

Best Practice-1

The Goal: To help in the growth and development of confident and secure young individuals by providing them an atmosphere of close cooperation and guidance at a critical point in their lives.

The Context: It has been noticed that in this age of nuclear families and with both parents often working, college students require an emotional anchor, a mentor to guide and channelize their energies and address their doubts and confusions in an appropriate manner. Mentors with their emotional maturity and experience of life situations are the need of the hour.

The Practice: The teachers of Sipajhar College are engaged in mentoring students at two levels- mentoring of their own college students and mentoring of students of feeder schools. At the college level each teacher has been assigned 11-14 students to be mentored for a five year period- throughout their three year stay in the college and two years beyond their under graduate studies. Apart from providing them guidance about career and academic opportunities post their under graduate studies, mentors also provide emotional and moral support. Since students are assigned at random to the entire set of college faculty a new and dynamic relationship develops amongst the students and mentors who may otherwise have been just a passing figure in their lives. The second level of mentoring is at the school level where college teachers have voluntarily become participants as mentors as part of the pilot project of the Aspirational District Programme of the NITI AYO, Government of India.

Evidence of Success: Students have become more emotionally secure and they have developed a close and fruitful relationship with their mentors. Mentors have also solved several developmental and emotional issues besides providing counseling to family members where required. Mentors have also provided career guidance and opened up avenues for alternative career opportunities besides their areas of specialization.

Best Practice -2

Title: Green Diary

The Goal: To make the students of Sipajhar College more aware of their environment and to make them active participants in the process of mitigating environmental degradation.

The Context: With the four-laning of the national highways and other developmental projects taking their toll on the environment necessitating large scale felling of trees it is imperative to replant as many trees as possible to off-set the impact of global warming on both man and animals. The Practice: At the time of admission into undergraduate courses students below the poverty line are exempted

from admission fees by the state government, however the college authorities took this as an opportunity to take a green initiative. Each student who is given free admission by the government is provided with a sapling by the Eco Club of the college and a green diary by the college authorities. The student is given the responsibility of planting, nurturing and monitoring the growth of their sapling in their respective green diaries. At the time of re-admission into the next semester the green diaries are checked and the status of the plants are monitored by the respective heads of departments to which those students were admitted.

Evidence of Success: Students have sincerely looked after their saplings and on occasions where the saplings have withered they have voluntarily replaced it. Photographic evidence apart, they are also proud to report on the growth and development of their plant. The green diaries have not only instilled a sense of responsibility in young students they have become conscious of their own roles in a greener environment.