

Best Practice:01

Title of the Practice:

Online Lecture series for Post-Graduate Students of M.A. English and BA students

Objectives of the practice:

Covid 19 pandemic was the hardest time our generation has witnessed. Many sectors hit rock bottom during the pandemic. The education sector too suffered significantly as offline teaching was called off as a preventative measure to curb the pandemic. Teaching – learning process had become almost impossible. The major aim of the activity was to facilitate teaching–learning to prevent academic loss of the students so as keep their morale fiber high even during the trying time. Inspired by the concept ‘the teachers pay the teacher’s this collaborative academic endeavor aimed at exchange of faculty in various affiliated colleges of the university and promote collective welfare of student community of the involved institution in particular and the whole university in general.

The Context:

The wind of the Digital India Initiative reached its apogee during Covid and this wind of change travelled through to restored time off course not without drastic and sweeping changes in the field of academia. The incumbent government left no stone unturned to reach the poorest of the poor, and even remotest of the remote areas to cater to the digital needs of the students. The underlying principle of this is to to strengthen digital exchange of ideas and accelerate digital India initiatives in Higher Education. The aim of educators and various HRDC’S is to promote online teaching learning so as to improve the quality and standard of education and develop efficiency and effectiveness of teaching learning process. In compliance with government policy, the institute’s Department of English organized online lecture series on the prescribed syllabus of RTMNU, MA English and BA Compulsory English as well as English Literature in collaboration with various colleges.

The Practice:

The Department of English of the institute in collaboration with the department of Englishes of colleges namely Rajkumar Kewalramni Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaripatka, Nagpur, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur, R.S.Mundle Dharampeth Arts and Commerce College, Nagpur,

J.M.Patel college, Bhandara and Manoharrao Kambdi, College, Nagpur. Although it had contribution of many esteemed faculties who worked as conveners ,organizing secretaries, members of organizing secretaries, Dr, Singhel, an incumbent IQAC co-ordinator of the institute, played the most significant of holding the threads together and marshaling the action towards desired goal. Various teaching faculties in the subject from the affiliated institution of the university were invited to teach the paper of their choice and expertise. Students from more than 50 colleges took active participation.

The duration of one PG and UG lecture was two and one hour respectively in which each faculty tried to cover one unit. The questions and queries of the students were addressed at the end of each lecture. The recorded lecture were streamed online on J,M Patel College, Bhandra's You Tube channel. The posted video amassed significant amount of viewership, many of them crossing viewership of five thousand during a short span of time. What makes it more special is that students and literary enthusiasts from other universities of the state also viewed and dropped positive words about the novel concept.

With the coming of MOOC,the education sector witnessed sweeping and drastic changes in education sector. MOOCs are a recent trend in distance education. Massive open online courses are predicated on scale efficiency, allowing thousands of students to simultaneously receive the lectures of a world-class professor. The lectures, assessments, and activities for a course, particularly an online course, as well as the professor's experience behind the content, are not cheap and, in many cases, are unique to a single university. Online free Education Apps like Coursera, Udemy and many more such platform GOT mushroomed across India. Government of India sponsored SWAYAM extended its scope and possibility to enter in new dawn of education . The corroborative endeavor organized by the institute was driven to the cause of implementing and amplifying the government policy for Utopian education set up in India wherein students coming out of Indian universities should be able compete and shine globally.

Evidence of Success

This collaborative academic initiative experienced a positive reception in academic circle within the city and beyond. In addition to the collaborating colleges for the noble academic endeavour, other college students had also actively participated in the event and got

benefited. Many of them passed with flying colours and a few of them turned out to be meritorious. More than 500 students attended online lectures and a significant number of the students accessed the recorded lectures on You Tube. The said initiative was path show to many colleges and institution. Taking inspiration from this academic activity many other affiliated colleges of RTMNU, Nagpur University and other state universities also organized online lecture series in the said and other UG and PG subjects of the respective universities.

Problems Occurred and Resources Required:

1. Due to poor network connection or no network, students who were staying in villages had to travel to the city or nearby network place just to attend the lectures.
2. As many students were novices in using the online platform, many of them kept their audios and videos on mute mode which resulted in technical glitches and inconvenience for others.
3. The collaborating institution had to purchase a ZOOM package for conducting online lectures.
4. Many of the participating students were of the opinion that they missed human touch and face to face interaction. In their opinion, the classroom teaching is more lively and caters to the need of education i.e. edutainment, whereas the offline lectures were dry and lifeless discourses resulted in boredom and there was no significant value addition let alone improved quality and standard of education.