7.2 Best Practices 1:

1. Title of the Practice:Improving Teaching and Learning Process

2. Goal:

To achieve the principles of the teaching / learning process which are multi-fold, the principles followed as best practice was – to raise the curiosity of a student in a particular topic, to encourage the students to question the obvious and to increase the interaction in the class. Rapid advancement in technology is one of the major issues that affect the teaching/learning process. The facilitators find it difficult to keep pace with the techno-savvy learners. Further there is a rapid change taking place in technology which aggravates the problem. Keeping the audience captivated throughout the lecture is another challenge. The facilitator is required to use a variety of tools to keep the learner engaged in the learning process. Having access to a variety of tools all the time may not be possible. Today knowledge is just a click away to the learner; a challenge faced by facilitators is to keep pace with the latest news and happenings. The teaching/learning process is given immense importance in the institute. The institute trains their facilitators continuously to help them enhance their teaching abilities. The learning imparted to the teachers is implemented in enhancing the learning experience of the learner.The teaching /learning process starts with designing of a lecture plan by the facilitator. The lecture plan is given in advance to the learners.The facilitator initiates a discussion or tells a story or questions the learners before defining the objectives. The objectives of the lectures are defined to specify to the learner the learning outcomes. During the lecture, discussions and questioning is encouraged. Holistic learning is encouraged through the continuous evaluation system. Various forms of assessment are used for continuous evaluation such as group discussions, assignments, Power Point presentations, class tests etc. Various co-curricular activities are also organized for the learners. These activities give an opportunity to the students to put their knowledge into application.

An aspect very unique about our teaching /learning process is the freedom given to learners to share their views and ideas. Even ideas that sound impractical are discussed and a proper explanation is given to the learners why they cannot be implemented. The learner is the part of the learning process rather than just a spectator of the same. A major limitation of the teaching /learning process is the time constraint. The facilitators have various ideas which they would like to implement in their class, however due to paucity of time all of them cannot be implemented.

3. Evidence of success:

The evidence of success is visible, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. The qualitative indicators are a more positive outlook towards life, improvement in etiquettes and desire to understand things rather than learning by the rot. The quantitative indicators for learners who actively participate in co-curricular activities are that they show improvement in academic performance. Students who have passed out have done extremely well in the corporate world. Some students have put their learning into application by starting their own businesses.The results bring some prominent factors to light. Some of the factors are that students when shown the right direction and given the right encouragement can achieve the goals they desire. Holistic development rather than only academic success contributes in creating socially sensitive individuals which is a prominent requirement of educational institute.

4. Problems encountered and Resources Required

The non-availability or non-workability of technology is one of the major problems encountered in the teaching learning process. Further, encouraging discussions in the lecture becomes self-obliterate towards its aim, at times. Questions posed by learners may not be to find anAnswer to the problem but to test the knowledge of the facilitator. The span of interest of the learners is very short. Teachers today have to play the role of an educator and entertainer combined, rather than just an educator. Resources in terms of finance are continuously required to upgrade technology requirements. This is not available consistently. Space is another constraint. Activity based games cannot be implemented due to paucity of space.

7.2 Best Practice 2:

Title of the practice: "The Gift of Green":

Objective:

The Green Campus initiative began with an objective of fostering a culture of eco-friendly practices and making the campus environmentally sustainable. We aim to build a campus that is plastic free, produces minimal waste, conserves energy, protects biodiversity and practices self-sustainability in areas of power, water and cleanliness. This is a collective endeavor of our students, staff and neighbouring community in an effort to recognize our place and responsibility on this planet.

- Follow sustainable construction practices.
- Solid waste management.
- Energy and water conservation measures.
- Establish campus renewable energy sources like roof top solar power plants, etc.

  The institute believes that it is important for us to be involved in environmental issues therefore; we engage the campus community and take care of the environment and surroundings. Our ambition is to stimulate each student and staff to increase their knowledge about environmental issues and be aware about our duties and responsibilities towards environment. The institute also takes advantage of natural lighting and study light needs in the different areas of the classrooms and work places. We encourage our students and staff to turn off lighting in unoccupied spaces. Our efforts are more in the direction to improve the environmental impact and to support mother nature. Some details of which are as follows:

- The institute has developed beautiful campus with lawns and botanical gardens.
- The institute is using renewable energy like solar energy.
- The institute has preserved Flora and Fauna on the campus.
- The institute organises seminars and workshops on environment related issues.

  Problems encountered and resources required

- Green campus initiatives are challenging, so it requires determination and a long term assurance from all the stakeholders.

- Green campus initiative is rather expensive practice. It needs an expert advice and investment of resources.
- Sufficient manpower to maintain them.
- Less awareness of students and community towards environmental issues.
- Solar power plant requires more maintainace to be kept clean otherwise, the amount of power production reduces.