Best Practice 1: Implementing a state-of-the-art India centric online learning Solution

1. **Title of the practice:** Implementing a state-of-the-art India centric online learning Solution

2. **The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words):**

   The advent of lockdowns has made education institutes across the world aware of big gaps in terms of the online academic support required for students. This is especially true for students from remote semi-urban and rural locations in India where internet connectivity as well as access to state-of-the-art devices is a major constraint. Early feedback from Shoolini's online teaching initiative highlighted that many such students viewed themselves as academically stranded. These students were unable to properly listen in on to lectures, and had problems communicating with their teachers. Further, exams conducted online during the early days of e-learning indicated low scores and high potential drop-offs.

3. **Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words):**

- Implement a comprehensive online learning solution which worked effectively for all our students, including those in rural areas and without access to laptops.
- Ensure the delivery of a high-quality learning and inter-active learning experience.
- Identify different segments of students based on their learning requirement and use this to customize learning input.

4. **The Practice (250 – 300 words):**

The University implemented a holistic solution involving technology, processes, and training to ensure the above training for these cases:

The core initiatives of the practice are highlighted here-in:

- Better e-learning experiences in case of lower connectivity was enabled through a custom-built virtual classroom module (using a customized module of BigBlueButton) that uses a whiteboard and voice lecture; focus on asynchronous learning through offline availability and curation of videos lectures, followed by audio tutorials.

- The University implemented regular Faculty development programs and weekly sharing of best practices within and between departments. This enabled our teachers to adapt to the new online teaching scenario, resolve key issues and enable high most effective frameworks in their classrooms.

- We curated over 20,000 lecture videos. This enabled high impact videos to be accessed by our students. These videos include the transcript of the lecture which is made available through speech-to-text. Further the student has the ability to search within and across lectures to find the precise location of the answer to a question.

- The University commenced ongoing assessment of student-engagement scores – based on attendance, time spent in online and offline classes, quizzes and AI based emotional analysis. These scores are then used to identify 7 core student segments such as 'likely to drop', 'strugglers' and to implement personalized learning interventions and paths.

- Shoolini University enabled teachers with a bird's eye-view of engagement scores of a whole class, as well as detailed insights and recommendations for individual students.

- To ensure better in-class participation the University implemented the following measures: encouraging break-out groups, running planned informal game-like interventions and real-time AI based evaluation of students' audio answers.

5. **Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them: (100 words)**

The University faced several obstacles linked to both technology and operations in implementing the above practice.

Identifying and implementing the technology was a big issue – particularly since no existing solution existing that could fully meet the requirement. Thus the IT faculty worked with our chosen partner AADDOO Softtech to develop and implement the same. Further at each stage of the development feedback from teachers and students was taken to ensure that the right technologies were being adopted.

While internal workgroups took the initiative for key processes; our technology partner, Learninns and out internal IT team - was tasked with developing bespoke solutions or adapting existing tools for these needs.

6. **Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words):**

As a result of this program, student engagement has drastically improved from the time of the start of the lock-down: scores on proctored exams are up 12%, the 'happiness score' of students is up by 8%, and student numbers in the 3 segments of concern –' likely to drop', 'at-risk and 'strugglers' have fallen by 45% .

We now have, through various pilots and trainings, a clear framework on supporting online learning for students who face infrastructural challenges - which will a play an important part in pedagogy in the future. We plan to continue to monitor key student engagement metrics, and build on this initiative with the aim that no student should be left behind.

7. **Resources required:**
- IT infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence based framework developed through our partner AADOO Softteck.
- Detailed inputs and feedback from student and faculty
- Faculty development and training programs.

8. **Contact Persons for further details**

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Best Practice 2: Radio Shoolini – A community radio effort to spread awareness and help upskilling

1. **Title of the practice:** Radio Shoolini – A community radio effort to spread awareness and help upskilling

2. **The context that required the initiation of the practice (100-120 words)**

   In order to provide students quality education and exposure to enhance their communication and writing skills, Shoolini University came up with this idea of a Campus Radio titled Radio Shoolini. Irrespective of their streams, all students are allowed to come up with their ideas and their own shows which are played in campus as well as posted on the official online website for the listeners. In addition to that, students can also record their other talents like music, storytelling and poem reciting. The university has a complete setup of a studio and recording devices for the students with a faculty in charge. To begin with, students are given shows based on their interests so that they find the whole thing interesting and gradually start doing other shows.

3. **Objectives of the practice (50-60 words)**

   The overall goal of the campus radio is to provide students overall growth and support to achieve their goals and help them become a professional and balanced speaker. It also accomplishes the following objectives:
   - To ensure the students have a platform to showcase their talents.
   - To monitor that the right form of information and data is being recorded in the shows.
   - To make students aware about the different types of talents they can showcase on Radio.
   - To induct students to write their thoughts which improves their writing skills and brings clarity in their thought process and also makes them confident.
   - To inculcate the love for speaking out thoughts and relate them with their favourite music while recording shows.
   - To involve faculty in showcasing their talent through different Radio Shows based on their talents.

4. **The Practice (250-300 words)**

   The faculty-in-charge of the campus radio is responsible for helping students in writing their scripts, providing ideas for the shows and also teach them the basic knowledge about recording and speaking with the help of an automated audio system. The radio shows range from basic theme based shows, Bollywood-based shows, Motivational talks, Interactive Shows with views of students and faculty to special interview shows which are done by the students for the students. The radio shows are designed, written, recorded, edited and mixed before playing by the faculty-in-charge and also a list is made of the same. The Campus Radio acts as a strong platform for the students to display hidden talents and develop their personality.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (100 words)

The only challenge being faced is bringing students to studio for recording as they feel scared of speaking before the mike but slowly and steadily, they are being encouraged though Auditions/ Open elective Course of Becoming an RJ and one-to-one interactions and no. of RJs of Radio Shoolini is increasing with each passing day. Efforts are on to make our Campus Radio a Community Radio Station which will further boost the listenership and interest of listeners which would then include people outside the University Campus too.

6. Impact of the practice (100-120 words)

The practice has been instrumental in raising the standards of the university as well as providing the students with amazing opportunities to attain knowledge by writing and improve their speaking skills thus boosting confidence and bring out the best in the students. It has also become a source of entertainment for the students as well as faculty. The campus radio also helps in promoting university special events and important notices to make the students and faculty aware about latest changes or updates.

7. **Resources required:**

- Faculty- Special care is given during the recruiting of expert teacher so that there is balance and normal functioning of the institution.
- Students and other professional staff are also a part of the practice as their suggestions and observations are very insightful.
- A soundproof studio with proper functioning Audio system installed.

8. Contact person for further details

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