

Best practice - 2

1. **Title:** Mentor –Mentee Relationship
2. **Duration:** Year of Inception -2008, yes, still continuing
3. **Objectives:** The University is established with the primary objective of providing high quality professional education to the rural youth of Andhra Pradesh. Keeping this in view, the administration introduced the practice of mentorship from the inception of the University. The objectives of this practice are as follows:
 - i. To engage each student residing in the campus with study and extension;
 - ii. To arrange for the tutoring of the students after regular class work;
 - iii. To take extra care of the slow learners by way of mentoring and provide extra care; and
 - iv. To council the students as a friend, guide and philosopher.
4. **The Context:** The teaching learning process of the University is centered around the continuous engagement of the students. All the students are residents in the Hostels and are in the campus 24X7. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the University to take care for their study and stay. Further, the campus is also residential for faculty and free accommodation is provided to them. Therefore, the faculty are entrusted with extra responsibility of caring the students.

It is to be mentioned here that the University recruited staff in the name of “Home Room Tutors” [HRTs] in the beginning of the University itself. These HRTs are provided accommodation in the staff Quarters. That is how an environment is created for interaction between students and staff on a regular and continuous basis.
5. **The Practice:** As it is known, many Higher Educational Institutions in India are nonresidential. Though some of them run Hostels for accommodating the students, they are not available for the total strength of students. RGUKT is a completely residential institution. Therefore, there is dire necessity to monitor the activities of the students on the campus, for the purpose of making campus life enjoyable and memorable.

Each teacher is expected to play the role as a counselor and extend warmth at every occasion. Every care is taken by the Mentors to create an environment like a “Home away from Home”. Mentoring is carried out by focusing on the following:

- a) The educational levels of the parents.
- b) The background and the quality of schools they have come from.
- c) The time they spend on studies and play.
- d) Education in RGUKT is always a matter of pleasure and every attempt is made to minimize pressure on the students. In order to mitigate the burden on the student, remedial education and remedial examinations are given.
- e) Given the background of the students, RGUKT conducts orientation with gap analysis as a part of the orientation. This is considered helpful to identify slow learners in different subjects and they are provided with additional academic support, outside the regular classroom.
- f) Slow learners are also given enough time to complete the Engineering programme.

Creating inclusive atmosphere is the hallmark of the campus. Students of various backgrounds are admitted into the campus and they are destined to continue their studies in a joyful environment. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been providing financial support to meet food, accommodation, laptops, uniforms, shoes, socks, blankets etc. A student can walk-in barefoot into the campuses of RGUKT and the University will take care of every requirement of the student.

6. **Evidence of success:** The programme is a 100% subsidized one by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The parents need not pay a single pie. Food, accommodation, learning material, other amenities are provided by the Government. In order to make every student tech savvy, a laptop is provided at the time of joining itself. The composition of the students is such that about 80 % of them come from low income rural background, i.e., below the poverty line, having white cards. Joining RGUKT is dream come true for such people. It is made possible through this novel scheme.

As for as the evidence of success of mentoring is concerned, the pass percentage of students is always above 95%. The placement record is also impressive at 70%. The remaining 30% either progress to higher education or take up entrepreneurial activities. It is an attempt to create a replica like IIT/NIT at the State level.

7. **Problems encountered and Resources required:** RGUKT is a unique model being implemented on a massive scale. The total member of students on campuses stand at about 25,000; which includes +2 course also. Providing residential facilities to the

numbers of this scale is always stupendous task. Not only providing food and accommodation but also other services and ensuring comfortable stay at the campus remains a challenge. Still every effort is made to attend to the issues on a priority basis. Even those things, that are provided by external agencies are becoming a problem. Water is supplied by the municipality, and sewerage treatment is done by them. Messes are contracted out. All these matters need round the clock supervision. Yet, mentors are putting in the extra hard work and taking care of the requirements of students.

Since Government is the lone financier, there are problems of timely release and in adequate measure.

- 8. Notes:** The practice of appointing Tutors for Mentoring purpose can be emulated by every residential campus. In addition, the technology orientation with the provision of an exclusive laptop to every student is the need of the hour in the present day context. The Government of India also started long ago under mission mode, the Scheme of “National Mission for Education through ICT [NMEICT]. RGUKT is the best example for commissioning this idea.