

## **1. Title of the Practice :-**

### **Seminar Marathon - "17 Departments National Level Seminars in 9 Days"**

## **2. Objectives of the Practice :-**

- i)** The prime objective of this practice was to organize a series of National Seminars involving all the staffs & students of different UG & PG departments of the college continuously for long Nine (09) days, with a view to give holistic approach to National Seminars as a knowledge exchange programme.
- ii)** The outcomes intended through implementation of this practice was to acquaint the staff & students of the college with recent developments in the academic world, innovations in the teaching and learning methods, so as to well equip them to address the forthcoming challenges they might confront in future.
- iii)** To supplement the knowledge acquired through text and reference books by the academic exercises involved in seminars.
- iv)** Education being a societal activity, to make the lessons learnt through teaching and learning process more relevant for the society.
- v)** Another underlying motive behind designing this practice was to engage the students during their semester break in academic activities.

## **3. The Context :-**

The purpose behind designing such a novel approach towards seminar was to encourage the participation of the students & staff in the seminars organized by the departments other than their own. With the development of interdisciplinary approach towards education and easy accessibility to learning process due to revolution in information technology, seminars have become more inclusive to accomodate different streams and discipline. Likewise changes in the course structure have opened up new vistas in the knowledge acquiring and dissemination process. As pedagogic linkage in the curriculums and subjects have already been established, organisation of

seminars/symposiums on a topic having contextual relevance for several subject has become an academic necessity. Moreover, teaching some new topics, with and without technical tools is another challenging issue that needed to be addressed by involving academicians to find out solution for such problems through debates and deliberations.

#### **4. The Practice :-**

With the introduction of a single window education for all the Universities under Choice Based Credit System, the exclusiveness of course taught earlier has been shattered. Now a student of History needs to be taught & trained in sister disciplines like Political Science, Literature, Sociology and Economics and vice-versa. In the similar way pedagogic changes have brought in Chemistry, Zoology & Botany to a common platform. So, also the students & teachers of Physics are required to update their knowledge in Computer Science and vice-versa. Keeping these emerging needs of Indian Higher Education, it has become imperative to organize series of National Seminars continuously for a week so that both the students & teachers participating in one Seminar get more supplements to their information's acquired from the first seminar, in the subsequent seminars. Secondly inspite of the availability of information's at finger tips due to introduction of modern electronic gadgets, the rhetoric type of knowledge sharing through good oratory, PowerPoint presentation has more relevance and effectiveness for the dissemination of knowledge. However financial involvements like providing T.A, D.A & honorarium to the resource persons and delegates, hospitality, without availing any sorts of grants from funding agencies like University Grants Commission, the Indian Council of Scientific Research, the Indian Council of Social Research, may be identified as the major constraints for organising such a marathon programme. Likewise, holding two seminars on the same day at two Auditorium or Halls restrict the scope for participation of people interested in both the topic of the seminar. If not done so holding national seminars each for two days on the part of 17 streams would have taken 34 days leading to serious dislocation of the academic calendar and

none completion of the course. hence such type of series national seminar needs to be arranged with an eye on management of time. Other than the above problems availability of Guests, Keynote speakers suiting the time schedule of the organising colleges are the other challenges that the college confronted while organising this seminar.

#### **5. Evidence of success :-**

The novelty enshrined in this programme has yielded the targeted results as detailed below. Though a new experiment, it was successful in many respects.

- i)** The College organised a total no. of Nine (09) National Seminars involving 17 Departments, commencing from 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. These Gala Academic Programmes were attended by a brilliant galaxy of Professors from IIT, NIT, Universities and Academicians of National & International repute, intellectuals, learned delegates, paper presenters, columnists etc (separate sheet enclosed). It provided ample opportunities to the students and teachers of the college to get out of their limited corridor and exchange their ideas with mega personalities.
- ii)** By organising a series of national seminars, the college could best utilise the semester break between the examination and the beginning of new semesters.
- iii)** The national seminars organised by their own college and own departments in collaboration with other departments accorded more exposure to the students and helped in the development of organising skill and spirit of coordination in them.
- iv)** Decision to publish the papers/talks presented in the seminar in form of proceedings/souvenirs offered the budding talents of the college opportunities, to take up the challenge of writing research articles/

seminar papers. The college to its credit has published Nine (09) proceedings of the seminar as testimony.

- v) The topic selected for these seminars were on current issues and not traditional. All the resource persons have highly praised the organising departments for choosing topics on contemporary issues and burning problems. Interdisciplinary approach in addressing these problems have opened up new vistas in the domain of academics.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required :-**

Organising such a marathon programme without availing any sort of financial assistance from funding agencies like UGC, ICSR, ICHR etc. was the major problem that the college encountered.

Arranging Resource persons for a series of seminars was another problem faced by the college. Moreover, the College administration took the instant decision to have this kind of symposiums and seminar to best utilize the semester break in a positive manner so that these days would not go astray in idle holidaying mood. Making arrangement for such a Gala Academic exercise within short notice was bit difficult. Had it been planned a few months earlier involving great academic giants in these seminars would have been bit easier.

#### **7. Notes (Optional) :-**

The success achieved through this novel practice adopted by Government Autonomous College, Rourkela may be an eye opener for other colleges of Odisha to best utilise their Semester breaks in organising similar types of academic programmes by involving several departments together.