Government Degree College, Chinturu

Guide for Documenting "Best Practices"

Introduction: Established in 2018, our college is committed to providing quality education and fostering academic excellence. As a newly established institution, we focus on building a strong foundation for students by offering a dynamic learning environment, modern facilities, and dedicated faculty. While the college has not yet undergone NAAC accreditation, we continuously strive for academic growth and institutional development. Our goal is to equip students with knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them for future challenges, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.

The new vision statement is approved in the Governing Body Meeting.

Vision

"To stand out as a beacon light of **lifelong, learning**, **research** and **excellence** by creating an optimal learning environment of quality and **inclusiveness** to transform youth into competitive **global workforce**."

Mission

- To sustain the legacy of culture and heritage by blending tradition with modernity. *(excellence)*

- To prepare students for blended learning to make the best of possible scenarios. *(optimal learning)*

- To provide a vibrant academic ambience through inclusive admission process and curriculum. *(environment)*

- To provide egalitarian learning platforms for the socio-economically disadvantaged groups. *(inclusiveness)*

- To address youth unemployment by empowering them with 21st centuries capacities. *(global workforce)*

- To help youth accept challenges as opportunities and strive toward a promising world of universal citizenship. *(lifelong learning)*

Core Values

The Institution is guided by Core Values of

- Women in Development

- Patriotism

- Integrity

- Inclusiveness

- Transparency

- Critical thinking

- Team Work

- Sustainability

- Institutional Social Responsibility

The core areas focused for achievement include **Lifelong learning,** and **Excellence by** creating **optimal learning environment**, **inclusiveness and producing** competitive **global workforce.** The mission statement reflects the broad strategies dwelt by this institution to achieve the set goals. The operational plans are prepared imbibing the institutional core values. Operational plans are evolved at the Departments keeping the broad framework of the Institution. The Departments in turn develop plans for execution at department level and at program level for all programs offered by the department. These plans are implemented by departments through strategic operational plans to fulfill the specific tasks.

What is Best practice?

1.   A "Best Practice" is commonly defined as "a technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven reliably to lead to a desired result". "Best Practice" is "knowledge about what works in specific situations and contexts, without using excessive resources to achieve the desired results, and which can be used to develop and implement solutions adapted in other similar situations and contexts".

2.   The use of the word "best" should not be considered in the superlative sense. In other words, the term "Best Practice" is not about "perfection", the "gold standard" or only elements that have been shown to contribute towards making interventions work or successful.[1] Results can be partial and may be related to only one or more components of the practice being considered.

3.   Indeed, documenting and applying lessons learned on what does not work and why it does not work is an integral part of "Best Practice" so that the same types of mistakes can be avoided by other programmes and projects.

4.   The main rationale for documenting and sharing "Best Practices" is to enable persons and organizations working under similar situation to avoid "re-inventing the wheel"; to "learn in order to improve performance" and; to "avoid the mistakes of others".

5.   Documenting and sharing "Best Practices" affords one the opportunity to acquire knowledge about lessons learned and to continue learning about how to improve and adapt strategies and activities through feedback, reflection and analysis in order to implement larger-scale, sustained, and more effective interventions.

6.   A commitment to using a "Best Practice" is a commitment to use the body of knowledge and technology at one's disposal to ensure success.

7.   A "Best Practice" could be related to the implementation of a programme, a project, a policy, a legislation, a strategy, an activity, a manual, etc.

How to identify a Best Practice?

- Identifying "Best Practices" involves judgement.
- Such judgements require prior analysis using the following set of criteria:
    1. Effectiveness: The practice must work and achieve results that are measurable.

    2. Efficiency: The proposed practice must produce results with a reasonable level of

        resources and time.

    3. Relevance: The proposed practice must address the prioritized task/target

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4. Ethical soundness: The practice must respect the current rules of ethics for dealing with human population (students, stake holders).

5. Sustainability: The proposed practice must be implementable over a long period of time without any massive injection of additional resources.

6. Possibility of duplication: The proposed practice, as carried out, must be replicable.

7. Partnership: The proposed practice must involve satisfactory collaboration between stakeholders.

8. Community involvement: The proposed practice must involve participation of the affected Communities.

9. Political commitment: The proposed practice must have support from relevant national or local authorities

Note: By definition,

- A "Best Practices" should meet at least the *"effectiveness", "efficiency"* and *"relevance"* criteria in addition to one or more of the other criteria.

- A "Best Practice" need not meet all the above criteria.

- This is because a "Best Practice" can be anything that works to produce results without using inordinate resources, in full or in part, and that can be useful in providing lessons learned.