

Impact of Seminars on Student Soft Skills Development



Suvarna Gothane

Abstract: *Conduction of seminar is crucial and essential for the students who find difficult in understanding more or less understanding on subject topics. Seminar creates interest in student understanding by means of better teaching aids compare to normal classroom chalk and board/talk session. Seminar plays vital role in business as well educational fields to grasp subject inside. Conducting a successful technical seminar requires careful preparation. Seminar MLRIT focuses on mandatory course of Technical Seminar for empowering students and overall personality development.*

Keywords: *Seminar, Soft Skills Development, Overall Personality Development.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Seminar is the key technique in teaching learning process. Kori Morgan et.al, defined seminar as an assembly directed and managed by skilled professional that focuses on a specific topic or discipline, such as business, job searches or a university field [1]. Wikipedia defined seminar as a form of academic instruction, either at an academic institution presented by a marketable or professional organization [2]. Along with hard skills education institute should provide student a forum of soft skill development. Soft skill improves flexibility, adaptability, interpersonal skills, and communication skills. Seminar provides a means for skill development.

At the present days, all is receiving at higher speed every moment of time. Day by day starts with remarkable new things. Every field, the whole things are getting superior. New enhancements and updates on diverse subjects is the key focus of researchers and scientist community across the world. Academic curriculum cannot get updated based on day by day changes. Student's community have to be updated with the arrival of daily upcoming technologies. Here Seminars plays key role. Seminars accomplished tasks of making students rationalized with the upcoming technologies. Seminars offer most up-to-date knowledge concerning the things which get experienced in science and technology. Only textbook source cannot advance students understanding in various subjects. Students should participate in diverse seminars on most modern topics. Teacher fraternity curiosity in conducting seminars is also important. For upbringing of students Educational institutions must notice significance of seminars.

According to human intelligence, a seminar is a gathering in which community can gain knowledge about the subject. Seminars all the time, aids students to know the subject wisely. With the observation and importance of seminar, inclusion of Seminar course is necessity under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

Seminars helps to renew motivation, learn new technologies, and expert in knowledge generation and reaches to overall personality development is shown in Fig1: Enhancement Areas with Seminars.

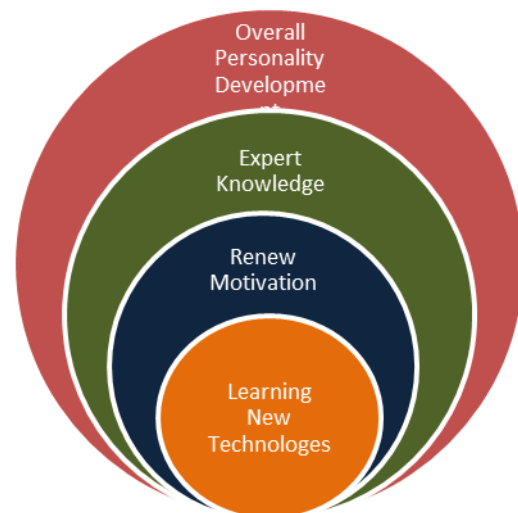


Fig.1. Enhancement Areas with Seminars

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Dhanya Sasidharan Palappallil et.al, identified encouraging students to participate in group discussions and seminars benefits in forming passion and attention to learning, enhances communication skills, peer communication and group work. Performance and presentation via seminar help in molding the individual personality [3]. Kimberly H. Council et.al, identified in teaching seminar is a fundamental factor in the progress work of the music education curriculum. Author examined the structure and content provided detail about reports of sample seminar actions, valuations, and recommendations for making involvement with mentor's collaboration [4].

III. PROCESS OF SEMINAR CONDUCTION IN MLR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

In Process of Seminar Conduction Students are projected to carry out complete study in a particular area by doing existing literature survey, analyzing diverse aspects of the problem and submitting a detail report of the study.

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In the process, the student is expected to analyze, study, learn different methodologies exist in relevant research work. It is required to correlate effort on concepts, techniques and results of researchers seriously, and present a seminar report.

Further to give a seminar presentation to panel constituted for the reason.

Evaluation of seminar is perform on the insights of the efforts carried out by students, understanding of the problem, report and presentation by the student.

Process of Seminar Conduction in MLR Institute of Technology is shown in Fig 2: Process of Seminar Conduction in MLR Institute of Technology.

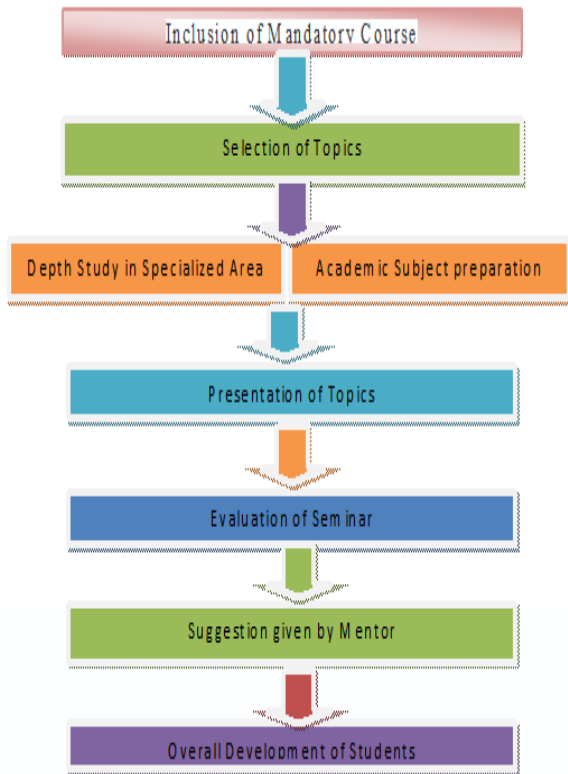


Fig. 2. Process of Seminar Conduction in MLR Institute of Technology

MLRIT Seminar conduction process consist of following procedure:

A. Inclusion of Mandatory Course:

Considering all the facts MLR Institute of technology included in Engineering, Seminar as mandatory Course for student overall development for student to be updated with daily science practices.

B. Selection of Topics:

Mentor encourage student either in subject topics or current technical topic for selection process. At the beginning of the seminar student should provide a topical outline and announce plans to take a break between topics or at least hourly

C. Depth Study in Specialized Areas:

Conducting a successful technical seminar requires careful preparation Pre-seminar planning includes (1) outlining material, (2) developing much more material , and (3) arranging comfortable and appropriate facilities. Students are projected to carry out complete study in a particular area

by doing existing literature survey, analyzing diverse aspects of the problem.

D. Academic Subject Preparation:

Academic Subject Preparation also get enhanced with the mode of seminar.

E. Presentation of Topics:

Student has to present Seminar with audio video aids.

F. Evaluation of Seminars:

After the presentation, time should be allowed not only for questions and answers but also for an evaluation to help prepare for future seminars. Evaluation process parameter includes Rank of new information enhancement, Excellence of handout Material, Superiority of Audio Video, Broad level of Discussion, Interaction with the mentor, and Significance of new information to work.

G. Suggestions given by Mentor:

Students will be given feedback by the faculty for further confidence upliftment, body language, contents presented.

H. Overall Development of Students:

Top to down process model of Seminar helps in Student overall development.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF SEMINARS IN MLR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Seminar Implementation in MLR Institute of Technology consist of following process.

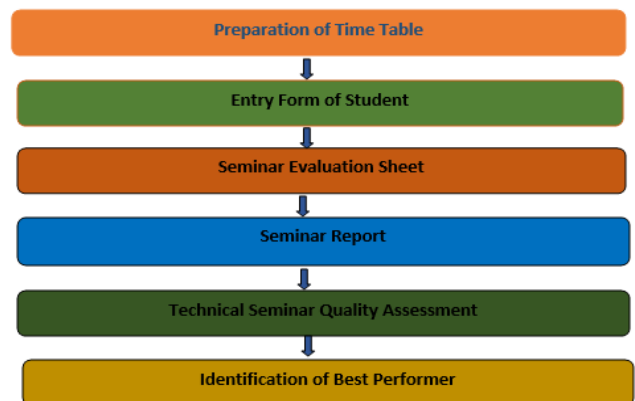


Fig. 3. Implementation Process

A. Preparation of Time Table:

Particular slot week wise will be allotted for the students. Following is Template of Department Time Table. Further every section will be splitted batch wise. Panel of 2 faculties per batch will be allotted for size of 15 students.

Table-I: Template of Timetable for Seminar slots

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----|------|----------|------|--------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| | 9.1 | 10 | 10.5 | 11.4 | | 1.2 | 2.1 | 3.00-3.50 |
| | - | - | - | - | | - | - | |
| | 10 | 10.5 | 11.4 | 12.3 | | 2.1 | 3 | |
| Mon | | | | | 12.30 - 1.20 | | | III CSE D |
| | | | II CSE B | | | | | III CSE C |
| Tue | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|----------|--|--|----------|-----------|
| Wed | | | | | | | |
| | | | II CSE A | | | II CSE D | |
| Thu | | | | | | | |
| Fri | | | | | | | III CSE B |
| Sat | | | II CSE C | | | | III CSE A |

B. B. Entry form of Student:

Student has to submit willingness or entry form for seminar registration. Student Information Form consist of following fields: Name of the Student, Roll No of Student, Branch, Year and Section, Academic Year, Seminar Title Seminar Date, Email Address, Phone Number and Gender. Given below is the template for the student Detail Information.

Table-II: Student Information Form

| Student Information Form | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sr.No | 1 |
| Name of the Student | Ashwin Kumar |
| Roll No Of Student | 17R21A05L9 |
| Branch | CSE |
| Year and Section | III CSE D |
| Academic Year | 2019-2020 |
| Seminar Title | Annotation using Content and Querying Value |
| Seminar Date | 25-11-2019 |

C. Seminar Presentation Evaluation Sheet:

Parameter are considered as student details
collection.Evaluation Grade and Suggestion for
improvement based on

- A) Oral presentation is clear and organized
- B) Sufficient information is presented
- C) Maintained eye contact
- D) Body Language and gestures
- E) Appropriate number of slides and length of presentation/Time management

Table-III: Evaluation of Seminar Parameters

| Technical Seminar Quality Assessment Parameters | Rating | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | Excellent [5] | Very Good [4] | Good [3] | Needs Improvement [2] | Poor [1] |
| 1.Rank of new information enhancement | | | | | |
| 2.Excellence of handout Material | | | | | |
| 3.Superiority of Audio Video | | | | | |
| 4.Broad level of Discussion | | | | | |
| 5.Interaction with the mentor | | | | | |
| 6.Significance of new information to work | | | | | |

D. Seminar Report:

Presenty and Absenty in Class is noted by mentors and further less present students will be motivated for attending seminar. Concern faculty follow suitable Action plan on Absent Students to be regular further.

E. Overall Technical Seminar Quality Assessment and Feedback by Faculty:

Parameter considered for Technical Seminar Quality Assessment. includes: Rank of new information enhancement, Excellence of handout Material, Superiority of Audio Video ,Broad level of Discussion, Interaction with the mentor Significance of new information to work

All the above parameter consist rating Excellent, Very Good, Good, Needs Improvement, Poor. Following is the Template of Technical seminar Quality assessment

IV. RESULTS

We obtained and evaluated results in class size of 55 students and found regular student who attends seminar and follows improvement from faculty feedback helps in improvement of student overall score. With regularity students got good scores in overall personality development. Results are displayed in terms of graph analysis considering Student Overall Attendance and Assessment /Evaluation Marks. Graphical Analysis of 2 D Line Graph of Attendance, Evaluation Percentage of marks is shown in Fig 4.

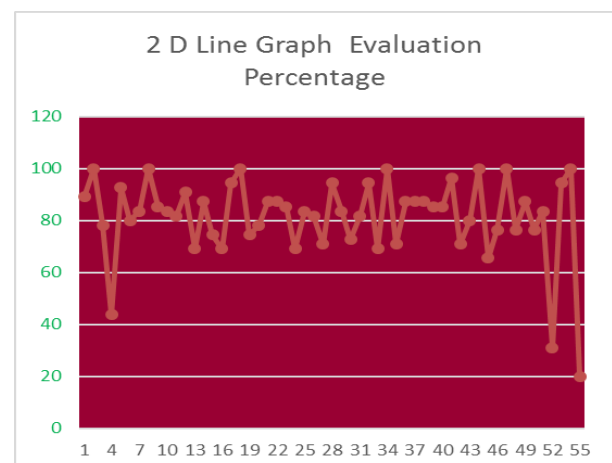
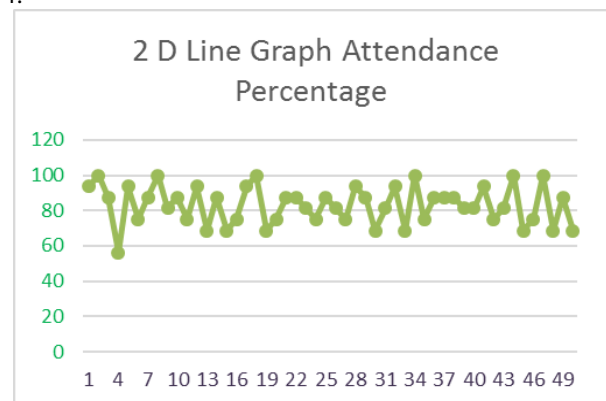


Fig. 4. 2 D Line Graph Attendance and Evaluation Percentage

Graphical Analysis of Cluster Column Graph for Attendance, Evaluation Percentage is shown in Fig. 5.

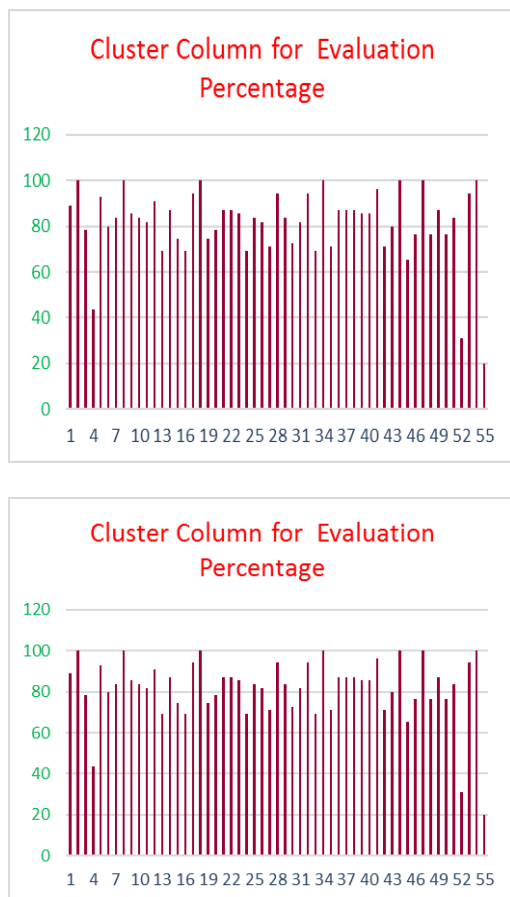


Fig. 5. Cluster Column Graph for Attendance, Evaluation Percentage

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Inclusion of a mandatory course results in improvement of overall soft skills of student. So Seminar provides added advantage in overall student personality development. Further entire seminar process need to be get automated from Preparation of Time Table, Entry form of Student. Seminar Presentation Evaluation Sheet, Seminar Report, Overall Technical Seminar Quality Assessment and Feedback by Faculty for providing efficient user interface and ease of communication among student and faculty in Institute.

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Dr. Suwarna Gothane, presently working as Professor in MLR Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, INDIA. She received her Ph.D (CSE) from Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati in year 2019, M.E. (CSE) degree from P.R.M.I.T&R, Amravati in the year 2012 and B.E. (CSE) degree from H.V.P.M C.O.E & Technology, in the year 2006. Her area of interests are Data Mining, Machine learning.