

1. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Objectives of the Practice:

Students are the future of the country. They grow up and work for the betterment of the nation. The students should be able to understand, react and interact to people's problems and trained to work to meet the social betterment of the society when they will be on move. Community Outreach activities contribute a lot to develop social sense. It is not only the society is benefited by such activities but also the students are personally benefited from such work. Outreach activities give satisfaction to the students by giving a helping hand to society, feel motivated, and inspire them to make their existence meaningful to the country. A sense of social responsibility is inculcated and nurtured in students. Students work in collaboration with government and Non-Government Organisations. These co-curricular tasks empower students to be better and responsible citizens.

Students, who are admitted to the college come, from different strata of the society. As a part of social life, community services start at school and college level but few opportunities of volunteering in outreach activities are less in the life of graduate and post graduate students'. Knowing the society is more effective while serving and taking personal experiences. It builds valuable skills for future life. Developed strong moral values and matured character initiate people to tackle problems reasonably on their own without always depending on the Government and Non-Government organisations.

Few objectives are -

- To broaden the perceptions of the world around the students.
- To have a broad open-minded perspective of the life.
- To help the students to establish the communication with the surrounding.
- To inculcate values and develop a sense of social responsibility among students.
- To gain a plethora of experiences that helps to navigate the future.
- To understand social problems of the society.
- To develop Personality of student.
- To build confidence among students.

The context:

Community outreach activities serve dual purpose. Not only it strengthens the student academically, but also help students to build a better personality. The outreach activities give life lessons in which academic knowledge is utilised properly. The Commitment to stick to the mission of the institution is the driving force for the selection of the practice.

By assessing the needs and resources available, the community activities are planned. Such activities inculcated discipline, sincerity, devotion among the students, and empowered them to be responsible, secular and committed human beings; which is the need of hour. Our institute is a premier institute of excellence in knowledge building and social development. Such activities continued our commitment of education for inclusive growth for socio economic change and sustainable development.

Our institute is located in Akola city which is surrounded by many rural and tribal areas. Being a small city, it is easier for outreach to conduct the program at personal level, meet people, listen to them, and build trust and healthy relationships with the targets.

The Practice:

Students and staff are actively engaged in several community activities. It is planned to whom to reach specifically and strategies are decided according to available resources. Method to involve and get involved is different for different activities, such as- word of mouth, social media, posters, visits, webinars, etc.

The institutional base is expanded by the activities undertaken for differently abled persons under RUSA. (Rashtriya Uchchatam Shiksha Abhiyan). An enabling atmosphere could be created by involving our faculty and students to get involved in outreach activities.

The various outreach activities were conducted by NSS, NCC units, study centres, subject associations, departments and alumni to foster community network to contribute for good citizenship, for service orientation and holistic development of the students in last five years:

- Service to community was provided through Anganwadi centres and Pre-school centres during National Nutrition week by the Department of Home Science.
- Knowledge sharing and interaction with lactating mothers was done in the Government hospital during International Breast-Feeding week every year.
- Celebration of National Handloom Day every year for upliftment of the weaver community.

- Value based programmes undertaken in the memory of national leaders and influential historic personalities was a good practice.
- Skill development workshop for students and Self-Help Groups was organized in collaboration with an organisation- 'Wawe'
- Department of Biochemistry released a song for Menstrual Hygiene; later promoted by UNICEF
- Webinar on "Converting lock down period into golden period-the role of women" was organized.
- Staff contributed fourteen lacs for Chief Minister's Relief -Covid-19 Fund
- Students participated in celebration of Forest Conservation Day every year
- Students raised funds for eye surgery and cancer treatment of needy patient.
- Eye donation campaign was organised with the collaboration Divyang social Foundation Akola, Radio Vision Akola.
- Celebration of International White Cane Safety Day is celebrated on 15 Oct 2020.
- Five students of NSS were appointed as Special police officers for COVID-19 pandemic and felicitated by Superintendent of Police for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic period
- Workshop on 'Awareness and Training on Sudden Cardiac Arrest' was organised by Department of Biochemistry in collaboration with Sath Sevak Foundation and iCARE
- Awareness campaign on 'cracker free' Diwali was carried and appealed to ban the use of crackers, which is very harmful to the people suffering from the respiratory problems and corona patients.
- Clothes, snacks, masks, medicines were distributed to tribal people by students and staff while celebrating Diwali Festival with them at Khirpani (Tribal village in Melghat Forest).
- During COVID -19 pandemic period, sanitizer was distributed to municipal corporation employees and sanitised police department's vehicles by the Department of Chemistry
- Corona Care & Safety Awareness Programs were carried out on road for social awareness.
- Distributed masks to needy people in society and labours, farmers, drivers at Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Akola.
- Students worked as police friends (Police Mitra) in traffic control for public awareness.

- Students participated in Swachha Bharat Abhiyan at Railway Station and other public places.
- Students distributed food and clothes to orphanage and interacted with them at Akoli (a nearby village).
- Tree plantation is a regular outreach activity and seed ball were prepared and thrown on the barren land by the students of Department of Botany.
- Students and staff donated grocery, clothes, daily need items and educational material to Kolhapur flood victims. Ten students involved personally in rescue operation in flood affected area.
- Institute commenced a series of Inspirational and Value Based Sessions - 'Journey towards Excellence'
 - Session 1-Make Every day Count
 - Session 2-Believe in Yourself
 - Session 3-Interview etiquettes-Dos and Don'ts
 - Session 4-Uncertainties in Pandemic & preparing ourselves for future prospects
 - Session 5-Swami Vivekanand: An inspiration for youth
 - Session 6-Yala Jivan Aise Nav.
- International Women's Day was celebrated and felicitated successful women in their respective fields every year.
- Organic Manure preparation workshop was held by the students for the farmers.
- On the occasion of World blind day –distribution of clothes was done at Kannubhai Vora Andh Mahavidyalaya, Akola on 15th October 2018.
- Special NSS camps were held at the nearby villages for seven days every year to inculcate social sensibility among the students.
- The institution contributed in the Matoshri Annapurna Yojana for providing food for needy patient and their relatives every year.
- Students participated in
 - Voting Awareness Rally
 - AIDS Awareness Campaign
 - Rescue at Fire Affected Area
 - Cleanliness of Morna River
 - Eco Friendly Ganesh Idol Preparation and distribution
 - Awareness Campaign on Ban of Plastic Use

- Gender sensitization Activities
- Blood Donation Camp
- COVID - 19 Vaccination Drive

Evidence of Success:

A sense of social responsibility is cultivated and nurtured in students. All the students of institute and NSS / NCC units, Nature club, Departmental associations, study centres regularly worked with Government, Non-Government Organisations and society. Community engagements enriched the overall experiences of the students. Learning experience was gained by working with differently abled people and improved sense of community responsibility. Communication skill development, social responsibility, willingness to serve the society, helping nature, ability to understand the problems of common man, ability to face the natural calamities, leadership skill, connecting to people and enabling volunteerism are the outcome of the practice. Organisations like Gadge Baba Samajik Prathishthan, Sath Sevak Foundation, Yuvavishva Multipurpose organisation are formed by some of the active students of our institute. Seeds of starting these organisations had been sown during the learning years at the institution and now it has been shaped up into Non-Government Organisations. Through these organisations, the students are working in social field.

The COVID-19 pandemic outreach activities (Corona Warriors) are highly appreciated by State Government, Police department, Municipal corporation, District collector office, affiliating university and MLA, MP. The Cleanliness drives and Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan programs are duly acknowledged by various prestigious awards. A feeling of happiness derived from the gesture of Love, Smile and Hope during the visit and work at old age home, tribal areas, COVID-19 affected victims and differently abled people are beyond words.

Problems Encountered and Resources required to implement the Practice:

Sometimes, student participation is difficult due to the academic schedules. Parents are not willing to send their wards to participate in social emersion. Passive participation of villagers and local representatives, lack of awareness and misconception about the Governments welfare schemes are major hurdles in organizing students outreach activities. To arrange outreach activities, sufficient financial aids are required. These activities are mainly carried out by the Institution's funds and contribution from the teachers. Financial contribution from the students is difficult because most of the students are belonging to

economically weaker section. The inadequate fund is a major obstacle particularly to conduct skill-based training activities. Building trust and relationships is sometimes difficult if the group is approached for first time.

Financial resources, people's cooperation, positive approach of public representative, parents' willingness, social awareness, involvement of the Government authorities, proper implementation of Government social welfare scheme are required to organize proper outreach activities.

2. Title of the Practice: Entrepreneurship cell

Objective of the Practice:

The college has an Entrepreneurship Cell with an objective to go beyond the 'Earn while Learn' scheme and to impart innovation and entrepreneurship among students.

To inculcate the values of self-employment through their abilities and skills, the objectives of the practice are-

1. To enhance the entrepreneurial spirit.
2. To provide entrepreneurial knowledge.
3. To provide a platform for inculcating entrepreneurial skills in students.
4. To encourage students to get self-employed.
5. To organise Entrepreneurship Development Programs and Workshops.
6. To motivate the students for participation in start-ups

The context:

'Earn while Learn' is a regular Best Practice of our college which was highly appreciated by Peer team in previous NAAC and suggested to create Entrepreneurship development cell.

In view of NAAC peer team suggestion and need of self-employment, the institute develop Entrepreneurship Cell. In the recent years, employment opportunities are shrinking down, it is the need of the hour to convert small ideas to earn money. Many students are from agriculture background having agricultural resources for self-employment; but the fear of risk stops the students to indulge in entrepreneurship.

It is often observed that students have skills and entrepreneurial abilities, but require polishing and incubation. Creating new products, services and stimulate employment is the aim of Entrepreneurship cell. In our multi faculty college, Entrepreneurship Cell is a platform made available to students to use freely to explore their capabilities.

The Practice:

The college took the initiative to develop and support the students along with academics to inculcate entrepreneurial initiative in students. The several activities implemented as follows -

- Developed a space for Entrepreneurship cell.
- Motivated Students for college Uniform stitching and selling.
- Organized Webinar on “Converting lock down period into golden period-the role of women”, by IQAC & Entrepreneurship Cell
- Students designed and prepared Mask and sold in collaboration with an organization- 'Wawe'
- Prepared, distributed to needy people and sold Sanitizer by students from the Department of Chemistry.
- MoU is Signed with Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Abhyankar group and Rasoi Udyog for strengthen the activity.
- Conducted Bonsai Skill development workshops for students by Department of Botany.
- Organized Skill development workshop for students of Home Science to empower them with ‘Tie and Dye’ method of printing for employment.
- Students earned through Food Stalls during various events of the institution regularly.
- Workshop on Entrepreneurship was organized by Faculty of Commerce & Entrepreneurship Cell.
- Department of Zoology Organized Webinar on- Sustainable development with Women Empowerment in Relation to Sericulture & Apiculture.
- Provided an opportunity for Marketing of products to self-help group.
- Department of Physics and Electronics involved students in Fabrication of low-cost electronic kits.
- ‘Re-Text (Repurposing textiles), - An innovative project was undertaken by Department of Home Science for utilization of textile waste for garments designing.
- Preparation and sale of Potted Saplings for programs of the institution by Department of Botany.
- Organic manure preparation workshop was organised by Department of Botany.
- Students participated in Rojgar and Swayam Rojgar Guidance event organised by Police Department.

- Formed What's app group and Instagram account –E-Cell as online marketing tool.
- Organised Guest lectures of eminent Entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurship Aptitude Test was conducted to explore the entrepreneurial skills in students.
- Visits to Entrepreneurs organisations were arranged.
- Teaching staff are involved in entrepreneurial research practises.
- Organised various skill development workshops on
 - Convocation scarf
 - Flower arrangement
 - Batik printing
 - Cake making

Evidence of success:

The students acquired skills of Learning by doing. Steps towards developing skills in communication, decision making, networking, time management, team building, presentation, negotiation and social skills were certainly acquired by the students.

Some of students started their own enterprises in Photography, Food Product Order and Delivery services, Screen Printing and DTP Work, Social Media Influencers, Fashion Designing and Styling, Bakery and Confectionary, Fitness training and Diet Counselling, Music and Orchestra and many more.

An insight to develop opportunities of self-employment with the available resources and skills is developed. The pandemic situation opened avenues to prepare and market masks and sanitizers. Online platform could be used for organizing Webinars and Workshops.

The Entrepreneurship Cell is now extended to a food court outlet and developed into a mall like structure.

Problems Encountered and Resources required to implement the Practice:

Choosing a right product or service is the main challenge. Initial funding, financial resources, risk bearing and marketing are yet another issues faced by the students. Moreover, to build trust among students takes time. Getting and staying organized, determination and learning, balancing the schedule including marketing and sales activities are a constraint among the students.

The efficient utilization of the human resources such as-ability, skills, interest, energy, knowledge, attitude and non -human resources like-product, money, space, facilities is a challenge for achieving the desired goal.