



Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's
Loknete Vyankatrao Hiray
Arts, Science and Commerce College
Panchavati, Nashik-422003
BEST PRACTICE-I



Karmaveer Bhausaheb Hiray

Year-2020-21

Title

Community Service through Extension Activities

Objectives of the Best Practice: Education without social commitment is incomplete. This practice aims to foster the spirit of social service in our students so that they learn to recognize it as a larger framework of their education.

The broad objectives of the practice are to make students:

- To understand the community in which they work.
- To develop a healthy relationship with the community.
- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in the problem-solving process.
- To groom themselves to inculcate a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- Utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems.
- To acquire skills in mobilizing community participation.
- To develop leadership qualities and a democratic attitude.
- Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters.
- Practice national integration and social harmony.

The Context:

Out of institutional social responsibility, our college is always keen on the grounds of doing community work in order payback to it that it has given to us. Our management has also established the parent institute with the motto of 'Bahujan Hitay, Bahujan Sukhay' which is also our vision statement. It also reflects that the prime intention of our institute is to work for the welfare of the common masses. Education is only one aspect of it. So, while educating the students of the common masses, the college also tries to cover as many aspects as are possible of the social service in order to contribute in as many ways as is possible for the welfare of the community in which it is located. Out of this social sense, the college has adapted this practice.

The Practice: Our College mainly works under this practice through the NSS unit whereby the students and teachers of all departments take an active part. Through NSS our college organizes programs to sensitize youth towards the needs of the under-privileged. The college provides a platform to the students through NSS by creating a multivalent and mutually renewing forum for meaningful dialogues, actions, and interactions to reach the community. The NSS unit of the College was started in 1974 with about 100 Students. At present, the NSS unit consists of 250 students, who are always engaged in some or the other activity that relates directly or indirectly to society. They are supported with all the staff of the college for every activity that is organized towards community service. Every year our college organizes seven days winter camp in a nearby village and initiates the overall development of the village in relation to the organization of Blood Donation Camp, cleanliness program, tree plantation, AIDS Awareness, International women's day, Road safety Drive and many more programs. The NSS volunteers interact with the people living in rural areas and discuss issues related to

health, hygiene, and education. The college organizes literacy and health and hygiene awareness campaigns. The volunteers also teach young children living in the schools in villages. They celebrate festivals like Diwali and other major festivals with them as a small effort towards the involvement of the community and sharing happiness with them. Several competitions like dance, painting, poetry, and sports events are also organized for children living in villages. These initiatives also help in imbibing different values among our students who are going to be the pillars of the society after stepping into the practical life after completing their education.

But many challenges were faced in the continuation of regular extension activities due to the covid 19 pandemic. The outbreak of the coronavirus has become a major disruption to colleges and universities across the country, with most institutions canceling in-person activities and moving to online-only instruction. Campus closures and limits on in-person gatherings have created significant challenges for students. We have also been creating awareness about coronavirus and precautions to be taken to prevent its spread among the student community through social media by organizing a number of online webinars. Our colleges should have prepared a policy for restricting the outside experts on campuses, study tours, field works, etc., keeping in mind the COVID-19 situation. But to help the students and society at large, the following activities were carried out by different departments during covid 19 pandemic situation. Almost all the departments of our college organized online webinars selecting topics related to important aspects like “Water Conservation”, “Impact of Covid-19 on Indian Agriculture & Economy”, “Biodiversity & Its Application” “Ecosystem Restoration” National Mathematics Day Celebration, π -Day Celebration, World Mental Health Day, Mental Health and Procrastination, Lecture Series on Gandhian Thoughts, William Wordsworth Poetry Writing Competition, Online Quiz.

Evidence of Success:

Through this practice, during this academic year 2020-21, the different departments have taken sincere efforts to organize the above-stated activities successfully and the following outcomes have been observed as evidence of success.

- All the stakeholders are exposed to different social values through these activities.
- Created awareness about the importance of mental health and wellbeing in the context of society
- Students became aware of mental health and procrastination and other aspects so that they could practically apply this knowledge
- Contributed to making people aware of coping strategies to deal with mental health-related issues during the covid 19 pandemic.
- Assessment of the knowledge of students on the field and challenges associated with it.
- Experiential-based learning for the students.
- Practical exposure with collaboration.
- Department staff provided counseling through a telephonic and digital medium.
- Use of different types of counseling as an effective solution to helping students with various psychological issues.
- It gives opportunity to the counseling practitioner to improve their own approach and methods
- Awareness about the psychosocial issues.
- To nurture and inculcate the creative writing ability of students.
- To spread awareness among voters and for promoting informed participation in the electoral process.
- Students can learn how to recycle electronics and batteries in e-waste recycling bins located around campus/building.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The educational institutions across the country have been closed since 16th March 2020 when the Government of India announced a countrywide lockdown as one of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. In order to contain the spread of the COVID-19

pandemic in the educational institutions and to ensure continuity in the teaching-learning process, the Ministry of Education and UGC issued several directives/ advisories/ guidelines to the universities and colleges which were followed by the college administration and teaching faculties as well as students at large. Teachers and students face their own challenges as they adjust to fully online teaching. Although students with access to digital devices and Internet facility was very less in number and were found to be the main sufferer. Not only the online teaching-learning was carried out by teachers but all the departments have put their sincere efforts in continuing the extension activities for the students through virtual mode by organizing webinars, Powerpoint, poster presentation competitions, lecture series, celebrating important events and days for students and encouraged students for their maximum participation. These all efforts were taken to curb the menace of the COVID 19 situation and also to minimize the academic and development loss of the stakeholders. Besides these efforts, students were also facing many challenges like access to tools and the internet, disruption of the internet in between, not being completely familiarized with the online mode of teaching-learning due to ICT incompetency, which has made a large impact on the learning efficiency of the students.

Other Notes: It is felt that even after the spread of Coronavirus is contained; certain preventive measures will be required to be followed for quite some time to avoid its recurrence. Therefore, the institutions should train their staff and students to assist and undertake the work related to safety and health to prevent an outbreak of the pandemic in their campuses.



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