

Best Practices:

1. Special Spoken English Course for BA students

Objectives of the Practice:

Most of the students who join the BA Stream hail from socially and economically disadvantage sections of society. They find the transition from the vernacular medium of instruction to the English language, the medium of instruction in degree classes pretty difficult to cope with. It is felt that unless extra efforts are put to instil confidence in them, they will remain daunted by the difficulty of the language that they are supposed to master. Keeping this in mind, the institution has resolved to conduct special courses for such students inviting experts in the field of English language learning.

The Context:

The course has been designed taking into consideration the requirements of BA students, who find themselves unequipped to face the challenges posed by the new medium of instruction. Considering the fact that the students find the core subjects difficult owing to their lack of proficiency in the English language, the course has been introduced.

The Practice:

During the mid-term vacation, after the semester examinations, the course is arranged on the campus. Since a working knowledge of the English language is found to be extremely necessary for a student to face the competitive world today, the spoken English course has been conducted with the prime objective of enabling slow learners to feel comfortable with the language that acts as a hindrance to their academic pursuits. Getting all the students to participate in the course during vacation is an uphill task. Moreover to impress upon the weak students that they need to attend the course without fail is a difficult thing to be done. As almost all the students of BA Stream are financially backward, mobilizing funds to meet the expenses involved is a difficult problem to be dealt with.

Evidence of success:

The organization of the programme has had a positive impact on the students over the years. Even though, the students do not master the language on completion of the course, at least they overcome the inhibitions of communicating in English. It is found that the students who undergo the training fair well even in their course subjects. The positive impact that we see among the students motivates us to further strengthen the course so as to make it more and more effective.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

The problems encountered in conducting the course are many. Firstly, it is very difficult to make the students feel that they are badly in need of undergoing such a course. Secondly, the institution finds itself constrained to get highly qualified experts in the field owing to the lack of necessary resources. Thirdly, getting the students exposed to different skills involved in the learning of a language is a very difficult task as they do not have either the willingness or avenues to practice what is taught to them during the course. Resources need to be mobilized to meet the expenses which include paying honorarium to the experts and the amount needed for photocopying study materials and giving refreshments to the trainees. Collecting even a small amount from students towards this is bound to deter the students from attending the course.