Integrated Approach to Student Development

Context: Despite the constraints posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, we were committed to enhance our students' mental and emotional well-being besides maintaining the academic work. The lock downs resulted in technical and emotional challenges for teachers as well as for students. There were new challenges regarding teaching-learning online procedures and associated anxieties about future planning.

Objectives of the Practice: Our objective was to involve the students in different activities organized by various departments and societies in online mode. By this, the students were engaged, did not feel alienated, generated interests and developed a bond with the peer group, the teachers and the institution which they were not able to attend physically. Academic teaching was supplemented by host of programs throughout the year that involved students in creative and online co-curricular activities, maintaining the goal of their integrated development to a larger extent and provided an intellectually stimulating, creatively satisfying, and emotionally fulfilling experience to our students.

The Practice: The larger objective of the practice was to focus on the integrated development of students' personality. Multiple activities were organized to keep them involved. In the normal course, with focus on all round development of students, the college provided ample opportunities to students to nurture creative aspects of their personality. But once the lockdown was imposed, we began teaching online and evolved co-curricular activities through intermixed technologies for their active participation. Despite an atmosphere of gloom and hardship during the pandemic all around, the ZHDC community braved the challenges by rallying together utilizing technological advances. While online methods cannot be a substitute for traditional classroom teaching which is interactive, the online methods did open new horizons for the students and contributed towards upgrading their knowledge of ICT and building their professional skills.

Evidence of success:

- Microsoft Teams platform was utilized for Online teaching, and it was used for sharing digital resources like e-books, articles, web links and power point presentations. Screening of plays, documentaries, films, and other resources were utilized to make teaching- learning process more interactive and fun filled.

- Gandhi Study Circle of the College organized several activities with focus on students' welfare. "Gandhi Jayanti celebration" on 2nd October 2020, particularly focused on relaxing meditative sessions to let the audience understand the importance of meditation and its practice in these troubled times. They also conducted mind management classes every week to address the mental wellbeing of the students through Google Meet.

- Academic events like lectures, seminars, symposia, and workshops were organized by different departmental societies to widen the intellectual horizon of the students. Participation in creative competitions like digital art, quizzes, mono acts, photography added zest to students' daily routines in those difficult times of lockdowns.

- Orientation programs, fresher's welcome, and farewell functions during lockdown were organized using online platforms like Microsoft Teams, Google Meet or Zoom.

- A familiarization film about the college campus and its activities was shared with the freshers online during the orientation program.

- The organization of creative activities like music, dance, painting, and dramatics was also taken up in online mode by Arts and Culture society.

- The Department of physical education and sports organized online chess competition, and a webinar on yogic practices and principles for healthy living.

- Students of the college were connected to network of Electronic Membership of ZHDC library. Orientations and trainings were imparted to users to avail library services in fully automated mode using OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue), facilitating searching the required books, journals, reference materials from the available resources.

- Electronic resources were made available to all students via Delhi University Network, helped and assisted them in finding required documents/information for further readings and reference purposes.

- Special facilities were offered by the Library to the differently-abled students and faculty members. A facility of Lex Scanner, provided by the EOC of the University of Delhi for VH students, which converts text into voice, was made available.

- Delhi University Braille Library Membership was also provided to the visually challenged students, where they could get reading material both in Braille as well as audio format. The library subscribes to 3 magazines in Braille format for the use of such users.

- Book bank facility helped the students to borrow books for the whole year and this scheme was beneficial to the students especially from under-privileged backgrounds.

- The college offered facility of medical counseling to students free of charge.

- Students Aid Committee provided financial assistance to under-privileged students.

Problems Encountered:

- After an increase in the number of seats due to the implementation of EWS, the size of some classrooms is inadequate to accommodate students, posing a number of challenges for the time-table committee.

  - Due to the construction of the new building, the college has a space crunch for sports.

Resources Required:

- There is an urgent need to upgrade the infrastructural facilities so that teaching–learning exercise becomes smoother and a rewarding experience.

- ICT enabled smart classrooms with upgraded furniture is an absolute necessity.

- Requirement of Wi-Fi enabled smart classrooms since these are now a necessity for better utilization of vast ocean of e-resources, both for online and offline classes.

- Legal access to e- resources for teaching and student community is an urgent need.

- Adequate allocation of resources to departments and societies will facilitate better organization of events.

Best Practice II

Environment-Friendly Campus

Context: The College is a Green Campus. We have adopted a host of green practices in our everyday life to reduce wasteful consumption of water, electricity, and other resources. Our goal is to encourage sustainable living on college campus and motivate the students to imbibe these practices and follow them too in their personal lives, thereby becoming responsible citizens. Due to the outbreak of COVID 19 and the imposed lock downs, many activities were organized online for making students aware about the global and local environmental challenges and for their contribution towards improvement of our campus in particular and towards the society in general.

Objective of the Practice: With our commitment to inculcate environmental awareness, our aim was to build a culture of self-sustainability in our campus and encourage students to undertake new initiatives for sustainable solutions to environmental, social, and economic needs of mankind. There were cost saving benefits of going green at workplace and we incorporated these practices in our institutional planning with the aim of developing a clean and green campus.

The Practice: The College undertook several initiatives to build an environment friendly campus. There are dedicated societies like Aranya, the Nature and Environment Society, Parimandal, society of the Department of Environmental Studies, and the Garden and Greening Committee of the college, who organized activities and sensitized the students about the importance of the environment around them and the ways to keep it clean and pollution free. Although field experiences are far more satisfying, still to a larger extent we pivoted and accomplished our desired objectives.

Evidence of Success:

- The college has signed a contract with Azure Power Ltd for the installation of 50.22 KW solar panels on rooftops to fulfill its energy requirements. This green initiative by the college generated 84,803 units through solar power during this year.
- Chintan, an NGO in Delhi, was engaged to pick up the plastic and E-waste from the college campus.
- NES & Parimandal organized Sparrows Film Festival, an online festival on 3rd October 2020, on the theme "Each One, Protect One", to raise awareness concerning several ecological and environmental issues amongst students.
- The college has been running 'Handmade Paper Unit' for the last several years and regularly conducts workshops for the students and faculty to recycle wastepaper, in collaboration with an NGO, 'Jaagruti'. This year 1846.38 kgs of paper has been collected for recycling.
- The leaf litter and canteen kitchen waste of the college is recycled through vermicompost unit, making us self-sustainable towards the fertilizer requirements of the college gardens.
- Nature and Environment Society brought out an annual magazine 'Srishti' online, which motivates students to read and write on current environmental issues globally.
- NES started issuing regular updates about various environmentally important dates on

Social media platforms like their Facebook and Instagram pages from 15th June 2020, creating enormous enthusiasm amongst the students.

- NES organized a Poster and Quiz Competition on Ozone Day, and to mark the 35 years of success of Montreal Protocol from 15th to 23rd September 2020, via social media handles to create awareness in the masses.

- NES organized a virtual act to create awareness about permanent ban on firecrackers on 13th November 2020.

- NES organized a virtual plantation drive in collaboration with NSS and Gandhi Study Circle on 6th September 2020, with the theme 'Plant a Toxin Free Future' where participants planted saplings with medicinal properties in their balconies or nearby place so that they can nurture them too in time. Students sent a video clip of the same to its office.

- NES organized a water quiz on February 1st, 2021, to mark the World Wetland Day. The Garden and Greening Committee of the college won several awards at the 63rd Annual Flower Show organized by the University of Delhi on 5th March 2021, like Trophy for the Best Hanging Basket of Money Plant,' The Kirori Mal College Cup' for best Cactus collection and prizes for Rock Garden, Rose Garden, flowering potted plants arranged in a group, flowering and non- flowering potted plants arranged in a group.

- The college also won a prize in 'College Greening and Cleanliness' category.

- Mr. Parmanand, the senior-most gardener of the college was awarded 'Corona Warrior Mali' award by the University of Delhi for working tirelessly throughout the pandemic period.

Problems Encountered: As some of the open area is either under construction or taken over by the construction company, the area of nursery and playground for sports is reduced.

Resources Required: Being a green campus, and to undertake newer environmental projects, it is necessary to upgrade the existing facilities, and the college thus requires both physicalinfrastructure and financial support. We wish to develop a Green House Facility for maintaining rare and precious germplasm and need garden spaces to build plant nurseries.