Go Digital – (ICT Literacy)

The Context:

ICT is pragmatic in education. It can bring a lot of benefits in the educational sector as well as to the community at large. ICT is inevitable and the COVID crisis has proved the same by showcasing accelerated usage of the technology in every field including the educational space.

Objectives of the practice:

- To enhance ICT literates among students for developing higher order thinking skills
- The objective is to make students use the ICT tools effectively in their learning process that would helps them to increase their understanding and thought processes in making independent decisions.
- To encourage the teaching and non-teaching faculty to extensively use ICT techniques
- The objective is to bridge the gap between the students, teaching and non-teaching faculty to enhance the E-learning and E-communication techniques for quick access to information and networking with all the stakeholders as this would provide excellent integration of ICT in every process.

The Practice:

ICT is mainly an aid coming in different forms to help higher education system and the students in-terms of getting the course content prepared, circulated to larger groups of students and ease of transmitting the course material across locations.

With the usage of ICT techniques, the conventional teaching techniques got transformed to digital teaching techniques offering varied advantages like location barriers, ease of transmitting the course contents, video sessions- Live/Recorded, Self-paced learning, Multimedia contents etc.

For an institution to adapt to this revolution in teaching mechanisms, there are some key factors of consideration like:

The institution equipping itself with latest technological gadgets and tools for video conferencing, making the campus a WI-FI zone for ease of access in teaching – learning processes.

The faculty re-skilling to accept and utilize these technology aspects in their day-to-day teaching methodology.

We, at Adity Degree College, RJY had accepted this paradigm shift in conventional teaching and making all possible logistic arrangements to fully utilize and take advantage of the techniques offered by ICT to deliver the best of teaching – learning experience to the students.

While the college is spread across an area of approx. 2 acres, the campus has been made a WI-FI zone enabling the students to access the material anywhere in the campus. While initially there were challenges and issues like WI-FI strength, data protection etc. The college took every step to leverage the best of equipment to overcome the challenges.

With college being an old establishment (established in 2000), there are many faculty who are senior and on the verge of retirement or in early 50's. The institute took every endeavor in-terms of training the senior faculty from various departments with a focus on ease of using the technological facets in educating the student community.

Challenging issues:

The following challenges were faced in making ICT an integral part of every student, faculty and non-teaching faculty:

Internet Connectivity: Due to huge campus area with different buildings/blocks spread across, the WI-FI range of internet was very weak in few locations.

Teacher's adaptability to technology and its associated aids: There were a few departments in the college with faculty facing difficulty in migrating their teaching methodology and assessment process from conventional to online techniques and blended learning especially during the period of pandemic.

Evidence of success:

The college has been on the fore-front of using ICT based techniques and also encouraged students to learn and make use of these techniques. The college conducted webinars, co-curricular activities using these ICT based techniques making student learn through real-time sessions. The students are frequently shared google forms to update their details or for any assessment, usage of google classrooms for circulation of important class material or announcements etc. has helped

the students learn these ICT techniques practically. These students in-turn would spread their knowledge to large student groups making our college to achieve goal#1 easily. With this, students were able to register and take various MOOC courses from Swayam – NPTEL portal,

courses from IIT – Bombay Tutorials etc. With this, the students higher order thinking skills have been enhanced phenomenally. While students have been learning through the practical way, college took enough care and steps for helping the teaching and non-teaching faculty also equip themselves with these ICT techniques by conducting trainings periodically. The faculty of Computer Science department also attends to the requests or doubts of the non-computer faculty and help by resolving them spontaneously making sure they are not disturbed or lose interest in learning these technological improvements.

Resources Required:

- The wi-fi signals were not strong enough for students to download the class material or to join online classes. The college had to install routers to strengthen the signal.
- The desktops with internet were provided to students, there was a threat of data being shared to wrong groups and about virus getting downloaded in the systems. There was a need to connect all computers in the college through WAN / LAN and have data security protocols in-place. Antivirus software was also required to protect systems from all virus attack.

Title of Practice: MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE FOR PHILANTHROPY

Goal /Aim:

One of the best practices that the institution has endeavored is the **MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE FOR PHILANTHROPY**, a Social Service activity aiming at inculcating the values of benevolence, humanity, magnanimity, sacrifice, altruism and empathy among the students to implement them in future life. Our students conduct the event in and around the villages of our institution, meet the people residing there, share their feeling and extend their monetary help.

Objectives of the Event:

- To inculcate among the students the value of social responsibility.
- To enlighten them about the need of social service.
- To instill among them the readiness to respond to the humanitarian cause.
- To develop the quality of leadership among the students.
- To develop the virtue of compassion, love, cooperation, charity and empathy.

Context:

This activity is the epitome of all educational endeavors. The modern world characterized by individualism and professionalism has left less space for the people to think about others especially those who need care and support. Helping someone who is in need is truly a soul feeding experience that helps the students to instill the value of charity, love, compassion and most importantly the sense of belongingness to the society and nation. The nucleus of establishing our college is the charity to the community which finds its manifestations through these kinds of events organized by our students round the year.

The Practice:

This event has become an incorporating part in the teaching- learning exercise at the college for which time has been specified in advance.

- Through notice board and circulars students are informed to avail the facility of such activities.

- It is led by the assigned teacher in-charges. In fact, it is mandatory for all the faculty members of the department to participate in organizing the programme.

- The areas of operation are selected in advance and planning for accomplishment is made in advance in the presence of the participating students.

- Discussion interaction/worksheet and brain storming are the major modes of interaction. Suggestions, ideas, views and opinions are invited from the participating students with positive note.

- All their suggestions, ideas, views and opinions are integrated and a resolution and working strategies are prepared.

- Financial requirements are met by the students themselves except the situation when the institutional support is considered necessary.

- Through collecting the money from various sources, students will present projects, Games (Fun and Logical), establish food stalls and others like stalls for ladies (costumes, necessary items)

Evidence of success:

The success and failure of any programme depends upon the effective leadership and institutional support, involvement and co-operation of students, support of the all the stalk holders and visionary policy and planning. The encouragement and support of the institution for social service in particular has gone a long way in instilling healthy social habit.

It is evident that such endeavour led to Building leadership qualities among the students, generating sense of belongingness to the society, getting them acquainted with access to

living conditions of the people and their struggle for survival and helping in better utilization of time. Time is utilized in gainful way by involving in social service.

- Motivates the students to manage a system of people.
- Feel satisfied and involve in a task that earns blessings and best wishes in return.
- Get a platform to develop their skills.
- Improve the quality of education.
- Get appreciation and support from parents and guardians.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Although the event is a soul feeding experience it needs a lot of resource and dedicated effort on the part of the group leader and the team as well as the support from the prominent personalities and the administration. Mobilization of funds and human resource is a real challenge to accomplish such a missionary endeavour.