

## **Best Practices**

### **A. Learning Management System – IT put to effective use in learning process**

#### **1. Title of the practice**

Chettinad's Learning Management System.

#### **2. Objective of the practice**

The objective of this Learning Management System is to deliver content to all students from a centralized location which would be available online 24/7. It would be a centralized location for the faculty, student and parents to monitor the progress of attendance, marks and educational content downloads. It would help the institution to maintain records of the students which would be easily track able.

#### **3. The context that required initiation of the practice**

The learning management system was brought to provide course materials to students from a central location. The idea was also to provide them with these materials anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet. The enhancements would make course wise distribution, maintenance of records and management of students' records effective. Apart from the above the necessity to measure the student's progress, schedules were also one of the main requirements which initiated this system

#### **4. The Practice**

Ever-improving technology, new rules and regulations, increased student demands, and a changing workforce are all factors that create an environment where professors must efficiently and effectively deliver and manage learning experiences for their students. These experiences must be easily accessible and easily traceable.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

### **Centralized Learning Environment has Ensured Consistency**

The LMS ensures consistency in delivery and evaluation since each user sees the exact same material in the exact same manner and can be evaluated through common pre-testing and/or post-testing methods.

An LMS allows users to easily design and deploy customized courseware. This feature is especially important when hard topics are in for exams, previous years' materials to be made available, or keeping track of students' progress is significant. This feature also applies to updates to circulars and new rules. Students can no longer say, -no one told me that...|| or -no one ever gave it to me...|| and make education very transparent.

### **Tracking and Reporting for Enhanced Performance**

The LMS allows students to view all required learning paths, track progress against the learning path, review records of examinations and attendance, and ask doubts online. Teachers can offer this material through various media including instructor-led videos, slide shows, or video conferencing. Institution can access the same records of success and can also analyze the records data to determine areas of success and areas for needed improvement.

### **Immediate Capabilities Evaluation**

The LMS allows users to be evaluated prior to taking an assignment, while participating in the course, and upon topic completion. Teachers can evaluate retention by periodically administering scheduled assessments via the LMS. They can review the records of the results to determine success levels and the actual time taken to complete each course and its components. Apart from the above, the student usage of this facility is also measured for its effectiveness

## **Continuous Product and Service Proficiency for Employees who Interact with Customers and Clients**

The LMS provides a central point for the institution to change information, specifications, requirements, forms, and to allow easy uploading of new content or assignments. Students will access the same training courses and the same evaluation materials. Teachers set predetermined course completion dates and monitor the number of students downloading the course at any given point in time. The LMS also allows teachers to administer updates and evaluations online and assess knowledge levels and abilities.

### **6. Obstacles faced if any, and Resources required**

The learning management system had limited features as common to those distributed around the world. The regular learning management system does not have modules like Attendance, Shopping Cart and Searches. To overcome these obstacles, we custom developed our own Learning Management System which could integrate any kind of module on demand.

**Resources Required :** A computer with any operating system which has a browser Internet connectivity with a minimum speed of 128 kbps

One server with basic features

Software-Visual basic run time

Manpower – 4 (for power point preparation)

## **B. Outreach Program: serving the community**

### **1. Title of the Practice :**

Chettinad Dental College and Research Institute, Outreach Program

### **2. Objectives of the Practice:**

- To provide the under privileged rural population with cutting edge health technology in good Dental health practices preventive, palliative, curative and promotive services.
- To make Dental care accessible to the rural population.
- To enable students to gain experience of dental health care set up at the primary health care / grassroots level.
- To enable students to have a first hand glimpse into the way of life of rural masses, and thus develop a holistic outlook on dental and medical practice.
- To create the foundation of an efficient health management information system using data collected in outreach services.
- To enable the logistical infrastructure for community based research projects.

### **3. The context that required initiation of the practice**

- **Patient needs - Service gap:** The Chettinad Health City is located in a rural area. The villages here are mainly served by primary Health Centers, which are not equipped to offer dental health care. The outreach programs thus fill this service gap which is created and allows the rural population to avail of cutting edge dental health technology at affordable cost without having to travel long distances.

- **Research/Teaching/Academic needs:**

- Chettinad Dental College and Research Institute students are exposed to the rural health set up. They get a glimpse of life of the Indian masses, and have developed a more holistic outlook towards the practice of dental medicine. They are thus able to empathize with patients and build confidence in their patients.
- The information collected in various outreach programs helps to build up a data base of dental health statistics for the area.

This is the need of the hour as far as operations and maintenance of rural health information and management systems are concerned.

- The outreach programs will also aid in conducting community based research studies.

**4. The Practice:**

Since 2007, the institute has conducted more than 1000 camps focusing on various problems pertaining to dental health care.

