

IQAC INITIATIVE for 2019-20 OPEN FORUM JOURNEYING WITH THE YOUTH

OPEN FORUM THROUGH PICTURES:



The pictures depict the working of the Monthly Open Forum Program with the Principal, faculty and students together striving towards a hope filled future with quality assurance.

OPEN FORUM PROGRAM 2019-20

What is an Open Forum Program?

The Open Forum Program is an IQAC initiative for the year 2019-20 which creates an environment and opportunity for a coming together of the Principal, faculty, students to express their views, suggestions and grievances once every month. It is a scheduled activity in the timetable for the month.

Need for an Open Forum

The students of SXIE were always given an opportunity to express their views through the open door policy of the Principal and the faculty, express their views through grievance box kept on all the floors of the Institute, inform the student council student representatives who were a liaison between students and Principal and faculty, put forth their views in the different meetings of faculty, IQAC and CDC; but still it was noticed that somehow the participation of all students was not received and a few handful ones could only voice themselves and sometimes it was a biased view, moreover, some students were uncomfortable to write and deposit their views in the grievance box. To rectify these limitations, the Institute decided to initiate a setting where all can gather in a democratic non-threatening environment and share their views on the monthly happenings and, present their opinions and suggestions for improvement. For improving the quality of the interactions and interrelationship, for fostering equity as well as for strengthening equality and democracy, the open forum initiative came into existence.

Proceedings of the Open Forum Program

So, for 2019-20 year every month Open Forums were organized with the Principal and the student representative of student councils moderating the sessions. Initially it started with only the Second-Year students then as the First-Year students enrolled, they also joined in from November 2019.

The minutes of the open forum were noted by the student representative and the IQAC Coordinator. Some important transactions and deliberations were about suggestions regarding exams, paperless assignments, sports day certificate, pedagogy subject change request, cleaning of Boys Common Room, repairing of Girls common room pipeline, more time for exam preparation, vehicle parking in the compound, suggestions regarding experiential lessons, dissatisfaction regarding the session on puppetry, timing of the college, library facilities, availability of photocopying, availability of tea etc.

Appreciation was done by students regarding LMS, monthly timetable, community work and rural camps, life skills and other resource persons appreciated, Safai Bank initiative, question bank, preparation for exams, open forum etc

Some of the Outcomes of the open forum

Some outcomes distinctly noted were open dialogue between Principal, faculty, librarian and non-teaching and students, questions answered in face to face and with effective communication skills of listening, dialogue, interaction and understanding. Some changes in the library -assembly coordination was taken up immediately, issue of classroom cleanliness was mutually worked upon, rationale for certain practices and rules were put forth etc.

It was noticed also that some students sometimes felt apprehensive to share their views in the open forum, so suggestions were asked to the both batches about a solution to this. Some of the suggestions which came up would be tried out in the upcoming open forums.

Some suggestions were – that students anonymously can write/type a suggestion, grievance note and it can be collected in the grievance box, (grievance box as per students' suggestions, was placed where they felt more secure to put in their comments), then during the open forum time slot the suggestions, comments can be read out followed by deliberations and discussions.

Reflections on the Open Forum by the IQAC Coordinator

The students of 21st century is born in the milieu of open resources, critical thinking, sharing, openness to diversity, thus it is not surprising that the students of SXIE would like to be a part of community of participation, democratic way of living and empowerment.

I am glad that SXIE could take bold steps to make students partners in decision-making for improving quality in teaching-learning, infrastructure and important concerns of the Institute.

I think the mission of the Institute towards building a just and humane society, of empowering the future of tomorrow is being reflected in this small initiative of the Institute. Moreover, even the theme of the year, *Building a Hope-filled Future* by Journeying with the Youth seems also to be taking concrete form. I feel these young student teachers exposed and equipped through such democratic programs will leave the portals of SXIE with hidden curriculum of community participation, joint decision-making process, respect for differing viewpoints, effective ways of voicing oneself, solidarity and peaceful ways of resolving conflicts.

I am grateful to the Principal, faculty, most importantly students for participating in this program for enhancing the quality of the Institute.

Report by

Ms Kalpana Chavan
IQAC Coordinator