

Case Study

SMART CAMPUS CARD AND VIDEO CAMERA BASED CONTROL SYSTEM AT DSPSR

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Delhi School of Professional Studies and Research (DSPSR) was established in 1999 under the aegis of a registered society – Society for Human Transformation and Research (SHTR) as an affiliated college of a University created by the Government of NCT of Delhi. There is no funding that the college gets from the University Grants Commission or any other body. The College is supposed to run on a self financing basis. The management of the College was in the hands of intellectuals. Human values and organisational culture were the prime areas of concern on which the organisation was built. The human asset were considered to be the prime asset of the organisation. DSPSR was able to achieve break even point in the year 2002. The faculty members were very hard working and committed to take DSPSR to be the best business school in the University. The results of DSPSR were excellent and the admission cut off rate was amongst the highest. Every member used to take pride of being part of the prestigious Institution. But everything was not well and each person was not as ethical as the teachers wanted them to be.

During the year 2001 five cases of minor thefts were reported in the College. The teachers tried to control this problem by giving lectures in special sessions to the students immediately after the first incident, but the problem continued. The Discipline Committee in its meetings very seriously considered this problem. Many suggestions came from different quarters. It was tried three times to search the entire class immediately after the theft was reported, but no body was caught red handed till date. Many other ideas were tried but none worked to catch the thief red handed. One proposal came that we should go in for a monitoring system whereby cameras would be placed at important locations and smart campus cards be issued to all the members of the organisation. Smart Campus Card would provide access control in class rooms, computer laboratories, etc. apart from locating the person, Video cameras would be able to capture the scenes needed to catch hold of such people red handed. This would not only solve the problem of theft but would also ensure discipline in the campus because each one would become conscious of the fact that he/she may be captured in the video. This would have many other advantages like electronic attendance system, smart card enabled library, etc. One of the members of the discipline committee raised the other dimensions of this decision. This would restrict the liberty and freedom of people as they would not be able to talk and move freely.

The committee decided to warn the students that this is the last chance and if these events do not stop then they will have to go in for such a monitoring and control system. Even after such warning, it happened again. The Discipline Committee decided to implement the decision to have twenty four hour monitoring and control system through Smart Campus Card and Video cameras.

Questions:

1. Do you agree with the solution given by the Discipline Committee? Why?
 2. "The issues of liberty and freedom should be given more importance than the minor thefts". Comment
 3. What you would have recommended, if you were the Faculty In-charge of the Discipline Committee?
 4. Would you go by consensus decision in this case or by majority decision or by authoritarian style of decision making, if you are the Principal of the College? What decision you would take as a Principal of the College? Why?
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