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Best Practice-I

1. Title of the Practice

• Philanthropical based Education

2. Objectives

- To provide higher education and employment opportunities to all sections of the society with the goal of developing the economic status of the tribal areas.
- To increase the number of student enrolment to higher education in the tribal areas.

3. The Context

The institution is aware of the fact that there are many young students and youths in and around Churachandpur District who cannot pursue higher education due to financial limitations. The institution keeping in mind its mission to provide and promote equal learning opportunities for all, therefore, prioritizes making quality education accessible to economically weaker students and has made provisions to ensure that there is maximum enrolment of students in higher education.

4.The Practice

In pursuance of its goal of promoting enrolment of students to higher education and providing equal education and employment opportunities to all students, Rayburn College has coordinated a provision of freeships/scholarships for economically weaker students which includes the exemption of 50% of the annual fees to students who are children of Church Ministers/Priest/Pastors and providing free admission to students who fall under the marginalized list. This provision is highlighted in the College handbook, circulated at the time of admission, to encourage students in their educational pursuits. Students who wish to avail these freeships/scholarships are required to produce documents that reflect their family economic background at the time of admission. The selected students are provided admission with the understanding that they are to successfully complete the course of their study programme.

In some exceptional cases, students who cannot pay their annual fees on time, are given the provision to pay their dues after the completion of their graduation or on their employment. Aside from this, the institution run NGO 'The Covenant Foundation' contributes in providing higher education to underprivileged students, mostly orphans, under their care by covering their full annual fees.



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The details of the number of students enrolled through the freeships/scholarship schemes are given below:

Year	Number of Students enrolled under the 50% Scheme	No. of students enrolled under the 100% Scheme	Total
2017-2018	14	34	48
2018-2019	17	29	46
2019-2020	22	22	46
2020-2021	27	39	76
2021-2022	22	40	62

5. Evidence of Success

A total of 276 economically weak students have enrolled for higher education in the institution in the last five years. The success of this best practice is also reflected by the following graduates who have gone on to pursue their postgraduate studies:

- 1. Lianthiansiam Hanghal- BA Political Science
- 2. Lian Joel Samte- BA History

Some of these students have further found employment opportunities in various sectors.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

While the implementation of the freeship/scholarship scheme by the institution is beneficial in fulfilling its mission, it is not without its fair share of challenges and problems. One of the biggest challenges faced is the lack of funds. The institution, within its capacity, bears the expenses of the aforementioned schemes and attempts to make higher education accessible to students who cannot afford the same. Nevertheless, the limited amount of funds and resources creates a problem for the institution to accommodate all economically weak students who are deserving candidates.

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Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice

Counselling Centre

2. Objectives

- To provide counselling services, spiritual guidance, psychological and emotional support
 to the employees and students of the institution, further extending the service towards the
 community.
- To generate a healthy social, physical and psychological learning and work environment.
- To inculcate moral, social, and ethical value system along with academic pursuit in order to ensure holistic development of the students.

3. Context

The increase in spiritual, emotional, behavioural, and psycho-social issues among the youths over the years has had a negative impact in their personal, relational and academic pursuit. The institution is fully conscious about academic and personal progress to accomplish the holistic development of students and faculty, understood the need of establishing a safe space to address such issues. Keeping this in mind, the institution decided to set up a counselling centre to provide the necessary guidance and counselling.

4. The Practice

The counselling centre was established in the year 2009 to cater to the spiritual and psychosocial needs of the students and faculty. It became fully functional in the year 2012. It mainly focuses on the areas of counselling/caring, mentoring/guiding, and organizing/networking. The institution's Chaplain, Evangelical Union, Department of Psychology and the Skill Development and Placement Cell are important pillars of the counselling centre as they contribute to the overall development of the students. The institution, keeping in mind its co-educational status, shows gender sensitivity by providing separate male and female counsellors programmes, community prayer meetings, mental health awareness programmes, interpersonal skill trainings, etc. are held on a regular basis to boost the moral and psycho-social well-being of the students, with the intention of positively affecting their academic and career development.

Students are encouraged to freely meet with the counsellors in matters regarding their spiritual and mental health, emotional well-being, or any personal challenges. The teachers also play an active role in identifying students who require counselling or mentoring and referring them to the counsellors. The sessions occur on a one-to-one basis and is treated as confidential. Validated questionnaires are also administered to the students with the purpose of counselling and care.



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5. Evidence of Success

The success of the counselling centre is visible in the students' access to a support system during a period that is critical for their personal, academic and career development. Students have mentors who help them deal with their problems in a meaningful way and guide them towards living a purpose-driven life.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The disparity in the ratio of the counsellors and the students creates limitations in the ability to reach out and serve all the students well. Moreover, the stigma placed on mental health issues inhibits both students and faculty from seeking voluntary psychosocial support.