Sainath Education Trust's

Rajiv Gandhi College
of Arts, Commerce & Science Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
{Permanently Affiliated to University of Mumbai}

Best Practice I

Apart from academic activities, College is very keen to promote extracurricular activities and RGC is one of the leading colleges in Navi Mumbai to organize Inter-Collegiate and Inter-Zonal tournaments of University of Mumbai.

Objective:

1. To instill a sense of social responsibility among students while providing practical training to nurture entrepreneurial skills.
2. To empower first-generation learners with entrepreneurial tools, fostering confidence and self-reliance.
3. To promote innovation and critical thinking by exposing students to real-world business scenarios.
4. To build an ecosystem of mentorship and collaboration that bridges the gap between academic learning and industry expectations.
5. To encourage students to respond to societal challenges with sustainable and ethical business practices.

Context:

Rajiv Gandhi College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, initiated प्रारंभ *PRRAMBH*, a program aimed at fostering innovation and promoting a startup culture. This event provides a dynamic platform for young innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups to present their business ideas, connect with investors, and receive valuable mentorship. As a college with a majority of first-generation learners, this initiative aims to create opportunities for students who may not have traditional entrepreneurial exposure or networks, empowering them to think beyond conventional career paths.

ThePractice:

प्रारंभ *PRRAMBH* is an annual entrepreneurial fest designed to develop business acumen among students and young entrepreneurs, especially focusing on first-generation learners. The initiative incorporates workshops, mentorship sessions, and real-world simulations to help students refine their business ideas. These activities are structured to give participants hands-on experience in everything from ideation and planning to marketing and pitching their ideas.

The event also provides opportunities for recreation and networking, fostering a vibrant environment where students can engage with peers, industry experts, and potential investors. प्रारंभ *PRRAMBH* emphasizes social responsibility, encouraging students to create sustainable, ethical solutions that address local and global challenges with compassion.

Impact:

The initiative had a transformative impact on students, particularly those from first-generation backgrounds. It offered practical learning opportunities that enhanced their entrepreneurial mindset while helping them develop skills such as:

- Effective communication and interpersonal relations.
- Problem-solving and decision-making in complex scenarios.
- Team collaboration and leadership.
- Innovation and adaptability in a dynamic business environment.

The program also boosted student confidence, empowering them to explore entrepreneurial ventures, many of whom had limited exposure to such opportunities. Moreover, it bridged the gap between academic knowledge and practical business applications, ensuring students were better prepared for real-world challenges.

Challenges Faced:

1. **Engagement of First-Generation Learners:**

   Many students, particularly first-generation learners, lacked prior exposure to entrepreneurship, making it challenging to engage them initially. It required significant mentorship and motivational efforts to help them overcome self-doubt and embrace the entrepreneurial mindset.

2. **Balancing Academic Commitments:**

   Given the rigorous academic schedules, students found it difficult to balance their participation in entrepreneurial activities while keeping up with their coursework. Managing this balance was crucial to ensure academic performance did not suffer.

3. **Resource Limitations:**

   Financial and logistical constraints were challenges in organizing large-scale events and providing adequate resources for students, such as technology access or business development tools.

4. **Sustained Participation:**

   Maintaining long-term interest and involvement from students beyond the event posed a challenge, as many returned to their academic routines after the excitement of the fest had faded. Ensuring continued mentorship and support was necessary to help students sustain their entrepreneurial pursuits.

Outcome:

1. **Increased Entrepreneurial Awareness:**

   Many students developed a stronger entrepreneurial mindset and were motivated to pursue startups or innovative projects in their respective fields.

2. **Skill Development:**

   The event facilitated the development of a range of transferable skills, including leadership, communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, preparing students for diverse career paths.

3. **Boosted Confidence Among First-Generation Learners:**

   First-generation learners gained newfound confidence in their ability to take on leadership roles and pursue entrepreneurial ventures, making strides in breaking the socioeconomic barriers they face.

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Best Practice -II

Mentorship Program for Holistic Student Development

Objective:
To provide personalized academic and emotional support to students, fostering both their personal and professional growth through consistent mentorship.

Context:
Many students, especially those in their first year of UG programs, face challenges in adjusting to the academic environment and managing personal stress. PG students, on the other hand, experience the pressure of career planning, thesis work, and transitioning to the job market. To address these challenges, the college introduced a structured mentorship program aimed at offering comprehensive support to students throughout their academic journey.

The Practice:
Each student is assigned a faculty mentor at the start of the academic year. Mentors regularly meet with their assigned students to discuss academic progress, address personal concerns, and guide career planning. The key aspects of this program include:

- **Personalized Academic Guidance:** Mentors help students improve their study habits, manage time efficiently, and address academic challenges.
- **Career Counseling:** Mentors offer personalized advice on career paths, higher education opportunities, and internships. They also help students prepare for competitive exams and job interviews.
- **Emotional Support and Mental Health Awareness:** Faculty mentors create a safe space for students to share personal concerns and challenges. If needed, they refer students to professional counselors for additional support.

Impact:
The mentorship program has led to increased student retention, particularly among first-year UG students. The initiative has helped reduce dropout rates and has improved academic performance and student engagement. Students feel more connected to the faculty and the college community, resulting in improved emotional well-being and career preparedness.

Challenges:
Initially, some students were hesitant to actively engage with their mentors. However, after the first few sessions, participation increased, and students began to see the value of the program. Mentor training in empathetic communication helped address these concerns.

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Ratio of mentor to students for academic and other related issues (Data for the latest completed academic year)

Year	2022-23
Number of Fulltime Teachers	28
No.of Students enrolled in	1391
Mentor:Mentee Ratio	1:50

Formula: Mentor: Mentee	1:50

2.3.3 Mentor-Mentee List

Sr. No.	Class	No.of Students	Mentor Name
1	F.Y.B.COM ,A	117	Asst. Prof. Kaveri Ghogare / Asst. Prof. Raju Rathod
2	F.Y.B.COM ,B	110	Asst. Prof. Asha Durgude
3	F.Y.B.COM ,C	106	Asst. Prof. Swati Gadhave / Asst. Prof. Priyanka Kanojiya
4	F.Y.B.M.S	56	Asst. Prof. Anamika Singh
5	F.Y.B.A.F	38	Asst. Prof. Nilanjana Mazumdar
6	F.Y.B.Sc	29	Asst. Prof. G. Subhashini
7	F.Y.B.Sc.CS	53	Asst. Prof. Snehal Awale
8	F.Y.B.Sc.IT	68	Asst. Prof. Anita Yadav
9	S.Y.B.COM -A	110	Asst. Prof. Dimple Joya
10	S.Y.B.COM -B	122	Asst. Prof. Shweta Shetty
11	S.Y.B.A.F	41	Asst. Prof. Rafatjahan Shaikh
12	S.Y.B.M.S	41	Asst. Prof. Aishwarya Patil
13	S.Y.B.Sc	21	Asst.Prof. Arun Vishwakarma
14	S.Y.B.Sc.CS	16	Asst. Prof. Sherin Verughese
15	S.Y.B.Sc.IT	19	Asst. Prof. Ragini Khapare
16	T.Y.B.COM -A	103	Asst. Prof. B. S. Pandey
17	T.Y.B.COM -B	100	Asst. Prof. Kalpana Sonawane
18	T.Y.B.A.F	60	Asst. Prof. Veena Sawant
19	T.Y.B.M.S	49	Asst. Prof. Jolly Dutta
20	T.Y.B.Sc	25	Asst. Prof. Priyanka More
21	T.Y.B.Sc.CS	13	Asst. Prof. Archana Pandey
22	T.Y.B.Sc.IT	24	Asst. Prof. Anita Yadav
23	M.Com Part -I	36	Asst. Prof. Jolly Dutta
24	M.Com Part -II	34	Dr. V. Ravishankar
25	M.sc	0	
		1391	

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