VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE PUTTUR

Best Practices of the institution:

Best Practice 1

1. Title: Annapoorna Free Midday Meal Scheme for SC/ST/OBC and other poor students

2. Goal

- To help the economically backward students by providing working lunch
- To provide working lunch for students who commute on a daily basis from long distances and remote areas
- To offer this facility to physically challenged students
- To offer moral support to students whose family background is of the labour class
- To encourage and provide support from the college to those students who work and earn during holidays and spare hours
- To see to it that no student sits in class on a hungry stomach

3. The Context This College was established with the noble intention of providing quality and affordable education to students of rural areas in Puttur and neighbouring taluks. The majority of students in our college come from family backgrounds that earn money through farm labour and other forms of manual labour. Therefore the money earned is through daily wages, which has no promise of pension and bonus and therefore no long term security. In 1975, the then Principal, Prof. M Sooryanarayanappa understood the need of encouragement to students in addition to providing education within the classroom. So, this scheme was introduced with the noble cause of providing a working lunch to all those who could not afford to bring lunch. Since the inception of this practice in 1975, we follow the policy of uniformity in the sense that we provide the same lunch as provided to those who pay for lunch, to students benefitting from this scheme. 4. The Practice

Step 1: Inviting applications Soon after the first week of commencement of classes in the academic year, the Annapoorna Free Midday Meal Committee which comprises the college staff of various streams begins its work by sending out notices to all classes inviting handwritten applications from interested students, and around a week‘s time is given for the same. The applications contain the details of their native place or place of stay, economic conditions, number of family members, etc.

Step 2: Classification After the Committee receives application forms, the forms are arranged in different steps, stream-wise, then class-wise and later section-wise. Depending on the

number of application forms in each section, interview dates are fixed and displayed on the notice board.

Step 3: Interview Interviews are conducted after the class hours so that students don‘t have the grievance of losing classes in their effort to benefit from this scheme. The staff who is part of the Committee conducts structured interviews. In the interview, their performance in studies, previous examination results, family background and present conditions, financial status etc. are asked and evaluated. However, for physically challenged students none of the above criteria is considered, the scheme is extended to them without question.

Step 4: Shortlisting The interview process is followed up by a meeting of a committee to shortlist the beneficiaries.

Step 5: List display: This shortlisting process generates three lists as said above, and the lists are put up on the notice board with a certain gap between the display of each list. Soon after the display of each list, a meeting is convened to inform them of their benefit and to provide them with a form to be signed by their parents.

Step 6: Briefing to students and registration in canteen Each meeting is addressed by the Convenor of the Midday Meal Committee and the students are informed about the college‘s initiative for this scheme, therefore making them realise the importance and the efforts behind this scheme. They are also informed about the registration in the canteen, so that they affix their signatures every day before lunch in the canteen. 5. Evidence of Success This scheme has been benefitting several students over the years, and has been running without a hitch since 1975. In addition, the number of application forms is at a rise year after year. The gratification that we have is that the beneficiaries turn into sponsors after they become professionals. The above is backed by the PTA stepping forward to financially support 80 students per year in the recent years. The Alumni Association also join hands with this noble cause.

Step 7: Problems Encountered and Resources Required Because of the increasing student strength every year, the number of applications is at a rise, which exceeds our capacity. It is our vision to provide free midday meals to all those who apply for it in future.

As said above, this scheme is financed by the fixed deposit from donors maintained in the college, the PTA, the public and the alumni. Apart from the above, the staff members also contribute towards this cause.

Best Practice II

1. Title: Promotion of Basic Science and scientific temperament among budding learners through Indepth programme – a unique series of demonstration of science experiments for high school students

2. Goals: To bring about awareness of Basic Science

To make the college infrastructure especially the laboratories reach out to the rural and semi-urban students.

To provide practical demonstrations to those who are deprived of laboratory facilities in their schools

To provide inputs for SSLC students towards higher education and career options To provide practice and hands-on experience to our BSc students in experimentation, demonstration, teaching practice, communication skills, self - confidence etc.,

To provide impetus towards social commitment, environmental awareness, preservation of endangered and traditional breeds and medicinal species

To inculcate the habit of research & extension activities among the rural and semi-urban students

3. The Context: Linking high school education with higher education: This innovative extension programme comprising 3 to 4 days started way back in 1984, with the noble intention of educating the high school students of Puttur and neighbouring taluks about the theory and application of Science; in order to promote their interest in Basic Science. It was initiated by the Science faculty with the leadership of Prof. DS Bhat, the then HoD of the Department of Physics and has been conducted during all these 31 years, with commitment and passion.

This step has been an awakening for SSLC students to gain practical knowledge of Basic Science, to choose their subjects of interest after their school level, and also to chalk out their career in their future life.

Reaching out further to the interests of education among the pupils - The institution has a long-standing policy of educating all those who come seeking knowledge, and reaching out to the masses, and the objective of our parent body drafted in 1915 states so. In this light, the Indepth programme, as stated above, gives a lot of input to high school students towards stepping into the next levels of education, and for their career options. Applied learning: This annual Indepth

event not only functions as a college activity, but also as an extension programme. The experiment demonstrations done by our degree students to high school students of Puttur and neighbouring taluks stress on Basic Science and applied learning.

4. The Practice:

Step 1: Planning: The Science faculty initiates the Indepth programme every year through a meeting with the Principal and fixes the schedule and the dates for the programme. A Staff Co-ordinator is selected in this meeting. As per the directions of the Principal, the Co-ordinator and the heads of the departments of the Science faculty, the responsibility of the laboratories are assigned to various staff members. These staff members further select BSc students for the event. The Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics form part of the event and gear up their laboratories & modules.

Step 2 – Preparation: The Science faculty under the supervision of the Co-ordinator undertakes the task of selecting schools from Puttur and neighbouring taluks for this annual event. For government schools, a letter is dispatched to the Block Education Officer requesting him to permit government schools to participate in this Indepth programme. Simultaneously, the selected list of schools is informed through a letter to the Headmasters about the prescribed dates for their arrival to our campus. The selected BSc students are given the freedom to select the laboratory of their choice and knowledge, and the staff members train them in all the experiments to be demonstrated in that particular lab. Then the Science staff including the Lab assistants and the students prepares the laboratories for the event. Depending on the demonstration to be done, apparatus, samples, modules, models and components are prepared in the labs.

Step 3 – Execution: After the dates of the event are fixed, invitations are printed and dispatched to various schools with the schedule of events. The actual execution begins on the first day of the Indepth programme with a formal inaugural done by a teacher or researcher of Science. After the inaugural, the batch of school students and staff of that day are briefed about their schedule of lab visits. This procedure is systematically followed during all the days, for all the batches of invited school students in the 5 laboratories. Every day, the demonstrations in all the five laboratories begin at 9 am, and no invited school student is deprived of any experiment or sample/module. Our BSc students who do the demonstrations always welcome interactions from the school students, and because all BSc students in a particular lab are

familiar with all the experiments and samples, these students move on a rotation basis as and when required. As mentioned above, this aspect provides the BSc students with a variety of information about Basic Science and also introduces them to the challenges of effective teaching.

Step 4 – Analysis: After the whole event is completed, staff members of the schools which participated in the programme are asked to give written feedback of the programme, thus helping us to realise the potential of Basic Science to school students and to build upon our expertise for the following years. The school students are requested to give us an oral feedback. This feedback is followed by a brief discussion the next day by the staff in the science classes.

5. Evidence of Success: The Indepth programme is being conducted without a break since 1984, with commitment and passion towards acquiring and spreading knowledge in Basic Science and with the social responsibility of sharing our resources to the community. The main success of the event lies in the growing number of schools and students visiting the college during these days of the event. The highlight of the Indepth is not only to introduce topics of Basic Science but the care that the Science faculty takes to bring thetopics of their high school textbooks mainly into the demonstration enables them to have a practical knowledge of the theoretical topics prescribed for them. This programme has benefitted thousands of SSLC students through the years for practical knowledge of Basic Science and to choose the Science stream in the education after their school level. Another positive impact is that some high school students of neighbouring schools who have known the potential of our laboratories approach the college with the official permission of their institution heads, to conduct experiments for Student Projects in inter-school, state, zonal, national and international levels.
