

Best Practices

2020-21

1. Title of the practice: Adopting Learning Management System

Context that required the initiation of the practice: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, the teaching and instruction had to be taken online. The College made efforts to keep its students engaged with use of multimedia and social media applications, like Gmail, WhatsApp, Telegram and the like.

Objectives:

The objective of adopting the MS Teams Software was to simulate the classroom environment online and continue with the curriculum as much as possible.

The Practice:

Jagat Taran was the first College in Allahabad that initiated online classes with the Zoom software and later on bought the Microsoft Teams Software and started its teaching its students in the online mode as early as July 2020 onwards with the Zoom software.

On August 17, 2020, the college inaugurated the Microsoft Teams software to hold teacher's meeting, seminars and regular classes according to the syllabus.

Students and teachers were allotted ids and log in access and a fresh timetable was made to hold classes.

Obstacles faced and strategies adopted: The LMS was a new method for both the faculty as well as the students. There were several hiccups in access and usage of the application. Regular queries came in regarding the mismatch of phone numbers and log-in ids, or inability to use the application.

The College employed a regular IT team to solve the technical glitches and the teachers were available to the student to help out with the downloading and installing of software and logging in to their live classes at the appropriate time.

Impact: It is interesting to note that the LMS provided a better access to classes to the students from remoter areas. The online attendance for the live classes was more than the regular offline classes.

Resources required

The adoption of the online mode of teaching and interaction required each student and teacher to have either a computer or a laptop, else a smartphone handy.

The College had to make a purchase of the LMS software from Microsoft as the free software were unreliable, had limited access and were prone to malwares.

The faculty members had to upgrade their methodology and IT skills to make use of the computer software to teach. A small workshop was held by the College to help the teachers understand the usage of the software.

2. Title of the practice: Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) and Vidwan ID.

Context that required the initiation of the practice: The UGC required all Colleges and Universities to contribute the comprehensive nationwide database of distinguished teachers and HEI faculty members that is to be maintained by the Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET). Hence all faculty members were required to create Vidhwan ids on the IR

Objectives: The main purpose of the creating the Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) and creating Vidwan IDs is to share the research and resources of the faculty and the college with the larger academic community.

Practice: The faculty members were requested and supported in creating their Vidwan ID on the Vidwan portal after which an Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) account of the college was successfully created by the library staff of the College.

Faculty member were required to upload their tenure and affiliation details, as well as research and publications.

Support was provided by the Librarian of the College who was instrument in establishing this practice.

Obstacles faced and strategies adopted: There was no serious obstacle that occurred with the adoption of the practice. Most Faculty member were enthusiastic about the idea and provided full support to the College in implementation.

Impact: The creation of IRINS and Vidwan Ids would help the faculty members of the college to share their research and experience with the larger research community and to benefits from the nationwide database themselves. The actual impact of this practice is intangible and wide and may be harvested over years.

Resources required: There was no special financial or non-financial set-up that was required for the creation of the IRINS and Vidwan Ids. All it required was a computer system and an internet connection.