

Best Practice:#1

1. Title of the practice: **Active learning with advanced teaching tools**

2. Objectives of the practice:

- To make teaching-learning more interesting so as to reduce dropouts
- To develop an independent thinking skill
- Learn to take accountability for one's work
- Feel recognized for one's activity
- To build up a career for the future

3. The context:

Most of the students of Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan, come from economically and educationally backward regions. To encourage them to pursue their studies, promote them to higher education, and stand them out in a competitive job market, a new teaching-learning method using advanced tools is introduced.

4. The Practice:

- Project-based learning: In this pedagogy, students acquire a deeper knowledge through the exploration of a subject. Students learn to design, develop, and construct hands-on solutions to a problem.
- Creative learning: Students are encouraged to learn subjects of their own choice apart from memorizing information from syllabi
- Use of ICT-based education and Smart classrooms: Smart classrooms are used to increase student's learning appetite, and improve the quality of learning. Digital classes are taken regularly as per routine by all departments
- Basic computer classes are introduced routine-wise for general stream students.
- Introduction of Add-On course: All sixteen departments have arranged add-on courses to add extra information apart from the university curricula.

5. Evidence of success:

- More than 80% of students opted for higher studies. A large number of student got various government and non-government jobs.
- Pass percentage increased, drop outs decreased, students got higher grade in University level examinations,
- Eight ICT-enabled smart class rooms have been set up in the institution. Attendance has Increased in digital classes.
- Students became acquainted with PPT and other computer-aided techniques.

6. Problems encountered and Resources required: We have not developed sixteen ICT-enabled rooms for all sixteen departments due to inadequate funds and insufficient class rooms. We have had to share the smart classrooms until now.

Creative learning is sometimes affected as the students have to appear for six-semester examinations in due time.

7. Notes:

Students of nearby institutions have joined add-on courses arranged by all sixteen departments of this institution and have benefitted. It would be helpful if some basic laboratory-based hands-on experiments were included as a topic of Add-On Courses. But it demands funding.

Best Practice:#2

1. Title of the practice: **Maintaining reciprocity between teacher and student**

2. Objectives of the practice:

Building a reciprocal relationship between teacher and student is crucial for creating a supportive and inclusive environment for students in colleges. Our objective is to develop a good teacher-student relationship, which is considered one of the most powerful predictors of student development, learning, and well-being.

3. The context:

The region surrounding Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan, is economically challenged. Most of the students are first-generation learners. Lack of proper guidance and motivation in studies leads them to become superstitious, fundamentalist, and even dropouts. So, it is our responsibility to orient the students in studies, behavior, and other aspects of life.

4. The practice:

- A mentor/ mentee program is conducted every year in all sixteen departments, especially with challenged learners. This program bridges the gap between faculty and students. Through mentoring, we provide mental support, guidance, and, in some cases, financial support.
- Student feedback is collected every year in all departments, and the results are sent to the respective teacher for his/her consideration.
- In laboratory departments, teachers interact more with students
- Some departments organize field trips that enhance the interaction of students with teachers
- Departmental exhibitions are held every year as a part of the annual cultural program where the teachers and students work together as a team and try their best

5. Evidence of success:

- The number of dropouts was reduced, a large number of mentally challenged learners got success
- Student feedback results not only motivate the teachers but also encourage them to improve further
- In the laboratory departments, students used to help teachers to maintain equipment in proper order, help their juniors while doing experiments

6. Problems encountered:

In a few cases, the mentor/mentee incident is very time—and energy-consuming. Either the mentor or mentee or both loses patience, and the relationship becomes unproductive.

Sometimes students are motivated by some external factors while taking unfortunate feedback.

7. Notes

The institution has signed 25 MoUs with other institutions and societies. Faculty exchange programs are conducted under those MoUs, where the students interact with other teachers, which will improve their careers and lives holistically.

Though the institution has a low student-teacher ratio, no students have launched grievances to date.

An excellent reciprocal relationship between teacher and student exists in this institution.