

BEST PRACTICES SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED

1. Title of the practice: Adjunct Faculty Programme and Teaching Assistantship

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words):

Kannur University is the youngest State University in Kerala and it is located in the largely underdeveloped north Malabar area. The University is consistently trying to improve its quality through specifically planned programmes. We do have scarcity on the availability of expert manpower in the area. The new programmes like institution of Adjunct faculty and Teaching Assistantship was with a view to overcome the scarcity of expert manpower. Through these two innovative programmes, Kannur University could attract expert hands to guide and support our students. By offering teaching assistantship, the best passed out students from Departments were retained to get involved in academic activities.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words)

1. To attract senior Professors/Scientists from other institutions to visit Kannur University for a brief period of time.
2. To get the experience shared from senior faculty in formulating the academic and research programmes of the University through identification of the requirement of stake holders from the locality.
3. To retain the best outgoing students of the University to teach the newcomers.
4. To give an opportunity to the best outgoing students to get involved in the academic activities of their own department so that they develop an interest to pursue a career in higher education

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words)

Adjunct faculty programme:

Eminent personnel in the respective disciplines were appointed as adjunct faculty in departments for a short period of time every year, thus enabling the students, interaction and exposure to experts in the subject from other institutions. The programmes in addition to helping the students also found very useful for the young faculty to focus their areas of research. The association of Adjunct faculty also helps in placement of the postgraduate students to their institutions for doing end semester project work.

Teaching Assistantship Programme

Teaching Assistantship is meant to support the best performing departments in the University by providing additional man power to assist the teaching and research activities. Teaching Assistantships was offered to fresh postgraduates passing out from concerned University Departments by scoring the best grades (preferably 1st to 3rd Ranks) in the overall examinations.

Best performing University Departments will get additional manpower to assist the teaching and research activities which in turn will help the faculty in sparing more time for research related activities. This is only one side of the programme and on the other side the best rated students will get an immediate opportunity to work in the same department. When a fresh postgraduate is given with the opportunity to assist the teaching and research activities of his/her own department under the supervision of eminent faculty, it will help to sharpen their skills in teaching and research. Duration of the Teaching Assistantship was one year and was not extended.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words)

While implementing the programmes, the major obstacle faced was scarcity for funds for giving salary to the selected Adjunct faculty/Teaching Assistants which we could overcome with the special allocation from Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Kerala. Attracting the best brains to our University was a problem faced by some of the Departments located in the remote rural areas. The department councils were given the freedom to select the Adjunct faculty and to make arrangements for their local hospitality and transport. Through this mechanism senior Professors from reputed institutions like Indian Institute of Science could participate in the program. Implementation of teaching assistantship programme never faced any serious obstacles. Flexibility was always given to both programme so that the selected persons could finish the assigned task in the best manner.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words):

1. Attracted the best talents to teaching and research
2. Best performing departments got manpower to lead/assist teaching and research.
3. Best rated students got an opportunity to start teaching and research under the supervision of eminent faculty.
4. Sharpened the skills of the selected students in teaching and research
5. Published more research papers

7.Resources required

To implement the programme the major requirement of resource was finance which we could gather from the Higher Education Department of Govt. of Kerala. Identifying the right experts and arranging infrastructure and other facilities is also required and the available resources in our departments were sufficient for this.

8. About the Institution

i. Name of the Institution: Kannur University

ii. Year of Accreditation: 2016

iii. Address: Kannur University. Civil Station P.O. Thavakkara. Kannur – 2. Kerala

iv. Grade awarded by NAAC: B

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