

Title of the practice – GOA DAY CELEBRATIONS -ABOLIANCHEM FEST

The context that required the initiation of the practice:

Most trainees had no idea of ancient Goan culture and traditions. The Goa Day was celebrated to document, generate and share knowledge, for a sustainable living for the present and future generation through a revival of art, craft, traditions, food and dance forms unique to the state of Goa.

Objectives of the practice:

The main objective was to inculcate a sense of rootedness among Goans, a sensitivity to and respect for everything that belongs to the culture of Goa. To see Goa in the Indian context, to visualize our role in strengthening the National fabric. To document by way of reporting the research, which will serve as a reference source for future teacher-trainees studying at the Institute.

The Practice:

The Goa Day Celebrations renamed as ‘**The Abolianchem Fest**’ after the Abolim flower that was supposedly to have a repute of being the state flower. The flower has been rooted deeply in the socio cultural and religious sanctity of the people. The festival is aimed at reviving the age old Goan, socio-cultural ethos by celebrating its music, dance, food, sports, arts, crafts and theatre of the bygone years.

Students are divided into a number of groups. Each group is assigned a specific responsibility. Preparation within the groups begins 2-3 months prior to the festival. A total of 350 people including the students and staff of all departments of the Institute work together in sync with a theme.

Each group is mentored by a faculty member(s) for effective functioning and management of the team and is/are responsible for preparing a particular program. The first few days were utilized for the sole purpose of planning and evaluation of ideas put forth by all the students of the group and some of these ideas were later finalized.

The ideas put forth by the students are finalized and implemented as follows:

1. Food- Planning the menu, recipes, resources for a variety of snacks, lunch and sweets to be served and sold on the festival day.
2. Dance- The various dance forms are discussed that would be performed on the festival day are documented with images, videos, costumes, and villages where they are performed.
- 3-Traditional Games: Various traditional games that will be demonstrated, are discussed and resources are collected via books, to popularize them in this age of virtual gaming.
- 4.Theatre: Goan theatre arts – ‘*Tiatr*’ and ‘*Natak*’ are documented and short skit / acts are performed on the day. Also, prominent artistes are interviewed and honoured on the day of the festival.

5. Medicinal Plants: Different medicinal plants / herbs, that will be displayed at the stall are cultivated or sourced in advance. Beverages like the 'kokum,' lime juice, lemon grass tea is served during the festival.
6. Traditional folk songs are sung in the form of Mando, Dulpods and others. The lyrics and music are practised and performed by the group.
8. Heritage Artefacts, Deco Art- Craft: The traditional arts and crafts are highlighted by the students with a display of artefacts of heritage value. The venue is decorated with traditional Goan festive deco. Handcrafted collectible items are produced by the students e.g., pottery and coconut shell crafts.
9. Music: The different musical pieces that will be performed, e.g., 'Ghumot' rhythms, Guitar / Violin / 'Ghumot' ensembles are planned and practised. The group also documents the various aspects of the instruments used in the ritualistic and socio-cultural festivities around the villages of Goa.
10. Traffic & Garbage management: Maintaining discipline in and around the campus planned parking with the R.T.O is sought. Garbage segregation, maintaining the cleanliness of the place before and after the event is taken care of by the respective groups. Moreover, the festival is made plastic free.
11. Media: The various workshops, seminars and overall preparations are thoroughly documented for uploading them on the social, print and electronic media. Records of all the activities with the press coverage are maintained.
12. The audience that is expected during the festival are students with their families, guests, invitees, students from schools and colleges in and around Panjim.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words)

The main obstacle was financial support. Due to the large scale of the event for the first year, the institute cashed in on a few resources from the college development fund, maintaining that the festival will generate income via sale of food items, plants, artefacts, games etc. The faculty and benefactors contributed resources like ingredients for the snacks and lunch preparations. Resource persons voluntarily trained the students in the various art forms – dance, folk music, and songs.

Impact of the practice:

Various workshops are conducted for the students to get acquainted with the unique traditions of food preparation, dance forms, songs and musical pieces and art forms. At the end of the festival every student of the institute is equipped with new knowledge and skills.

This is reflected when the trainees join schools for their internship and practice the skills. Also, when the trainees leave the portals of the institute, they take away the finer aspects learnt about the ethos and objectives of the festival.

Resources required:

For any celebration financial assistance is the main constraint, so funds were required to erect a pandal and stalls for the various activities. Also, financial assistance was sought for sound, ingredients for various food items, costumes for the various dance forms, instruments for the various musical performances etc. Some faculty, students and benefactors contributed to the resources.

About the Institution

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