

PRANANATH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KHORDHA

BEST PRACTICES

AQAR 2014-15 & 2015-16

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1. Creation of Quality Volunteers

Objectives : Quality in higher education has been a national concern for quite some time. The fact that not even a single HEI finds place in the top 200 institutes of the world is a disturbing reality. The IQAC Team mulled over this and reached the conclusion that there has to be a beginning of the Quality revolution at the institutional level with the involvement of the generation next.

Context: The concept took shape as the idea was discussed and the IQAC Team categorized this as a Best Practice because of its uniqueness. Though obviously there are the NSS and the NCC , the YRC, the Rovers & Rangers, and the Scouts & Guides, none of these units are mandated to focus on quality as an integral part of institutional life. The Team felt that involvement of students in this initiative would perpetuate the quest for quality. Moreover, since students are the major stakeholders of the institution, they need to take responsibility of their alma mater.

Practice: The volunteers were selected/ nominated by the members of the IQAC team because it was felt that each Volunteer needs to be mentored and

imbibed with the spirit of Quality consciousness at a very personal level.

Each volunteer was to sign a pledge to work along the following mandate :

- i. To spread Quality consciousness in all spheres of life.*
- ii. To work as a bridge between the Institution and the community.*
- iii. To ensure spreading of national welfare schemes.*
- iv. To advocate for a clean and green environment.*
- v. To campaign for equity and justice.*

The target was to involve students in this journey towards a conscious and consistent pursuance of Quality. The students shall have to play a catalytic role in this regard.

Evidence of Success: After the initiative was given shape and thirty students were nominated by members of IQAC, their inspiration and motivation level was visibly enhanced. There was a threadbare discussion involving all IQAC members and the Quality Volunteers. The Volunteers pointed out that they need to be mentored in their activities day-on-day. They also sought documents and clarification regarding many of the operational Government schemes both at the national and state levels. The Team suggested that the Volunteers need to delimit their agenda to schemes involving students and the youth. It was also suggested that they advocate volunteerism in efforts like organ donation for which they are to get relevant input from qualified physicians. *Drishtidaan*, an organization advocating eye donation and headed by an ophthalmologist, has

been requested to interact with the Volunteers and give them the basic ideas about organ donation.

Need for Replication: The practice of creating a group of students specifically raised and mentored by the IQAC to carry forward the message of commitment to Quality in all spheres of life will have both a percolation and a perpetuation effect in the Higher Education Institutions. The total impact may be difficult to quantify, but such an initiative will definitely create an ambience of conscious commitment to quality. All spheres of academic, administrative and above all, social responsibility will be impacted on the long term by this model.

2. Rooftop Photovoltaic Solar Panels

Being a state with abundant sunshine throughout the year and also suffering from perpetual shortage of electricity, an initiative for alternate power sources was of immediate necessity. Availability of unencumbered and massive roof area prompted the IQAC to request the Renewable Energy agencies to help out in installing photovoltaic solar panels. This is also in keeping with the energy policy of the Union and the State governments. The Prime Minister has been insisting on implementing alternative and sustainable sources of energy .

Context: Hostels are home to students from faraway places. More the comfort the Institution can provide, more at home the boarders would feel and their comfort level is directly proportional to their academic and attitudinal attainment. Since availability of power used to be dicey, power from alternative

sources ensuring uninterrupted supply was the most reasonable solution. Installation of rooftop solar panels emerged as the front runner among the options.

Practice: The College sought help from National Renewable Energy Mission. It so happened that the Government of India had a policy of installing solar panels on rooftops of womens hostels. The operational responsibility was given to Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA). After the initial survey by the Director and technical staff of OREDA, the roof top of Babu Jagajjivan Ram Womens Hostel was found suitable for the purpose and an array of solar panels with storage battery bank was installed. The 10 kwh power generated by the panels considerably brought down dependence on public power utility. The Agency calculated that the initial investment can reach break-even in 5 years if we synchronize with the grid. All lamps in the hostel were looped to the solar power and the dining cum activity hall also had uninterrupted power.

Evidence of Success:

The target of supplying reliable and uninterrupted power to our girl students could be achieved with the installation of this 10 KWH micro power plant. It addressed the perpetual grievance of our boarders regarding power outage and the associated problems. Most of the fluorescent lamps and CFL lamps have been replaced with LED bulbs, thereby bringing down consumption

substantially. Apart from uninterrupted power, this effort has also brought in multiple benefits like sustainability and environmental dividends. This tiny project has proved to be a huge beginning in making the students conscious of sustainability.