

Best Practices-I : Title: Working with Community (WWC)

The purpose of Working with Community programme is to acquaint student teachers with the knowledge of social realities, develop dignity of labour, and make them aware of the educational issues and challenges along with the needs of the society.

Student teachers of BEd, BA,BEd and BSc,B.Ed in their final semester are placed in identified villages for a week. The coordinator and team members visit the identified villages to discuss with the school authorities, community leaders, and members about the programme and get their consent for providing all necessary cooperation and security during the programme. Before sending student teachers for community work, the institute organises orientation to the student teachers about the purpose, modalities, and activities to be organised during the programme. The coordinator and faculty members accompany student teachers and stay in the community camp. The mode of transaction are discussion, rally, competitions, poster and banner display in community setting, survey, interviews, awareness programmes etc.

The feedback indicates that the student teachers appreciate the WWC Programme as it is helpful for them to know factors in community that influence education, school and classroom practices. It is also recorded that there is positive change in the attitude of student teachers towards rural community, rural school and rural students. The student teachers reported that they can successfully work in rural schools as the programme prepared them to reciprocate to the needs of the community members. The programme coordinator also interacts with community members, teachers of local school about the programme and its usefulness for them. The community members express that this programme opens up their eyes on the importance of schooling for the children and its long term impact on improvement of their community.

Best Practices-II

Title - Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Learning resource centre is an integral part of the Institute. The aim of LRC is to provide experiential learning by providing direct experience on different topics that are covered in schools. It contains resources related to content and pedagogy in different subjects. The LRC consists of the three separate centres such as educational resource centre, botanical garden and theme park. It benefits students by supplementing the learning process. It functions as a place to introduce, reinforce, and expand student learning in different concepts and principles. It also provides access to learning materials and serves as a peer learning centre.

The LRC facilitates the children of DMS (laboratory school of RIE Bhubaneswar) and students of B.Sc.BEd, B.A.BE.d and BEd to engage in learning activities in a joyful manner. Every class gets an opportunity to explore the resources in the scheduled time. They are allowed to use the equipment and manipulate them as per instructions and carefully record their observations in their notebooks and discuss the equipment for the exchange of knowledge. Each piece of equipment reflects a concept. Signs of the instrument tell kids what to look for. Many visitors from outside the institute regularly visit the learning resource centres to learn certain principles and its application in daily life.