

CRITERIA 7.2.1 – INSTITUTIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Best Practice 1:

Title of the Practice : Patient Outreach Programs

Objectives:

- To act as a primary care provider providing emergency and multidisciplinary oral health care, directing health promotion and disease prevention activities, and using advanced treatment modalities.
- Diagnose the oral health problems and their effects on the community and to identify the most common community oral health problems in order to effectively tackle the endemic problems of the locality.
- To apply scientific principles to the provision of oral health care.
- To utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, and patient centric care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity.
- To imbibe in the students a spirit of social consciousness and an urge for protection of rural health.

Context:

- Evidence suggests that the unmet oral health needs of a population are considerably high in a developing country like India.
- The subgroups of the population like school children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, geriatric group, physically and mentally challenged have the maximum need for the dental care.

- The unusually high settlement of dental practitioners in the urban areas has led to the creation of wide gap in the accessibility of dental services by the rural people which constitute about 70% of population.
- The lack of awareness, affordability, inherent cultural practices, myths, beliefs of the community and the compounding role of dearth of dental public health.

Practice:

- Conducting camps in nearby areas such as schools, colleges, old age homes, orphanages, factories, churches, IT companies, Government bodies and local community centres including special needs.
- Satellite centres at Poonjeri village for rural oral health care service which caters to the clustered villages around.
- Patients in need of advanced treatment are referred to the institution and are also provided access to free transport from Poonjeri Primary Health Centre twice a week for procurement of care at the tertiary level.
- The Karapakkam Urban Satellite Centre of the department caters to the oral health needs of population of Karapakkam, Kannaginar, Thoraipakkam among other areas.
- Oral health awareness and care for the specially abled (mentally and physically) groups and their care givers through regular campaigns of reaching them
- The geriatric population has one of the highest dental treatment needs and hence initiatives to reach them are taken
- Outreach activities are carried out on special days such as World Oral Health Day, World Anti-Cancer Awareness Month, and World No Tobacco Day.

Evidence of Success:


Through this program the college has made efforts to make Poonjeri a model village transformed into a healthy place through awareness and practices of dental care.

- Preventive Dental Health and general health awareness
- Awareness creation on Dental Hygiene
- School Health Program: Creating awareness of oral health and ill effects of tobacco.
- Care of underprivileged/Marginalized groups like the irulas, Gypsies, Fishermen and construction workers

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The major obstacle faced by the institution is in obtaining the approval from the authorities to conduct oral screening cum treatment camps due to government restrictions.

The transport of oral healthcare personnel to distance areas along with the equipment and necessary infrastructure becomes an issue of logistics.



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Best Practice 2

Title : E-Learning

The promoters of the college, from the time of its inception considered the latest techniques in teaching and learning as the most successful channel to impart knowledge. With the advent of computers and internet, e-learning is playing a vital role in the area of education.

Objectives:


- To incorporate a common portal of learning for students and teaching faculties in order to use gadgets in a productive way.
- To get recognition through academia pursuits.
- To enhance the pedagogy and learning outcomes with the total involvement of teachers and students.
- To expose students to the latest technologies in the learning process

Context:

Technological advancements are to be accepted and necessary adaptations are to be made so as to enhance our knowledge and grow with the world. Students are more inclined towards usage of gadgets which could be exploited in a positive way to impart education through e-learning. Thus, our institute initiated the Learning Management System (LMS) and also IPAD's (students can access the LMS portal) were given to the students from the year 2017-18.

The Practice:

The LMS is managed by a team of IT experts. The website access is provided to students, teachers and parents by assigning separate username and password for them.



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Once logged in the students can view various presentations prepared and uploaded by the faculties under different topics. In case of any unavoidable circumstances, if the student fails to attend classes, he/she can view the presentations and learn the subject by himself instead of learning the same from the teacher later on. Thus the students do not miss the continuity of classes. Others than the presentations, videos are also being uploaded to LMS portal for future reference and better understanding of the subject.

The attendance and internal assessment marks of the students are uploaded onto the LMS portal which enables the parent to periodically view the same. Apart from this, we have access to various applications inclusive of Classroom app, through which the student can directly view the presentations.

Evidence of Success

- a. The entire student community is benefitted by this facility. Many of them are able to perform better in their internal examinations and score high marks in the university examinations.
- b. The students make exhaustive use of e-books and hence save sizeable money of their parents since purchase of books are minimized.
- c. The teaching has become more effective and the learning more interesting instead of a tiresome exercise.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

During initial stages of LMS implementation, both the students and the faculty had difficulty in getting adapted to newer software and procedures. But with repeated training sessions, the problems were overcome. Of course it involves financial investments to get improved versions of the software.