

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS: By regularly planting trees, we've enhanced the natural beauty and wildlife, especially the bird population within our campus. In addition, our students and staff motivate the community to conserve environment through different awareness programme. This has transformed our campus into an eco-friendly environment. Using signboards and display boards, we've raised awareness about creating a plastic-free campus. By implementing these best practices, our college community has become more conscious of various environmental issues. Additionally, we've made our campus more peaceful and less polluted by prohibiting vehicles for students.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCE REQUIRED: Taking on green campus initiatives can be quite challenging, requiring determination and a long-term commitment from all stakeholders. acknowledge. Lack of budgetary provision for conservation efforts, restoration of habitat etc. in addition to trained staff and students are the chief impediments behind the

success of this practice. Lack of awareness regarding conservation is another problem encountered while implementing this practice.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES AND PROGRAMMES:

Sl. No.	Programmes	Description
1.	Observation of Environmental Awareness Days	The college observes Earth Day (April 22), World Environment Day (June 5), World Water Day (March 22), Van Mahotsav (1st Week of July) and other such days in order to create environmental awareness among the students who spread the message in the community. These days are observed through events, campaigns, workshops, and activities that promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices among students, staff, and faculty.
2.	Campus Biodiversity Conservation	The college campus plays a significant role in promoting biodiversity conservation, serving as hubs for education, research, student and community engagement. Students of the college take initiative to identify, protect and conserve the native plant, animal, bird, insect and reptile species. This effort includes habitat conservation and restoration of degraded habitats and ecosystems. Two ponds of the college have been restored due to the conservation effort of the students.
3.	Plantation Drive	A plantation program in a college campus can be a fantastic way to promote biodiversity, sustainability, and community engagement. This programme is aimed at enhancing campus biodiversity and educating students and staff about environmental conservation and increased green cover. Through this plan, number of trees has been increased and the natural landscape within the college has been maintained. Guest are received with saplings which they plant in the college campus.
4.		Rushikulya Rookery which is the hatching place of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles of Purunabandha is situated near our college. As a

	Olive Ridley Conservation	result, students of the Department of Zoology take active part in the conservation of the species by protecting its eggs from human and animal predators. They assist the villagers and Forest Department personnel in protecting the turtles, their eggs and habitat during the egg laying and hatching season.
5	Wetland Conservation & Wetland Mitra	Students of the Department of Zoology and staff visited Tampara Wetland (recently declared as "Ramsar site") under the auspices of DFO, Southern Forest range, Berhampur to aware and preserve species of environmental concern of wetland area. They were also named as Wetland Mitra and well trained to preserve flora and fauna of that site.
6	Beach Cleaning & Sagar Mitra	Student volunteers of the college participated in the beach cleaning drive under the scheme Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Abhiyan and Puneet Sagar Abhiyan as Sagar Mitra. Students joined in the clean up drive of Bateswar beach, Podampeta beach and Kantiagada beach. Student volunteers in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard cleaned sea shores of plastic & other waste material, while raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness.
7.	Environmental Education and Disaster Management	Environmental Education and Disaster Management course is compulsory for all the U.G. students of the college. It is a part of Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course(AECC) that helps equip students with knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges and mitigate disaster impacts. This course explores the intersection of environmental education and disaster management, focusing on sustainable practices, risk reduction, and community resilience.


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