

## **TITLE OF THE PRACTICE**

Students Organise Seminar on Leadership

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE**

The students of MEd were assigned to organise a seminar on Leadership with the purpose to–

- Develop organisational and leadership skills
- Build ability to work in teams for success
- Learn negotiation skills

## **THE CONTEXT**

Teacher preparation programme is a complex activity. Apart from the given curriculum it is also important that the aspiring teachers learn life skills that would lead them to become better leaders. Educational Administration and Leadership was just theoretical based course in the curriculum. If the students were to develop the skills needed to become leaders it was important that they experience, even if in a little way, some sort of hands-on activity. In the educational (schools, colleges) setting, and beyond, the students as future leaders will have to manage, organise, negotiate, evaluate, build and work in a gamut of different situations and environment. Theoretical learning of all these concerns would be forgotten and a waste of resources if the students were not to involve in a practical endeavour. Therefore, this activity was initiated.

## **THE PRACTICE**

This practice was initiated as a yearly feature but was unable to be continued due to COVID-19. However, it is planned to be picked up in the future.

In order to fulfil the objectives formulated for the activity, the students were given freedom to organise the seminar on their own but reporting each step of their decision to the faculty-in-charge. It involved decision making on the theme, date and time of the programme, a suitable resource person – brain storming for a list of them, selecting, contacting and finding out if they are free, inviting a chief guest, how to divide themselves into teams for different responsibilities and so on.

The Additional Director of Higher Education, Nagaland, Dr. Watijungshi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and Ms. Benjungla, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT, Nagaland, delivered the talk on the theme “Teachers: Transformational Leaders”.

After the organisation of the programme the next step was to have an evaluation of the same – the successes and failures of each group, with the faculty-in-charge.

## **EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

Organising such a programme by the students themselves with minimum intervention from the in charge was a big boost towards their self confidence. As per observation the programme was organised as a well planned and organised activity. This hands-on practice gave the students a taste of not only what leadership involves but also made them reflect on their responses to conflicts. Students have expressed that such practices should be continued as a regular feature in the college.

## **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED**

- Organising such a programme required that students spend time to connect with people, so it often disturbed the daily routine
- There was no separate fund for the activity, students collected for the expenses involved