7.2 Best Practices

1. E-management of Examination System

Aim:

To manage the end-to-end processes of the examination right from the application to declaration of results by using a highly integrated and sophisticated software system.

Objectives:

- 1. To make the examination system fully automated
- 2. To ensure smooth and easy functioning of the examination system for all the stakeholders- students, faculty and examiners
- 3. To facilitate online evaluation of the papers

Context:

CARE always want to upgrade the existing systems in order to make it easy and for efficient functioning. In that context, attempt has been made to make the whole system of examination fully automated with all the processes integrated with each other. The goal is to facilitate and help all the stakeholders involved in the examination process to have a smooth and easy access to all aspects of the exam system.

The current system has been designed in such a way that the student can log in any time and he/she will have access to the syllabus, question banks, IA marks, attendance, eligibility for examination and so on. Further, the students can apply online for the examination and pay their exam fee through this portal. They also can download their hall ticket in the same portal. The submission of thesis/dissertation for the post graduates (MD / MS / DM / Mch) as well as approval of the same by the external examiners have also been facilitated in the EMS.

Like students, the faculty (Heads of the Departments) will have a separate log in ID, through which they can submit the attendance, IA marks of the students. The eligibility criteria has been built in as default in the software and based on the IA marks and the attendance, the software will automatically detect whether the student is eligible for the examination or not.

The unique aspect about this new system is the "Online evaluation" where the answer sheets of the students will be scanned and uploaded in the portal and the examiners can view the answer sheets for evaluation. The marks for each question has to be awarded separately in the allotted field and the total will be calculated. The advantage is that there will not be any error that occur in the totaling, like in manual evaluation.

After the evaluation, the results will be declared within a week's time and the students can view their marks in the same portal.

The Practice:

The Online Evaluation System has been developed and maintained in house by a team of qualified IT professionals, after getting inputs from the Students, Faculty and Controller of Examiner.

The following environment is used for the development and maintenance of the software.

Coding Language: PHP

Operating System: Windows Server 2012 R2

Database: MySQL

The software consists of exam session, courses, subjects, students are assigned to the exam session. Create examiners for the corresponding subjects. Upload answer sheets and assigned to the examiners, they examine the answer sheets through online and post the marks. Finally examiners acknowledge the report for their subjects and sent through email to Examination Section.

After the development of the software, the IT team has given orientation to the students and faculty on how to use this software through demo sessions. Later, the portal was released in the website for use.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them:

- At the initial stages of this process, there were different expectations from the stakeholders like students, faculty and COE. Several meetings were convened involving all the stakeholders and all the concerns were addressed and the suggestions were incorporated in such a way that it could satisfy all the expectations and demands.
- Once the system has been launched, initially the students and the faculty felt it difficult to
 use the software but this problem was overcome by repeated demo sessions by the IT
 department.

Evidence of Success:

- 1. Easy access to all the processes of examination for the students anywhere and anytime
- 2. Contributed to the environmental sustainability as it reduced most of the paperwork
- 3. Time saving for the students, faculty and the staff

Resources: Extended hours of work by the IT team, Budget for software development





