

BEST PRACTICES : AY 2021-22

BEST PRACTICE: 1

TITLE: ALUMNI CONTRIBUTION FOR STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT & SOCIAL OUTREACH

Objectives:

- To create awareness among the students and general public on various socio-legal issues.
- To encourage interaction between alumni of the institution, legal aid cell members, MoU partners, general public and students.
- To train the students in order that they develop the qualities of presentation and communication, and to inculcate self confidence amongst them.
- To bring about excellence of the institution such that it is at par with other national and international institutions

The Context:

The interaction between the institution and its alumni is encouraged and continuous efforts are being made to keep the alumni association vibrant. Towards this end the institution plans and organizes various activities and programs. The Institution believes in uplifting the student community from rural and underprivileged areas and hence conscious attempts are made to bring out the learners' potential by developing skills and honing the talents. Students are encouraged to use their legal knowledge and create awareness by organizing talks, skits, street plays, debates, discussions, seminars and other related activities at regular intervals.

Some of the alumni hold important positions like bureaucrats, judges, legal entrepreneurs, public prosecutors, law enforcement officers and other positions of eminence . The alumni in association with the institution hold numerous webinars, competitions, training and other related activities in the best interest of the students. Through the alumni there are a lot of outreach activities that are conducted. These activities help uproot misconceptions about the legal system and its administration of justice and also create a culture of self-learning and improvement not only among students but also among the teaching staff thereby bringing about academic excellence in their performance.

The Practice:

The institution has played an active role in bringing its alumni within the institutional circle. Alumni are appointed as the mentor for each of the 21 Legal Aid Cells in the institution. Under the guidance and instructions of the teacher in-charge and the alumni mentor the legal aid cell carries out various activities. The students are trained and prepared to conduct activities like presentations, skits, street plays, etc. using Higher Secondary Schools in Goa as a platform to reach out to society.

A series of webinars are organized by the institution wherein the alumni are the resource persons. Numerous topics of socio-legal importance and other current topics with criminal or constitutional related subjects are dealt with by the alumni in these webinars. These series of webinars cover some of the sensitive topics related to the adverse consequences of the pandemic on society. Audio visual and PowerPoint Presentations are made on researched topics. While choosing the topics, there is more focus on socio-legal issues so that the students are involved in society at an early stage and efforts are taken for sensitization. This practice enables students to be more receptive to what is taught in class and drives them to learn and research more, taking enthusiastic initiatives about the concerned issues and learning better as they spread awareness.

The institution invites resource persons from various organisations like *Sakhi* One Stop Centre, *Bailancho Ekvott*, etc to create awareness which is made available for the target audience. Social organisations have awarded the institution, staff and students for various social outreach programmes and other related activities conducted by the institution.

The alumni have volunteered towards judging various competitions conducted by the institution. Some alumni are also involved in training and actively guide the students for various competitions. Besides, they also contribute towards facilitation of internships. Most of the final year students from the institution carry out their internship training in the chambers of alumni. Further, they interact with them and share their practical experience and knowledge.

The alumni of the institution also assisted the learners in providing guidance for preparation towards National competitions such moot court, client counseling and negotiation. Other assistance such as sponsoring trophies, certificates, special cash prizes, refreshments and other support to the students is also provided by them.

Evidence of Success:

The initiative taken by the institution was well taken by students and the general public. The alumni felt connected and were delighted to contribute towards this end, as well as the students who benefited immensely from this initiative and gained insights into the socio legal topics under discussion through webinar series, training programmes, master classes etc.

Many successful programmes and activities are conducted by the institution in association with the Alumni.

National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) in collaboration with Goa State Legal Services Authority and National Commission for Women also conducted legal awareness programmes wherein the alumni were instrumental in providing their expertise on various enactments such as Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (POSH) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and talks on empowerment of women. The students took up issues requiring legal assistance on their own as the alumni involvement boosted their confidence and gave them a sense of independence.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

While conducting these activities the institution faced certain challenges in obtaining permission from authorities for street plays, rallies and other such awareness activities. One more such challenge was regarding the travel expenditure of the students, all of whom are not able to afford the same. At times, there has been non-cooperation from some of the departments during Government office visits.

In taking up the initiative the alumni too faced problems as they were already preoccupied and therefore it was inconvenient for them to come to the institutional premises and therefore many such awareness programmes were conducted through virtual mode. In Spite of all the problems encountered most of the programmes were conducted with the available resources by the institution.

Notes:

Outreach activities through various platforms in addition to Alumni association such as Legal Aid, MoU partners and Centre for Counseling and wellness management, placement and entrepreneurship cell is a great initiative which can benefit many and which is going to be undertaken in the long run.

BEST PRACTICE: 2

TITLE : FACULTY ENRICHMENT MEASURES

Objectives of the Practice

- To promote research culture among the faculty, academic growth and to encourage the faculty for publications of research articles.
- Initiate discussions on various socio legal and other allied topics.
- To encourage the faculty to apply the knowledge acquired in writing research papers.
- To serve as a mode of training for improving the quality of teaching-learning.
- Orient the faculty on Participatory Methods in Research & Education and various other pedagogy.

3. The Context

This academic year the institution was instrumental in initiating two unique practices in the area of teaching learning namely 'Faculty Discussion Series,' and the Faculty Development Programmes.

Faculty discussion series provided a platform for teachers to present their ideas, views and generate discussion on socio legal topics of their choice. The discussion lasted for fifteen minutes which was followed by an interaction from the audience which were mainly the faculty of the institution. these topics ranged from family laws toto the

These issues were taken as they appeared challenging and required thorough insight in implementing the same. Although diverse views were put forth it initiated a system of discussion amongst those present.

There was a unique practice of circulating an abstract of the topic under discussion so that the participants could come well prepared and effectively take part in the same.

Faculty Discussion Series was initiated with the objective to inculcate research culture among the faculty and give them a platform to express their opinions on the pertinent topics not only socio-legal but other related topics as well. Thereafter the faculty was also encouraged to develop their research into a research paper suited for publication in recognised legal journals.

Another practice was to give utmost importance to Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) in the context of legal education. Towards this endeavour the institution this year organised a plethora of FDPs under various heads.

The aim was to make the learners (faculty) future ready in terms of the requirements of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP). Some of the FDPs were undertaken in association with the Directorate of Higher Education of the State of Goa, MIT School of Governance Pune.

4. The Practice

The institution actively organizes and conducts numerous activities and programs for the career orientation and development of teaching pedagogy of the faculty.

The research, development and innovation cell/ Research and Development Cell of the institution organized a series of faculty discussions for teaching staff. Some relevant and current topics covering various aspects were researched and presented by the staff. There was active deliberation and discussion carried out by them. Some suggestions arrived at such a forum were proposed for onward submission to the authorities and some were opined to be undertaken as research papers. Programme on participatory methods in research and education and outcome based programs were some of such initiatives by the institute.

Faculty development discussions programme that were conducted by the Institution - "Requirements of Legal Startups". Similarly Faculty Development Programme on "Outcome based education". Another such programme was conducted in association with MIT School of Government, Pune on "Participatory Methods in Research and Education." Teachers training programme was held on "Role and Responsibility of Mentor and Mentees".

5. Evidence of Success

The Faculty development programmes were aimed to provide faculty to develop their research and get their work published in recognised journals. As a consequence of this initiative most of the faculty successfully got their research papers published, presentations initiated at various national and international conferences and could confidently improve the delivery of their lectures in classrooms.

Helped Teachers in enhancing their research skills required for publication of papers. This initiative also helped equip the teachers in their self development. Results indicate overall progress in the research culture at the institution.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Availability of Resource persons at times becomes a challenge with respect to the dates, timing and other scheduling. Availability of all faculty members also at times becomes difficult as during the working hours they are mostly occupied with lectures and other active classroom related work. One of the FDP (viz, Requirements For Legal Startups) took time

for teachers to get familiarized with certain technical concepts and hence it became more time consuming. While implementing this practice there were internet connectivity issues as few FDPs were undertaken while the institution was still reeling from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

7. Notes (Optional)

The Institution makes conscious efforts to enhance the teaching, research and other important skills of the faculty. The faculty development programmes provide an opportunity to the faculty members to acquire knowledge about modern teaching methodologies and research methods.

In accordance with the vision and mission of the institution, it has been instrumental with aiming and providing the teaching staff with quality training and other support in terms of research. The Institution has adopted a mix and match teaching methodology by using lecture methods along with group discussion, case studies and cooperative teaching. For this purpose, the institution believes in the optimal utilization of technology and use of e-learning resources. Achieving the same specific training sessions and faculty development programmes that were conducted proved to be very beneficial.