

Best Practice 1: Promoting Techno pedagogy

Objectives:

1. To impart ICT based teacher education to our students
2. To promote digital literacy and advanced digital skills among our students
3. To develop technopedagogical skills among our students
4. To ensure standards in e content development
5. To equip students to develop effective e content for teaching-learning
6. To enable students to explore creative ways for e content development
7. To familiarise students with the most efficient and effective digital learning platforms for teaching-learning
8. To enable educators to store and share e content in open access mode for learners
9. To practice and develop skills in digital modes of student assessment

The Context:

Technological advancement is taking place at a very rapid pace. The classroom before 50 years and after 50 years is beyond any possible predictions. Therefore the onerous task of teacher-education institutions is to equip the present-day teacher trainees to muster the responsibilities for future generations.

Techno-pedagogy can be defined as providing electronically mediated courses that integrate sound pedagogic principles of teaching/learning with the use of technology to a global audience. Techopedagogy requires the skills of developing quality e -content, interacting with students through online learning management systems and assessing learners through online systems. E-content here refers to any electronic content that may include text, image, graphics, animation, audio, and video. An e-content may have any one or all of the above elements to be displayed offline or online and also to be transferrable to a computer or computers or the internet.

The techno pedagogically competent teacher will always be an up-to-date teacher - a teacher who is competent and relevant for the needs, passions and challenges of the coming generation. Investing in technopedagogy and e-content development is an investment for futurity.

The Practice:

The college has always put great emphasis on staying ahead of the times. Foreseeing the needs of the future world of education, the college has taken much care to equip itself to impart the

latest digital skills to its wards. The college started providing computer education to its students decades earlier. The college has a well-equipped Computer lab, a digitalised Language Lab, and a Micro-teaching Lab with the essential digital equipment for practising technopedagogical skills. All classrooms are enabled for ICT based teaching- learning. Two classrooms are specially equipped with interactive digital boards. Free Wifi is provided in the campus. The college library is also equipped with a host of digital teaching learning materials to support learning. It has subscribed INFLIBNET's NList membership to provide access to e resources to our faculty and students.

Our faculty have developed e- content for various courses under B.Ed. programme of the affiliating university and for MOOC courses in SWAYAM platform. They have also made research contributions in the field of technopedagogy. The faculty always took the lead in experimenting with the use of blogs, podcasts, powerpoint presentations, prezi presentations etc along with platforms like youtube and google classroom.

Online ways and means of assessment are also experimented by our faculty. Online submission of assignments and practicals are done. Our faculty whole heartedly participated and took the lead in the online question bank preparation for B.Ed. Degree programme under M.G. University.

The recent upsurge in the use of social media among the younger generation made us to think about the scope of utilising it for educational purposes. The faculty encouraged students to develop quality digital learning material on various topics of relevance. E content developed were distributed through CDs to practice teaching schools and also uploaded on Youtube for free and easy access.

Evidence of Success:

Our students have produced quality learning materials on various topics of social relevance. A documentary on drug abuse was prepared by our students under the guidance of the faculty. It was widely distributed among the practice teaching schools during school internship. It was widely appreciated because of the relevance of the topic and the quality of presentation. Our students also prepared a series of e learning materials based on the first chapters of various subject textbooks of Kerala State Syllabus. The materials were uploaded on youtube to be shared and accessed freely by the school students. The e content developed by our faculty have also been widely accessed which proves its utility and success. Students are highly motivated

to learn using ICT skills. Learning becomes an enjoyable and interesting task with the use of apt technology.

Problems Encountered and Resources required:

The online teaching learning has placed new challenges before teachers and students. The issues of poor internet connectivity and lack of technological facilities among students are the biggest hurdles. Many students are not able to afford the expenses related to buying technological devices and using internet data. To overcome this, students are permitted to make use of the ICT facilities at college as and when needed and the faculty do provide ample support for them.

In this age of an infodemic, it is hard to provide visibility to quality learning material among a sea of unwanted, irrelevant and inaccurate information. The college takes care to develop quality e-learning materials satisfying the various criteria for the same. The e-content is also shared under its own title to provide the mark of authenticity to it. The college has its own website, youtube channel and facebook account which is utilized for the purpose. It also takes care to purposefully disseminate the e-content among relevant groups of learners.

The young learners' preferences to use the gadgets primarily as a means of entertainment also keeps parents from encouraging its use for learning. This often leads to a general apathy among the adults regarding using internet for learning. This, coupled with a strong faith in the traditional chalk and talk method often stand in the way of providing wider acceptance to the e content developed. The faculty and students work towards removing public apathy by maintaining high standard in e content development. The best practice definitely calls for co-operation, collaboration and integration of the college, community and society.