

## **7.2 BEST PRACTICES OF THE INSTITUTION**

### **BEST PRACTICE: 1**

#### **1. Title of the Practice**

Online learning and COVID preparedness

#### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college had to make the difficult decision to close and conduct all activities online. However, later during the year at least some activities became in the physical mode. Moreover, the year was marked by lots of uncertainties and accordingly a new practice had to emerge to adapt to this new world. The objectives of this practice were threefold:

- 1) To ensure that the teaching learning practice goes on effectively in an online world during the pandemic by responding quickly and appropriately
- 2) To gradually reopen the institution as per GoI guidelines so that at least some teaching takes place in the physical face to face mode
- 3) To ensure COVID appropriate behaviours as well encourage prosocial behaviours in all

#### **3. The Context1**

There was an urgent need to rethink education as regular teaching was disrupted and the majority of the teaching learning process became online. Teachers have been forced to rethink their teaching pedagogies to accommodate online learning. Doing practical work in an online mode has been one of the most difficult obstacles. Other activities, such as internships, seminars, and field work, had to be moved online as well. Admissions and administration also became online. All these changes necessitated the acquisition of new skills in order to adapt to the changing environment. The impact on women's education was massive as many women students struggled to manage their studies with academics. Everyone has struggled with the loss of personal interaction. Research suggests that anxiety, despair, and stress have become frequent among students and employees. The college had to build the necessary infrastructure to support the online modality. The college also had to think about how to reopen at least some educational activities while ensuring that COVID appropriate protocols are followed.

#### **4. The Practice**

- Training for ICT skills: Since the technology is new for several teachers therefore several webinars as well as FDP were organized.
- Developing innovative teaching pedagogies appropriate to online mode: Pedagogy was mainly participative with a focus on students engaging in group projects and giving PowerPoint presentations, as well as discussions and other activities. Besides online lectures, teachers used PowerPoint presentations, lecture recordings, uploading on google drive, and Audio/video aids. Google Forms were used for taking feedback, research-based activities, maintaining attendance etc. All webinars, FDPs, workshops, exams, have been virtual and conducted through ICT.
- Enhancing communication during lockdown: All students, faculty and other staff were in constant contact with each other through various means such as whatsapp, emails etc. Faculty groups and student groups were created and university/college communications were immediately posted on website/ student groups/ faculty groups through WhatsApp and email. At times a small support group was created online for helping a critical member.
- Ensuring awareness about pandemic: The Covid Task Force of college developed advisories, facilitated on-campus RTPCR Covid 19 testing facility, and organized webinars.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

Although the face-to-face interaction of physical classes cannot be replicated in the online approach, the college's response to the pandemic was appropriate given the circumstances. The following examples show how the college acted quickly and effectively:

1. In March 2020 itself all classes and other activities such as webinars and exams became online.
2. The feedback survey and satisfaction survey taken during the pandemic year indicated that students were quite satisfied with the online mode.

This experience has implications for future preparedness of the college under similar circumstances if these were to arise again:

1. To ensure that ICT tools are upgraded from time to time and teachers and others stakeholders are trained in them.
2. Innovative teaching pedagogies alongside lecture methods are important.
3. Inequities in education need to be reduced by providing financial and other support.
4. College should take up the responsibility of creating awareness about COVID19.
5. Counseling and other support during such times is essential for the mental health of everyone.

## **6. Problems Encountered**

While many women students were resilient and gained from these new pedagogies there were others especially those from weaker backgrounds who struggled. COVID forced many of our women students to take up the additional burden of household responsibilities. In certain cases they had to work to support their families. At times, girls took care of sick members of the families and their younger siblings. Several webinars/activities were also conducted for coping during these difficult times. Flexibility in assignments schedules further helped students who struggled with internet connections.

## **BEST PRACTICE: 2**

### **1. Title of the Practice**

To inculcate the value of writing scientific papers and publishing it in Indexed Journals among faculty members of the college.

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

Increase the number of research projects among the staff Increase the number of publications in indexed journals Encourage inter disciplinary/ multidisciplinary collaborative research efforts to introduce best practices in health care based on evidence.

### **3. The Context:**

Writing and publishing research papers are an integral part of the professional life. This will not only help in obtaining knowledge and increasing the number of projects in hand but also it opens the way for best evidence based practice in the health care profession.

### **4. The Practice:**

The first part of the practice includes, encouraging the teachers to write the scientific papers. Then the written manuscripts are verified by the research and ethical committee. Once the manuscripts are ready, the ways are identified to get it published through various means. The papers are presented in the workshops, conferences and in national and international nursing journals.

### **5. Evidence of Success:**

The faculties are benefitted because of their professional growth.

### **6. Problems Encountered:**

More qualified members are required in doing advanced researches - More budget provision is needed in certain studies.