

# **Best Practice 2020-2021**

**Title of the Practice: Initiative for Ensuring Online Education to Underprivileged Students with Paucity of Device**



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### **Objective of the Practice:**

- ⇒ To meet the emergent digital need of the students
- ⇒ To reduce digital divide among students between the economic classes
- ⇒ To enable to overcome the learning deficiency of the underprivileged students

### **The Context:**

During pandemic, all institutions have been closed since March 16, 2020 when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The prolonged closure of educational institutions has mandated a shift from classroom teaching to online learning. Since our college being located in an exclusively rural area, the socio-economic condition of most of the parents is not sound enough to cater the need of purchasing smart phones for their wards. As a result of this, most of our students failed to have access to smartphones or laptops to attend online classes hindering teaching-learning situation. Many a times, it was noticed that some students were being forced to borrow smartphones or skip the class when the phone was not available.

### **The Practice:**

In order to realize our mission for ensuring online education to underprivileged students, our institution has pondered over providing digital resources to our students during this time of crisis. The teachers unit has come forward to distribute 15 no of mobile handsets to underprivileged students. The HODs are requested to prepare the list of beneficiary students after verifying the genuine status of the student concerned.

Our maiden effort will help our students who do not have digital resources to get learning opportunities at their homes but at the same time they are eager to sit for online classes. Apart from this, it will also help in our efforts to overcome the learning deficiencies of all those underprivileged students who are learning at home by using smartphone.

### **Evidence of Success:**

It is through this initiative, we attempted to reduce digital divide among students between the economic classes. Those 15 beneficiary students could sit for online classes. The emergent digital need of some of the students has been met up as because two or three students shared a single digital resource together. Our maiden effort has been acknowledged by concerned parents.

### **Problem Encountered and Resource Required:**

There cropped up a problem while identifying the beneficiary students. Initially the departments categorised the students on the basis of economic classes. Finally, it was decided to ascertain the list of students who actually do not possess a smart phone and simultaneously cannot afford to buy that device. There is no doubt that only a handful of students were benefitted by our maiden venture and it was simple a tip of the iceberg. The welfare fund hardly meets up the expenses of huge digital resources for this class of students. The lack of sufficient funds was the major problem encountered by the institution in undertaking this kind of initiative.

◆ Snapshot : Distribution of Smartphones to the Students.

