

### **2.3.4- MENTORING SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS**

The students are divided into groups and about 9-10 students are assigned to a staff member, who will be the Group Head. A senior Professor will be a team leader supervising each year under whose guidance the Group Head will function. The Group Head is responsible to assist the students in academic and co-curricular activities and rendering all help required. They are in charge of attendance, academic performance and progress of the assigned students and reporting to the parents and Principal. The team will meet once a month to discuss the progress of the assigned students and report to the Principal once in two months. The mentors meet their mentees as and when necessary or at least twice a month and discuss their progress and also counsel them.

#### **1. Objective of the Practice**

To minimize dropouts, improve performance and reduce stress of the students through personal counselling

#### **2. Need Addressed and the Context**

Students undergo various problems of stress- personal, academic, physical, mental. Dental education is a time bound course with time limitations to complete your work especially during the first two years. Students are new to professional college life and the demands of education; create a lot of stress, especially to hostel students who are away from family for the first time. Also, in the economically weaker students and students from educationally weak background, this creates a lot of complex and do not perform well due to inhibitions. Statistics reveal increasing number of suicides and dropouts. Considering the student-teacher ratio in classrooms, it is impossible at times to give personal attention to students in class. One solution therefore is a 'Mentor' who can form the bond with students in the true sense. Mentoring is required for students to achieve emotional stability and to promote clarity in thinking and decision making for overall progress.

#### **3. The Practice**

The practice is that of creating an efficient mentor-ward system. Each teacher is assigned 8-10 students for the complete duration of their study. They meet at least once a week to discuss, clarify and primarily to share various problems which may be personal, domestic, academic, etc. The mentors encourage the students to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and sports. Their academic performance and other activities are all recorded. Students should inform their mentors on all their movements like their absence from college, sickness or leave the hostel for home or for shopping or any other activities. The mentors also keep in touch with the parents on their attendance, test performance, fee payment, examinations etc. The teacher is equipped with all the necessary information about his/her wards on a file. The teacher involves local guardians and parents as well, whenever necessary for any advice or help. At the end of every month the mentors prepare a report of their mentees progress.

The mentors also counsel the students in need of emotional problems. When the students have any problem in any department either with the staff or with work completion the

mentors speak with the respective staff and sorts out the problem. Mentors take special care of Slow learners, who are given advice on how to study, prepare a time table for study and clarify the doubts and also given notes to study. The mentors of every batch are advised by a mentor head. The mentor head meet his staffs once a month and get the report of the progress and achievements of students and complaints of and by the students. These complaints are discussed with the Principal and necessary action taken to rectify the complaints.

#### **4. Evidence of Success**

It is needless to say that a mentor gets the job satisfaction. Evidence of success of the practice includes university ranks, better results in the examinations, more regular attendance, less drop outs, increased participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, better discipline on campus and respectful relationship between teachers and students. The students are more relaxed and have a healthy relationship with the staffs.

#### **5. Limitations & Resources**

This practice requires well-committed teaching staff who have the desire to help students beyond teaching hours. There is no limitations or constraints faced during implementing the program.