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7.2 Best Practices

Best Practice-I

Title of the Practice: Konkankanya Scholarship Scheme for girl students to promote women education.

Objectives of the Practice:

- To encourage rural talent for the engineering field.
- To promote girls towards quality education.
- To balance the gender ratio in the institute.
- To provide equal opportunity for girls.

The Context:

Institute is located in a very rural area with poor education facilities available for students. However, there is so much hidden potential present in students which need to be promoted. By understanding the need for quality education with good infrastructure and other resources, our trust Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM) started this institute for the Konkan region at Velneswar. After serving for more than eight years we found that the number of girls students going for higher education and specifically for engineering field is very low. Hence to encourage better education and career opportunities for girl students in the Konkan region VPM announced a scholarship especially for girls who are willing to take admission for Engineering.

The Practice:

Considering the number of students enrolling for the engineering field at our institute for the last few years, the female to male ratio is very low.

To maintain the gender balance encouraging girl students was a necessity. Vidya Prasaram Mandal announced this year a special scholarship named 'Konkankanya Scholarship Scheme' for girls who are willing to take admissions at our institute. This scholarship provides financial support for girl students admitted in the first year of the engineering degree course. Under this scheme tuition fee of the student is waived off for the year irrespective of the category

of student. This scholarship is provided apart from the scholarships given under government schemes.

Evidence of Success: (200)

This year three girl students took admission and benefited from this scheme out of fifteen first-year admissions. We know that this number is not so much encouraging as expected even after launching this scheme. However, the changing mindset of people will take some time and hence we are keeping the long-term perspective. We are going to continue this practice for next year as well with positive expectations.

By considering this best practice college received an award for 'Best Institute' in Thane and Konkan region. This award was given by Zee Business and Top Gallant Media in the Iconic Education Summit and Awards 2021.



Problem Encounter and Resources Required: (150)

Announcing the Konkanya scholarship for girls was indeed a great proud for us but not enough to get the expected results. Wide publicity of the scheme is equally important. Moreover, the need of individual counselling of students and parents may yield more admissions.

Best Practice-II

Title of the Practice: Less-paper practice across the institute.

Objectives of the Practice:

- To inculcate the habit of green practices among all stakeholders.
- To reduce paper usage and help to save nature.
- To increase work efficiency by reducing paperwork.
- To encourage educators to use technology for communication over traditional methods.

The Context:

An education institute uses a ton of paper every year for various purposes. Knowingly reducing paper usage is probably the most important part of reducing deforestation and the ecological destruction caused by paper manufacturing. Institutes can make a massive contribution by becoming more conscious about reducing paper usage. Hence, we are inculcating this practice among all our stakeholders including students.

Lots of effort and time gets wasted daily of staff and faculty members to maintain various paper-based records. To store and search paper records is again tedious work. On the other hand, using, maintaining and searching records in soft copy is much easier and time-saving.

As technology is evolving educators also need to adopt the change and use new ways to communicate with other stakeholders. We always encourage our faculty, staff and students to use this technology for fast and effective communication.

The Practice:

Being an educational institution, we cannot reduce our paper usage to zero. However, the institute has initiated the practice of using less-papers on each front. The admission process of the college is online and at the college level also, we prepared in-house software for the enrolment of new students. Separate leave applications form for employees are now replaced with a single leave card which can be used throughout the year. Feedbacks from students, parents, alumina, faculty and staff are now taken online or through software at the college

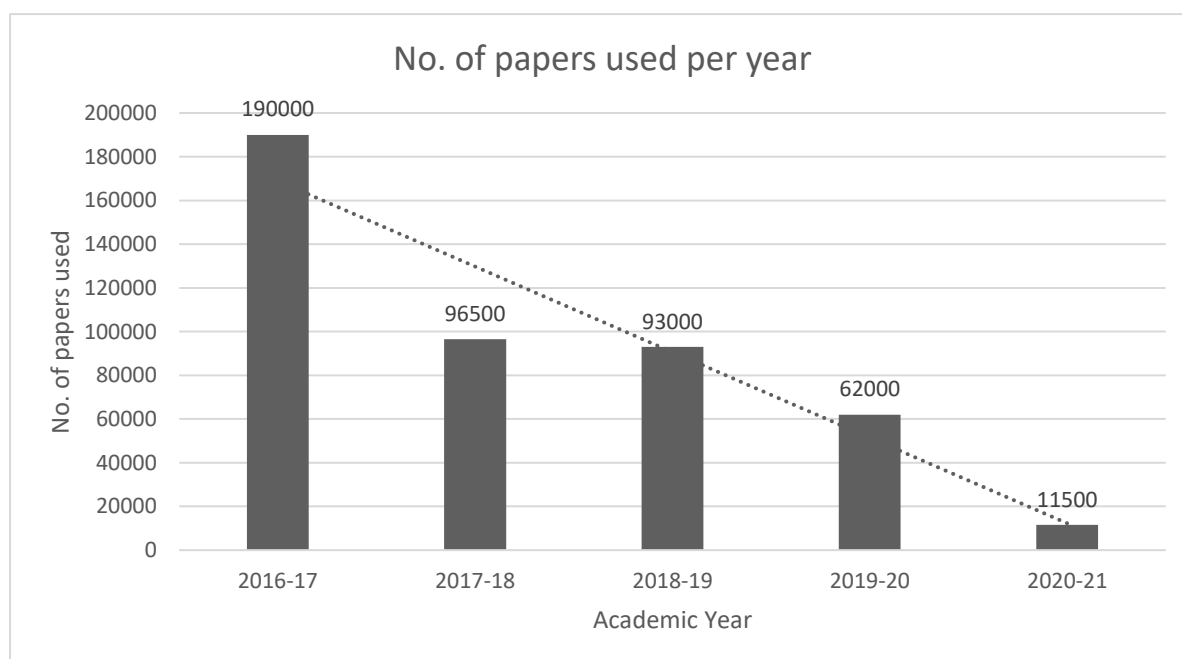
level. Because of the covid pandemic, most of the programs and events are conducted online and even e-certificates are issued to participants instead of paper-based certificates. Course notes are provided to students through LMS like Moodle, D-space or Google classroom. Institute has taken subscriptions for many online journals instead of hard copies. Moreover, our library provides soft copies for some of the books which can be accessible at any time.

The uniqueness of the practice is the support of technology. And being a technological institute, we are trying to use it wholly for supporting the practice.

One of the limitations of the practice is we cannot go entirely paperless hence we are continuously extending our efforts to go for less-paper practice.

Evidence of Success:

As we are continuously increasing our fields to reduce paper usage, the success of the practice can be observed easily. We also observed a significant reduction in paper usage compared to the last few years which can be seen in the graph below.



Problem Encounter and Resources Required:

For implementing this practice effectively, the involvement of all stakeholders is equally important. However, it should start with the top management and a well-defined policy should be made for the real noticeable change.

Support of technology is equally essential for extending the practice as much as possible. Moreover, training, as well as the support of technology to all stakeholders, may need to be provided. However, being a technological institute, we didn't encounter such difficulties to implement the practice.