

Best Practice 2

2. Title of the Practice 2

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: STUDENT ACTIVITY COUNCIL

GOAL

- Establish an interface between the students and college administration.
- Provide a platform for students to explore their leadership skills.
- Create an environment that facilitates team work and group dynamics.
- Build a forum for voicing student concerns and grievance redressal.
- Involve students in organising college events and activities.
- Promote civic responsibility, human relations and a harmonious environment.
- Initiate and implement cultural activities that bring out the latent talent of students.
- Develop student potential that helps meet challenges.
- Decentralize power and responsibility by involving students in decision-making, problem-solving and conflict management.

THE CONTEXT

Students are an integral part of the institution and also its ambassadors on whom the reputation of the college depends. To instil a sense of ownership and responsibility among students, a Student Activity Committee is formed so that it serves as a liaison between the students, faculty and college administration. The members of this committee work within the framework of the institutional rules to conduct co-curricular, extra-curricular and community activities that foster leadership and team skills. The Student Activity Committee at ATRI plays a pivotal role in organising major events like *Borealis*-a National level techno, cultural and literary fest , Self -Governance Day (on Teachers' Day), festivities on occasions like Diwali, Christmas etc., The Student Activity Committee is crucial in the decentralization process as it engages students in the democratic functioning of the institute. The Student Activity Committee encourages the academic, professional and personal development of students , and aims at furthering the vision and mission of the college by aligning itself with all its objectives, in order to achieve excellence in its endeavours.

THE PRACTICE

The process of selecting a Student Activity Committee begins with sending a circular to students of third year, asking them to first take a Psychometric test that assesses them in the areas of Leadership, Teamwork, Interpersonal Skills, Communication, Logical Reasoning, Target-goal Orientation, Conflict Management, Stress Management, Time Management and Cognitive Abilities. Based on the outcome of this test, they are shortlisted for an interview with a panel consisting of the Director and senior Professors. Care is taken to ensure that there is representation from all departments. During the interview, the students are assessed once again on the above parameters, and additional qualities like their personality traits, attitude, ability to meet challenges and body language are also considered. Hypothetical questions, stress questions, probing questions are asked in order to get better insights into their personality and their ability to meet challenges. They are

also asked open-ended questions on their goals, their initiative-taking abilities and their experience in previous leadership and team roles.

Once the interviews are over, the panel consolidates its observations, both qualitative and quantitative, and chooses students for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, Web Designer and Executive Members, based on their aptitude and competencies. An Office Order is issued to this effect, followed by a meeting with the members to apprise them of their roles and responsibilities. A circular is also sent to the staff and students so that they can utilise the services of this committee for the conduct of various activities.

The Student Activity Committee plays an active role in all major events of the college. From motivating students for optimal participation in activities and events, enlisting them and organising events to collecting sponsorships and canvassing in other colleges, they play a pivotal role. They function within the framework of rules of the college and are guided by a faculty coordinator, but are also allowed to use their own sense of discretion in decision-making and problem-solving. Innovative and creative ideas from the committee and other students are also welcomed, and their feasibility considered.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The Student Activity Committee has been appreciated by all stakeholders for their resourcefulness, enterprise, enthusiasm and ability to meet challenges. They have successfully organised inter-college events and national level tecno-cultural-literary fests like *Borealis*, and college events like Self-Governance Day, Traditional Day, festivities like Dussehra, Diwali, Christmas and so on. They have worked in tandem with the various support systems and enhanced every aspect of the functioning of the college. Working in this committee has provided them with a rich experience in leadership, team work and other life skills that has helped them in their personal and professional growth.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

The Student Activity Committee has faced challenges like minor disagreements from the students at times, collection of funds, getting sponsorships for major events, and so on, but they have used their persuasive skills and logical reasoning, along with advice from the faculty to overcome these hurdles.

They have been provided with resources like a separate room, a Public Address System, a laptop, Wi-Fi and Stationery.