

7.3.1 - Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Institutional Distinctiveness Title: "Small Classes, Big Impact: Maximizing Student Engagement"

The college offers undergraduate courses such as BBA, BBA (CA), and BSc. (CS), each with an intake capacity of 80 students. With a class size of 80, it becomes challenging to address student queries and meet their enthusiasm within the limited lecture time.

By reducing class sizes, i.e. dividing one division of 80 intakes into two classes of 40 each, college aims to provide greater attention to individual student needs, improve results and a more engaging educational experience. This objective involves creating an environment that fosters meaningful connections between students and teachers, encouraging open communication and personalized learning. It is necessary to hire more faculty members to conduct lectures, as the teaching workload has nearly doubled. By exploring effective teaching strategies within small class settings, the objective is to uncover methods that enhance student participation, collaboration, and overall engagement.

This practice focused on student motivation and enthusiasm for learning. The objective involves investigating the role of technology and innovative teaching methods in optimizing engagement within smaller classrooms.

We have increased the student participations in all activities. The management also helps to provide adequate resources like faculties, infrastructure, budget allocation etc. to achieve the success.

Objective:

1. **Personalized Attention:** One of the most evident advantages of small classes is the ability of teachers to provide individualized attention to each student. However, in smaller classes, teachers can better understand the unique learning needs and preferences of each student, tailoring their instruction accordingly. This personalized approach fosters a sense of belonging and encourages students to actively participate in classroom activities.
2. **Increased Interaction:** In small classes, students have more opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and collaborative activities. This increased interaction not only deepens understanding but also cultivates critical thinking skills as students learn to articulate and defend their viewpoints in a supportive environment.
3. **Enhanced Teacher-Student Relationships:** In large classes, building strong relationships between teachers and students can be challenging due to limited time and resources. Teachers can establish a rapport with each student, gaining insight into their interests, strengths, and challenges. As a result, students feel valued and supported, leading to greater motivation and engagement in their academic pursuits.
4. **Opportunities for Differentiated Instruction:** In Small classes through project-based learning, hands-on activities, or individualized assignments, educators can adapt their teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles and abilities. This flexibility ensures that every student receives the necessary support to succeed, fostering a sense of confidence and self-efficacy. Also, digital classrooms and cameras in small classes mean

using screens, computers, and cameras to teach and keep an eye on students in smaller groups

5. **Sense of Community:** Students develop meaningful connections with their peers, fostering empathy, teamwork, and mutual respect. This sense of belonging not only enhances the overall classroom experience but also contributes to improved academic performance as students feel motivated to contribute positively to the group dynamic.
6. **Effective Feedback and Assessment:** In small classes, teachers can provide timely and constructive feedback, dedicating more time to reviewing assignments, offering detailed comments, and guiding students towards academic growth, promoting engagement and continuous learning.

Evidence of Success:

1. **Attendance Improvement:** Smaller class sizes lead to a significant increase in student attendance. Teachers can engage in one-on-one interactions with students, motivating them to attend classes regularly. This reflects a notable improvement in the regular attendance rate.
2. **Result Improvement:** Small classes help to yield the best results" means that smaller class sizes lead to better outcomes or achievements in various aspects of education, such as academic performance, student engagement, and overall learning experience.
3. **Satisfaction improvement:** Smaller classes lead to higher student and parent satisfaction with experiential learning, outcome-based learning, and effective evaluation.
4. **Effective activities conduction:** Small classes enhance teaching activities like skill development, presentation skills, and group discussions, Role-playing Exercises etc. which are difficult with 80 students.
5. **Enhance Leadership skills:** Small classes help increase student leadership through various activities. For example, having a Class Representative allows students to take on leadership roles, manage responsibilities, and represent their peers. In a smaller class setting, more students have the opportunity to participate actively in these roles, enhancing their leadership skills and fostering a sense of responsibility and community

In conclusion, small classes have a profound impact on student engagement by providing personalized attention, fostering increased interaction, nurturing strong teacher-student relationships, facilitating differentiated instruction, fostering a sense of community, and enabling effective feedback and assessment. By maximizing student engagement in these ways, small classes lay the foundation for academic success and lifelong learning. Therefore, investing in smaller class sizes is not just an educational strategy but a commitment to nurturing the potential of every student.




PRINCIPAL
PRINCIPAL
Ashoka Education Foundation's
Ashoka Center for Business and
Computer Studies, Nashik