Best Practices

Title 1: Developing Minds - Students National Seminar

Objectives

- to develop critical, analytical, and creative thinking skills
- to seed inquisitiveness in students
- to give a platform to students to present their work
- to build and support great and valuable talent
- to explore new research areas.
- to use and upgrade recent technology
- to showcase the talents of academic researchers
- to engage them in the process of acquiring knowledge , comprehending, Application Synthesis, Analysis, and evaluation
- to foster effective communication
- to deploy life skills

Content

Student's seminar is an intellectual platform to inculcate interpersonal and intrapersonal skills on many ways. Student's seminar has abundant benefits, including gaining expert's knowledge, networking with others, enhancing communication skills, renewing motivation, confidence and so on. This intellectual forum has been practised as a weekly seminar since 2013 on all Wednesdays. Student's seminar provides the way to endless possibilities for the students to showcase their unique skills and innovative ideas. Speaking at events and conferences is a good way of building credibility. Effective Students Seminar skills can help with career advancement, as they focus on creativity, critical thinking skills, leadership abilities, and professionalism which are very essential for the job market. The Students National Seminar (2015) has been unveiled to fulfil the aspirations of the innovative minds. In 2018, Multi-Disciplinary National Seminar was unveiled to impart amalgamation of knowledge. The energetic minds are actively involved in upgrading their skill set.

Practice

The Student's Seminar can significantly boost students' confidence. Furthermore, the blooming graduates get an opportunity to share the valuable insights and opinions to the world. The areas of focus for 1st year students are overcoming the fears and insecurities, breaking the inhibition, build confidence and to speak out their views and so on. Students' confidence levels will grow as they go from speaking to small groups of people up to large audiences. The student will come out of nervesnous and learn to deal with students' fears and turn students' weakness into strength. Mentors and other facilitators assist them to refer reviews of various research articles and also guide them to develop ideas relevant to current scenarios. Preparing for a seminar requires a great deal of careful thought, this learning process captures the imagination and creation of students. Through this process the blooming graduates gain experience in analysing the concepts and exhibit in presentation.

Students Seminar is a brilliant way to build critical thinking skills. The second-year students could choose their area of interest for presentation. Preparing for a seminar requires a great deal of careful thought, from the audience analysis to the closing sentence they could access various research platforms through a digital library which lays a path to uncover a wide range of research openings. With the continuous support of the facilitators the students could select a topic, derive, and define the theme, organise the ideas, analyse and eventually structure the concepts matching to current trends of the digital era. Through this practise the budding researchers gain experience to synthesize and evaluate the theme. Communication skills are crucial for personal and professional success and improving this area is one of the greatest benefits of Students Seminar. The final year students are very independent in choosing the area of interest for presentation. The digital library in the campus is a knowledge hub which provides materials to prepare speech. The facilitator guides the students to think critically about effective ways to communicate. This persuasive strategy to design the best frame work and diction to communicate their point of view to the audience can help the students improve communication skills in other areas of student's life. Students Seminar engagements expand student's professional network and new social contacts. Soon after the presentation the students get the opportunity to network with other speakers they also use this valuable opportunity for making friends, building business contacts and generating business. The students learn to persuade, to argue, to build leadership skills and performance skills these are the other benefits of Students Seminar. This brings to limelight that the young minds get an

opportunity to refine their critical thinking skills. Facilitators train our budding presenters with various competitive skills to compete and succeed in the digital era.

Evidence of Success

One of the greatest benefits of Student's Seminar is it helps students to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Student's Seminar builds self-confidence and leadership skills. The programme has brought tremendous change in students' approach and attitudes. Students could overcome nervesnous, stage fear, inhibition, anxiety. As adults they gained confidence and acquired practical knowledge in applying the concepts in day to day life. They are equipped to the level of decision making in critical situations. Eventually, many students from UG and PG have presented papers in National seminars and conferences. A few students have even published papers in journals and articles in news paper and books.

Links:

S.no	Title	Link
1.	Student presented and published details	View Document
2.	Sample certificates	View Document
3.	Sample broachers	View Document
4.	Sample students' publications Images	View Document

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

St. Francis de Sales College is in the outskirts of Bangalore. The students are from rural schools and most of them are first graduates in their family. In observation and analysis it is noted that the obstacles for the progress of students are anxiety, stage fear, lack of communication, lack of proficiency, lack of confidence and fluency in the official language and also fear of being judged by others restrict their exposure to this world. Students are hesitant to clarify the doubts also often refrain from voicing. These under –represented students are not provided suitable training and guidance in pre-college which leads to unsuccessful attempts in academic performance. The aim to introduce outreach and engagement programs such as conducting Spoken English and motivation sessions is to overcome the barriers and provide enrichment opportunities for under-represented students to

gain skills and knowledge which is essential for their professional progress. Summer programs are designed and executed targeting rural youth.

Title 2: ICT and Online Skill Development Program

Objectives:

- o to make the process of teaching easy and interesting with the help of new aids in technology.
- o to give a new dimension to teaching and learning using technology
- o to encourage students to develop the appropriate personal skills that are essential for independent learning by way of using ICT
- o to assist students to develop their potential to their fullest by facilitating the acquisition of knowledge and focus on higher-order cognitive tasks rather than on lower-order routine tasks
- o to help students with special needs to integrate themselves within school and society and make them more independent
- o to boost the confidence of the students, improve productivity, give direction through proper skill development, and optimize their employability
- o to provide students an understanding of the expectations of industry
- o to bridge the skill gaps and make students industry-ready
- o to provide an opportunity for students to develop interdisciplinary skills.

The context that required the initiation of the practice:

Many challenges are faced by the students to attend skill development courses as most of them go for earn and learn part-time jobs and hence, there is a need to offer needed facilities like ICT and mass audio systems and conduct skill development courses.

Practice:

- o lectures of the faculty were recorded and uploaded for students who missed and wanted to refer.
- o the E contents were uploaded for reference such as PPT, reference online links.

- o the skill development classes were conducted thrice every week in which the students login through their mobiles and the classes were conducted via the centralized audio system.
- o the courses may be accessed through POSTO Mobile App through which online courses will be attended.
- o the attendance of the students can be monitored as well using the app.
- o the projectors were installed in all the classes for this purpose.
- o the faculty were given laptops on a monthly EMI basis for preparing the E content.
- o the faculty were encouraged to enrol for various MOOC and Swayam courses.

Evidence of Success:

Students acquired skills in the different fields such as soft skills , listening , body language, e skills such as writing an email, preparing a resume, excel, web designing etc and making Business presentations, and personality development skills such as how to handle stress, leadership and many more. The students benefited by gaining much-needed skills and knowledge, which helped them to gain more confidence to face the world. Many students in the college are from rural backgrounds with the technology-based classes for skill development made their learning more interesting and also tech savvy. Students were equipped to use mobiles in a constructive manner. Skill development through ICT has paved a path for students to get accustomed to online classes. assessments conducted by the staff ensured that students were involved in taking the online courses. Students have even extended their ICT skill in helping school students in the nearby government school.

S.no	Title	Link
1.	Students enrolment details 2018-19	View Documents
2.	Soft-skill details	View Document
3.	Appreciation letter	View Document

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them:

Initially, technical glitches were faced by the students in logging into the POSTO app through their mobiles and the internet connectivity issues were also an obstacle.

Strategies adopted to overcome the obstacle:

The class hours were allotted for pursuing skills development courses. These courses were pursued three days a week. Once student's login online, the public announcement system/college radio is also played. They could listen to the lecture. They answer MCQ questions and they do assignments too. The faculty conduct assessments regularly to ensure their understanding.