

Best Practice 2

Little Flower Degree College

Uppal, Hyderabad

Best Practice 2: Campus Voice: Student Cabinet

Title of the Practice: *‘Campus Voice: Student Cabinet’*

Objectives of the Practice: The objective of the ‘Campus Voice: The Student Cabinet’ at Little Flower Degree College (LFDC) is to cultivate leadership skills among students, ensuring they are equipped to advocate for their peers, foster a positive campus environment, and address student concerns effectively. This practice aims to develop strong communication, empathy, problem-solving, and teamwork abilities.

The Context: Leadership qualities are essential for students to navigate challenges and contextual issues in college. Effective leadership fosters clear communication, problem-solving, direction-setting, and resilience. The Student Cabinet at LFDC plays a crucial role in arranging events, promoting inclusivity, and demonstrating networking and leadership skills, thereby enriching the student community.

The Practice: The Student Cabinet at LFDC is a student-led council representing student interests, facilitating campus activities, and promoting engagement. The uniqueness of this practice lies in its comprehensive approach to leadership development within the institutional context. The Student Cabinet is responsible for organizing the college fest, which brings together students from various colleges, showcasing their talents in fundraising, networking, and event management. They promote the event through multiple channels, demonstrating their ability to mobilize and engage the student community.

The Student Cabinet also advocates for a student code of conduct aligned with the college's vision and mission and fosters independent thinking and strong decision-making abilities. Their leadership approach is participatory and inclusive, reflecting the diverse cultural dynamics of Indian higher education institutions.

However, the Student Cabinet faces constraints such as limited autonomy due to institutional focus on academics, potential misuse of position, and resistance from some colleges towards student-led initiatives. These challenges require proactive leadership and collaboration to overcome, ensuring the cabinet continues to foster a supportive campus environment.

Evidence of Success: The success of the Student Cabinet is evident through increased student engagement, higher voter turnout in elections, successful implementation of initiatives, and positive feedback from the student body. Performance metrics include enhanced funding and networking opportunities for student activities, improvements in campus infrastructure based on student feedback, and the overall positive impact on campus

culture. These results indicate that the Student Cabinet is effectively advocating for student interests, promoting positive change, and fostering leadership qualities within LFDC.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Implementing the Student Cabinet practice involves challenges such as low student engagement, managing diverse opinions, and balancing academic and extracurricular responsibilities. Essential resources include dedicated faculty advisors, training programs for student leaders, financial support for events, meeting spaces, technology for communication, and administrative support. Additionally, fostering a positive and inclusive college culture requires time, effort, and commitment from both students and faculty.

Notes: For other institutions considering this practice, it is crucial to provide robust support systems for student leaders, including mentorship, training, and financial resources. Encouraging a participatory and inclusive leadership approach can enhance student engagement and promote a vibrant campus culture. Additionally, addressing institutional resistance through proactive collaboration and communication can help in the successful implementation of a student cabinet.