

Title of the Practice

Constant contact and connections between student-teachers and faculty.

Objectives of the Practice

1. To maintain communication between student-teachers and faculty during the pandemic
2. To encourage student-teachers to stay emotionally strong.
3. To disseminate various notifications from the University as well as the Government.
4. To prepare the student-teachers to be mentally ready for online classes.
5. To give awareness about various platforms for online classes.

Underlying Principles/Concept

Communication is the best way to share one's ideas and thoughts and understand each other. It brings everyone in the institution closer and develops a feeling of belongingness. To keep in touch constantly between the faculty members and the student-teachers was realized to be very significant as the whole world entered into a time of fear, loneliness and desperation.

The Context

The distance the pandemic created was so large between the faculty and the students. Everyone was in a state of shock and desperation. For a few weeks after the announcement of the lockdown in the month of March, 2020, everyone was silent. But with the realization that a very good communication should be maintained among the faculty as well as the student-teachers particularly during this dark period, WhatsApp groups were opened and the administration and the faculty made it a point to keep in constant touch with the student-teachers. This was a constant reminder to them that we care for them. Student-teachers also started communicating from their end and shared various thoughts about what they were going through.

The Practice

Using the WhatsApp platform all the student-teachers of both B. Ed 1st, 2nd year and M.Ed classes were connected. They were asked to share their experiences of the pandemic, and take note of whatever notifications were sent from the college. The requirement for downloading various apps like the google classroom, telegram, scanner, etc. was communicated to them so that they can be ready for online classes. Directions and notifications from the university as well as department of higher education were shared and they could be kept well informed. Encouragements were also shared with the student-teachers to keep themselves emotionally strong.

Evidence of Success

Although the faculty and the student-teachers were physically apart, there was very good communication between them and everybody was well-informed about the activities that were coming up.

Problems Encountered

The problems encountered during the practice were as follows:

- a. Network connectivity was poor in some areas.
- b. Some student-teachers did not have smart phones.
- c. Some student-teachers were not well versed with the use of technology.