

BEST PRACTICE: I

1. Title of the Practice: Introduction of Job Oriented Certificate courses in the college.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

UGC is implementing a scheme titled “Career oriented Course” to impart knowledge, skills and attitude for gainful employment in wage sectors in general and self-employment in particular. The courses offered are in the form of certificate which students may opt parallel to their conventional BA, B.Com., B.Sc. UGC provides financial assistance to eligible colleges which are included under section 2(F) and 12(B) of UGC, Act, 1956. Our college runs BBA, BBA (CA) and B.Sc. (CS) Programmes. Since it is a self financed and affiliated college, it is not included under section 2(F) and 12(B) of UGC, Act, 1956. The college also offers autonomous certificate courses which are conducted in the afternoon and evening hours when regular college teaching is over.

3. The Context:

The college is situated in the southern part of Pune city which covers a border zone of rural-urban areas. Such areas are inhabited by socially and economically backward people. Due to poverty and social backwardness, many families are not inclined to send their children for higher studies. The college took it as a challenge and strove hard to take opportunities of this unique scheme and offered them job oriented education. During previous years, the college observed that there was enormous demand from the students and parents to start job oriented courses. The college authorities were also concerned to introduce autonomous job oriented courses which students may opt parallel to their professional degree programmes. The college authorities decide facilities for these certificate courses, appointment of the teachers, requirement of equipments, course fees, selection of the students, evaluation methodology and placement in companies.

4. The Practice:

The Government lays special focus on imparting employment-oriented education, motivate students to be socially aware and responsible citizens, inculcate a spirit of dignity of labour among the youth and commitment for social upliftment. UGC has started schemes such as Community Colleges, B.Voc. Degree programs, Deen Dayal Upahaya Kaushal Kendras in universities and colleges so as to enhance employability of students and to make them industry-ready. UGC has requested the Vice Chancellors of all the Universities to ensure review and revision of academic curricula of various programmes offered by them and by their affiliated colleges at least once in five years. UGC has recommended that while undertaking such review and revision, the University should consider the existing and potential demand and supply of skill sets to make university / college students employable.

In the beginning, the Principal formed a committee consisting of some senior teachers to identify the courses, design and develop the syllabus of each course to cater to the needs of the students. A student friendly admission prospectus was primarily designed which contained all the information required for a new entrant such as available courses, combinations of courses, process of admission, display of the merit list, admission fees, evaluation system, examination schedules, time table, list of the teachers and list of placement companies. After being notified by the college, the desiring students meet the admission committee in order to avail themselves of

the opportunities. The students are supplied with admission form which they have to complete and submit. The committee scrutinizes the forms and after being satisfied, the list of selected students is submitted to the Principal. The selected students are advised to attend the classes as per the time table. Giving priority to the interests of the students, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college do serious efforts so that students are sufficiently benefitted.

5. Evidence of Success

The college stands out as one of the colleges to make such a successful experiment in the sphere of introduction of career oriented certificate courses. The practice proved to be satisfactory and beneficial to the students, teachers as well as parents. The practice gave a message to the people of the surrounding locality that the college attributes much importance to overall development of the students. Some of the factors of this practice are that students, when shown the right direction and are given proper guidance and encouragement, can achieve the goals. Holistic development, rather than only academic success, contributes in creating socially sensitive individuals which is a prominent objective of the college. As a consequence of such a practice, the college is able to get students with excellent qualities and self motivation which is evident from the student's enrolment during the last five years.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The basic problem in introducing the scheme was to make the students know about the scheme. The Principal issued notice about launching of the "job oriented courses" scheme and advised the committee concerned to communicate the information to all the needy students. Soon the effort gathered momentum and a large number of students coming from economically backward sections began to enroll their names as desiring candidates.

For implementing this scheme, the college had to incur additional expenditure. The Trust of the college provided part of the expenditure. The rest of the expenditure was incurred by the college. Moreover, an admission committee was formed by the college which acted efficiently during the admission process.

Thus, the scheme was successfully implemented by utilizing considerable human resources.

BEST PRACTICE: II

1. Title of the Practice:

Waiving of admission fees by the college of the meritorious, deserving and deprived students.

2. Objectives of the practice:

To help meritorious, deserving and deprived students.

To encourage and motivate the students to join professional courses.

To set up transparent admission fees waiving mechanism to the students.

To extend financial aid to the students, especially from the rural area, to prevent them from discontinuation of their studies.

To support financially all the deserving and poor students without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or gender.

To promote the 'equality' among the students.

To inculcate the values of 'generosity' and a 'sense of social responsibility' among the students.

3. The Context:

The college was established in Narhe-Ambegaon area which has recently been included in Pune Municipal Corporation jurisdiction. Thus this area and surrounding areas which are located in the proximity of south side of Pune city are mainly in the hilly and rural belt and deprived of basic necessities, facilities, opportunities and amenities. The Management deliberately established this college in this region with a social objective of bringing about a socio-economic transformation of the region predominantly through education. The college deeply thought over the eligibility criteria for the financial aid to be given to the students. After comprehensive deliberations with students and teachers, it was decided to extend the benefit to the meritorious, deserving and deprived students who do not have the advantage of government scholarships and concessions.

4. The Practice:

The college provides equal opportunities to the students belonging to the lower income group and under social disadvantage sections of the society. In and around the areas of the college, there has been a long history of frequent droughts and famines which have ravaged the rural life throwing the people into miserable conditions of abject poverty, illiteracy and ill-health. In a situation of such extreme poverty, available meager resources were used by the people in the vicinity of the college primarily to make both ends meet. So, sending their children to the town for higher education became almost impossibility for the poor parents in the rural areas. Higher education needs spending higher amounts of money which the common people cannot afford. So, it is evident that without financial support from the college the rural student cannot hope to successfully complete their higher studies.

5. Evidence of Success

The expected outcome is that the students should be able to complete their degrees with good marks. As a result of this, the college has provided such financial support to 107 students amounting to Rs. 17,34,215/- during 2013-14 to 2017-18. The success of the continuous efforts helps to bring socially and economically deprived students to the level of literate, enlightened and empowered citizens. A duly constituted committee of three senior persons of the college

scrutinizes the applications received from the aspirant students for the aid. The list of eligible students for the financial aid is 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 financial aid.

6. Problems encountered and resources required
Since this is voluntary practice no problems are found.