

Best Practices

Title of the Practice:

Financial Aid to the deserving students by the college.

Objectives of the Practice: -

It has been obtained from the profile students joining various courses of the college that they are many students coming from the rural areas with low economic background. Their parents are unable to provide them a sustained financial support because agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the coastal areas of river Ganga, is not source of assured income. So, the noble objectives of the practice are.

- To extend financial aid to the poor students, especially from the rural area, to save them from discontinuation of their studies owing to poverty.
- To support financially and the deserving poor students without discrimination of caste, creed or gender.
- To promote the 'equality' among the students.
- To inculcate the values of 'generosity' and sense of social responsibility among the students. The expected outcome of this practice is that the students should be able to complete their study with good mental condition. The beneficiaries are treated with the principle of 'lend and helping hand' without discrimination.

The Context: -

The noble objective had its teething as well as challenging troubles in its designing and implementation:

- Pooling up the required resources was a tough task.
- After many awareness sitting with the all concerned, the college set up a 'fund' on the campus for voluntary donations by alumni, students, staff and other visitors including charity organizations. The college struggled a lot in deciding the eligibility criterion for the aid.

- After comprehensive deliberations with students and teachers, it was decided to extend the benefit to all the poor students who do not have the advantage of government or endowment scholarships without any discrimination of caste, creed or gender.
- Verification of financial backwardness of the aspirants was yet another challenge.
- The management has insisted on strict adherence to the rules framed about this fund in spite of the influential sections and caste associations undue interference in the implementation of practice.

The Practice: -

In an around the areas of the college, there has been a long history of frequent floods, which have savaged the rural life throwing the people into miserable conditions of poverty, illiteracy and ill health. In a situation of such dire poverty whatever meager resources available are used primarily to make both ends meet. So, sending their children to the town for higher education becomes almost impossible for the poor parents in the rural areas in the context of higher education demanding higher amounts of money, though sometimes, they do venture to admit their children to colleges in the town, they are unable to give sustained financial support throughout the course of study because agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the district is not a source of assured income. So, it is evident that without financial support from an external source, the rural youth cannot hope to successfully complete their higher studies. Innovation and Best Practice: The College is known as illustrious institution, true to its legacy of pro-poor student attitude since its inception, has taken a firm resolve to extend all possible financial support to the deserving students and help them to realize their fond dream of acquinency higher education. For this, the College is managing a separate account with 'Special Students Relief Account' (SSRA). In this account voluntary donations from management, alumni, and other sources like NGO's are deposited. The financial support is extended to all the deserving poor students without any discrimination of caste, creed or gender. The students whose parents do not have fixed reasonable source of income and do not provide any other financial assistance in form of social welfare or endowment scholarships are eligible for the aid. A duly constituted committee of three senior faculty members of the College scrutinizes the applications received from the aspirants for the aid from SSRA. It finalizes the list of eligible students for the aid after due verification of the

documentary evidence enclosed and strictly following the guidelines framed for the purpose, and submits the same to the principal for sanctioning the actual amount of the aid. Evidence of Success: The cite one of the many success stories of the noble practice, the College fee of Miss Priyanka Student of LLB (3) Final Year during 2017-18 was paid from SSRA amounting Rs. 15000.00 for three years. She completed LLB successfully with more than 65 of marks. Now she is practicing in district court with a sense of social service. She is extending a helping hand in various ways including free legal aid to the needy women's in the district. Problems Encountered: In the beginning of designing the best practice, some groups of the students opposed the idea, the welfare scholarship holders too should be given to the opportunity. • They also expressed growing apprehension that the funds collected for the purpose would be misused. • As a result, most of the students and staff did not come forward to contribute to the fund. • Some even blamed that the idea of the endowment scholarship is not based on social justice. • The College had to overcome many of these impediments to persuade the alumni and other Philanthropists in favour of insisting the endowment scholarships to encourage more students to develop a keen spirit of competition to secure the endowment scholarships.

Best Practices – II

Title of the Practice: Women Empowerment

Objectives of the Practice: -

Women are doubly affected by the backwardness and discrimination. So the College has resolved to take up the cause of women empowerment. For the women empowerment, following objectives have been fixed: -

- Mentoring women students on women specific issues with one women teacher as mentor for every 20 women mentees.
- Creating an environment through awareness programs to enable the girls' students to realize their full potential for learning and solving their problems independently.

- Arranging special sessions with the police and social activists for enabling the girls' students to be aware of several types of exploitation taking the advantage of their innocence and gullibility.
- Dealing amicably with the student victims of exploitation of all sorts maintaining utmost confidentiality of the private life to protect their dignity.
- Involving social activists and government officials to enlighten the students on human rights and fundamental freedom for a equal rights and opportunities.
- Organizing debates and discussion on gender equality to enable the students to realize gender sensitization, thus leading to more equality and harmony in family and society.
- Conducting seminars and special sessions on ragging, eve teasing and dowry system to expose the ill-effects of the evils.
- Extending financial assistance to the deserving poor women of disadvantaged sections to help acquire their degree.
- Organizing the exclusive health programs for women students by women doctors. Free treatment of women related health problems and conducting awareness programs on the importance of sanitation, personal hygiene and prevention of seasonal diseases.
- Tackling the social development, health consequences and prevention of HIV/AIDS from gender perspective.
- Female students are told about various laws related to all the important aspects of life.

The Context: -

The girl students in the beginning were not enthusiastic to participate in the deliberations. Some parents and staff vehemently opined that the awareness/sensitization programs defeated the very purpose of sending their wards to college. The coordinator and the members of the unit had to visit certain families and persuade the parents that all the programs were meant for the betterment and empowerment of their dear daughters. As the gender sensitization programs designed revealed several disparities and inequalities, that we might not have noticed earlier, people especially the other gender, argued discussing gender and gender roles would breakup families and destroy society. Similarly, the various legal protective

provisions for women were misunderstood as undue favor meant to be little man. Even some teachers supporting the arrangements often opined that the change was difficult to be accepted as the ideas emanated from these seminars/workshops/debates on gender inequalities appeared new and startling. Some parents found fault with the College their children were detained in the College beyond working hours for unconnected and counterproductive programs. Under these circumstances, the College has thought it appropriate to forge ahead with the objective implementations the objective for which an exclusive cell is created.

The Practice :-

Discrimination against women even in 21st century is a devastating reality. That is why 'gender inequality' has been a matter of serious concern across the globe and within the countries. India still has a long way to go before achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Especially the rural areas are ravaged by the miserable conditions of object poverty, illiteracy, ill health and superstition. A good number of girls come from rural areas.