

## **Best Practice II Open House(Tutorial Group Systems)**

### **The context**

This activity has been started for the need for better communication between students and teachers in a more informal and open manner. Of course, there is sufficient communication between students and Teachers in and out of the classrooms. It is noticed that very often such occasions are used by students and teachers to deal with matters related to the course of study.

Tutorial groups have been a regular part of our college. Students in each class are divided into groups of fifty and each group is put under the guidance of a teacher of the same department. The tutorial groups meet for one period every week and discuss various matters related to the students and the college. The teacher in charge of a particular group is also considered as the mentor of the students coming under his supervision. Here the teachers do get a chance to understand what are problems and needs of the students.

As the college has large number of students in Humanities classes, so it was not possible for the teachers to interact with them individually. In this context, it was felt that there should be some forum in the college where all students and teachers of a department can meet and share their problems and needs in an open way so that appropriate actions can be taken to solve the problems.

### **Objectives of the practice:**

The following objectives are identified for this practice.

- To facilitate open discussion between students and teachers regarding all matters which are important for both parties.
- To understand what are the positive aspects in the functioning of the department as well as the college.
- To understand what are the changes required in the functioning of the departments of Commerce, Science and Post-Graduate classes, as the subject teachers are made the mentors of these classes tutorial groups.
- To take joint decisions to retain the best practices in the college with modifications if required.

### **The Practice:**

The open house is an activity where all students of a class with all teachers of that department meet once in each semester to evaluate the functioning of the department. This is an occasion when students are supposed to give their feedback on the various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities undertaken by the department and the college. Students can also give feedback regarding the services they get from the college office and the library.If the students

need any additional infrastructural facilities inside the class or elsewhere in the college that also can be discussed in this forum.

Always students are given prior intimation through college notice before convening a meeting so that everybody can be present on the occasion. Usually it is organized on a working day during the office hours. Duration of a meeting is one period of 45 minutes. In the beginning of the open forum the Tutor explains the purpose of the meeting and afterwards the students are given time to speak out openly. Attendance is marked on the register by the teacher. The Tutor signs on the College ID cards of the students to ensure that all the students are carrying them and properly maintained by them. After the tutorial period if any issues are raised by the students they are brought into the notice of the Principal.

### **Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them**

Many students are reluctant to speak out openly due to various reasons. Some of them are timid and remain silent. Certain others feel that, the department may victimize them if they criticize its activities. Some are cynical and do not believe in giving feedback in such meetings. Many are complacent so that they do not want any change in the present system. As such, relevant points are raised by only a minority in the class.

Some of the students use this occasion to criticize others based on their personal rivalries. Factionalism within the class sometime creates obstacles in the smooth conduct of this activity. Certain students do not have a clear idea about Objectives of the practice so that they find it difficult to make use of this opportunity. Occasionally follow up actions are either delayed or not taken up by the department that may affect the confidence of the students in the merit of this programme. Students who notice such laxity on the part of the authorities may not have enthusiasm to cooperate with this practice later. Lesser attendance on the part of the students is also a big problem.

### **Strategies to overcome the obstacle:**

Before organizing the Open House, the Principal can give an orientation to the Staff about the objectives of the practice of this activity. Students may be given the idea that this is not a fault-finding mission. Authorities of the college must always take appropriate steps to implement the decisions of the Open House as early as possible. Discussion can also be done on various social issues and students can be involved in small activities like Public speaking, Writing skills and developing their critical thinking.

### **Impact of the practice:**

The practice has helped in following.

- To think collectively to find out solutions for the problems existing in the College.
- To give opportunity to vent out the grievances of the students so that remedial actions can be sought.
- To prepare plans about the future programmes.

**Resources required:**

Time to organize Open House. Funds required for organizing some activities.

**About the Institution:**

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