

Adhiparasakthi College of Arts and Science (Autonomous)

G.B. Nagar, Kalavai – 632 506, Vellore District

(Re-accredited by NAAC with B Grade with CGPA Score of 2.83)

The two best practices which have contributed to better academic and administrative functioning of the College are presented here.

Best Practice - I

1. Title of the Practice

Job-Oriented Add-On Courses

2. Objectives of the Practice

The objective of the practice is to meet the rural students' prospect of entrepreneurship and employability through skill-based, job-oriented add-on courses and to ensure better opportunities and placement for the students.

3. The Context

Employability and Entrepreneurial Development are the need of the hour for national development. We always get to hear that students are not industry-ready. The management and the staff deliberated on this issue and came up with this idea. In the context of repeated findings that a large percentage of Indian degree holders are unemployable, the Management was of the opinion that some more job-oriented courses may be initiated. In response the College introduced job-oriented diploma and certificate courses as add-on courses, with the objective of enhancing prospects for employability of the students.

4. The Practice

Department of Biochemistry introduced Histopathology Certificate course in the year 2008. The course was conducted by the department staff with the help of resource persons from Christian Medical College and Hospital Vellore. Thirty six students joined the course in the first year and they were given theoretical knowledge and practical training on identifying the microscopic abnormalities in tissues caused due to diseases.

The Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology offered Medical Lab Technician and ECG Certificate course in association with Bharat Sewak Samaj (BSS), from 2009 to 2012. During this period 53 students completed the Medical Lab Technician and 39 students completed

ECG Certificate course. The scopes of the courses were to train the students to perform routine clinical tests and perform ECG analysis.

The Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology offer PG Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (PGDMLT) and Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT – 1 and 2 Years) in affiliation with All India Medical Laboratory Technologists' Association (AIMLTA), Patna, from the academic year 2012-2013. The fact that these courses got good response from the students can be ascertained from the numbers of students enrolled in the courses. Seventeen students have passed the 1 year DMLT course. Twenty students have completed the first year examinations of the 2 year DMLT course. Twenty eight students have successfully completed the PGDMLT course.

The Department of Computer Science and Applications is offering Cisco-Certified Network Administration (CCNA) course to the students. As the course is certified by CISCO, it provides excellent job opportunities for the students in the Networking field. The department is also conducting coaching classes and aptitude classes for the benefit of students. The department is also offering “Diploma in Core JAVA” for the final year UG and PG students from 2017.

The Department of Commerce is offering ICAI Foundation Class in association with ICAI Vellore Chapter. This course motivates and helps the students to pursue a career path as auditors. The department also conducted Certificate in Accounting Technicians (CAT) course and a course on Computer in Office Automation (COA) for the students. These courses enhanced the employability skills of the students.

The Department of Business Administration is conducting a Course in TALLY in association with YENNES Infotec (P) Ltd., Chennai, for the students of B.Com. and B.B.A. This course along with the basic knowledge of accountancy they gained in their degree courses helps the students to get better placement opportunities.

Apart from these, the students are encouraged to appear for Typewriting examinations conducted by the state government and Hindi examinations conducted by Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai. For this purpose free typewriting coaching classes are provided for all the UG students with the provision of one hour per week in their time table. Hindi coaching classes are conducted on Saturdays. Student beneficiaries have found better placement opportunities as a result of this innovative practice.

5. Evidence of Success

Students from rural backgrounds find these courses very useful. The success can be ascertained from the continued support and enrollment of the students in these courses. Also the

placement of students has considerably increased in the last three years. Also the students who have undergone these courses have found placement in good companies, and these students are advising their junior students to join these courses. These students are also helping their juniors by informing them of vacancies available in their organizations and help them to get placement.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The initial problem faced was convincing the students of the usefulness of these courses. Many of the students are found to be less motivated and focused because of the lack of awareness of the vast changes in the cities and the demands of the emerging job markets. As most of the students are from rural under-privileged society, they found it difficult to pay the extra fee for these courses. The coordinators of the courses spoke to the students and convinced them that these courses will increase the employability and the course fee was kept to minimum possible, so that these fee amounts should not be considered as an additional burden for those students.

The problem of requiring additional class rooms to conduct these classes on regular working days was managed by conducting these classes on Saturdays.

7. Notes

As the College is finding the practice very useful for placing the rural under-privileged students in a better position, which in turn uplifts his family and his immediate society, the College is planning to introduce more such courses and to enroll maximum number of students in these courses.

Best Practice - II

1. Title of the Practice

Uplift of Rural Under-Privileged Society Through Extension Activities

2. Objectives of the Practice

The objective of the practice is to strive for the uplift of the local rural under-privileged society by organizing the extension activities of the College in those areas and raise the sanitation, education and general livelihood of the society.

3. The Context

Kalavai is situated in a remote rural area of Vellore district, a backward district. Agriculture is the major source of income in this area. The area is yet to be developed in terms of

infrastructure, sanitation, education, and livelihood. As per the Vision and Mission of our College, the students are being motivated to serve the local society through the extension activities, leading to the uplift of the local society.

4. The Practice

The extension activities provide the students an opportunity to observe and involve in the neighbourhood development thereby contributing to nation building. They also involve taking students to villages, by which they gain social awareness, involve in community development activities.

One-day certificate programmes for Girls on Glass Painting, Fabric Painting and Embos Painting have been organized by Women's Cell. Awareness programme on Women's Rights and Guest Lecture on "Women's Welfare" have also been organized.

In the NSS Special Camps held every year, about 150 NSS volunteers participated and cleaned and whitewashed the school buildings, noon meal scheme centre, Balvadi, Panchayat office and the local temples, cleared bushes on the sides of the village roads and around the bore wells, leveled the area to avoid water stagnation, leveled the roads, planted tree saplings, conducted literary programmes, formed a playground and conducted a free Medical Camp in association with Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Hospital and Research Centre, Melmaruvathur, an awareness campaign on the importance of public health and the importance of hospital treatment during pregnancy period etc. The NSS units distributed note books, slates, geometry boxes, pencils and pens to the school children, plates, tumblers, fan and plastic chairs to the Noon meal scheme center, plastic chairs and steel rack to the Schools.

Medical Camps such as Eye screening camp, Veterinary camp, Screening of Anemia for school children and Blood Grouping Programme for school children have also been conducted. Blood Donation Camps have been organized by NSS, Blood Donor's Club and RRC, in collaboration with Government Hospital, Adukkamparai, Vellore, and Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore. HIV/AIDS Awareness programmes and Celebrating Life programmes with RRC Manager have been organized annually by RRC. Sports materials and computers have been donated to schools. All the departments have provided resource persons to neighbouring schools for taking classes.

Tree plantation camps have been organized at College campus and Government Hospital, Kalavai by NSS. Awareness programmes on Prevalence of Swine Flu, World Literacy Day, First Aid, Health and Science for School students, Diabetes, Dengue Fever and Food Adulterants were conducted by the departments and cells / clubs. Rallies to create awareness on World AIDS day and Voting have been conducted.

These activities in this rural remote area has helped the College to reach out to the under-privileged and to create better awareness of issues related to health and nutrition, hygiene, environmental protection, civic responsibilities, gender and human rights both within the campus and in the community. This, in turn, has contributed to the holistic development of students and sustained community development.

5. Evidence of Success

College has collaborated with the local service agencies that serve the society, thereby has promoted partnership and networking. The annual seven day NSS camps conducted in selected villages has created a healthy relationship between the College and the community. Recognizing that women and children are one of the most susceptible sections of society, the health and hygiene of women and children has been given prime importance in the annual camps conducted in villages by the NSS units. Free medical camps and awareness programmes on health-related issues has sensitized women and brought them out of their ignorance.

Tutoring rural school children has enabled them to develop higher cognitive skills and experience the joy of learning. Exhibitions, programmes and competitions conducted by various departments for school children have motivated students from less-privileged background to pursue Higher Education.

The College has promoted a well knit College-Neighbourhood network in which students have acquired service training. Such training contributes not only to sustained community development but also ensures value addition to these programs.

The College has ensured involvement of the community in its outreach activities by identifying local leaders and seeking their help in organizing medical, literacy and social awareness programmes, in identifying vulnerable groups and in offering empowerment programmes for under-privileged communities. This has resulted in reducing the gap between the educated and the illiterates considerably through the frequent visits and interactions between the staff and students of the College and the villagers.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The people of the rural area were initially not willing to cooperate with the College in the extension activities. The conveners of the various clubs / cells discussed with the local leaders of the community and allayed their fears and convinced them that these extension activities will be of great help in improving their community and villages. The next problem encountered concerned the identification of the needs of the local community. Once these problems were solved, the Principal and Vice-Principal coordinated with the conveners of the clubs / cells and

the HoDs, and framed a time table for various activities that can be carried out in these villages. The resources required for these practices were provided by the Management.

7. Notes

The Communities have given a positive feedback about this practice, and also as the students have been motivated to service and transform the society into a better one. Hence the College is planning to carry out these activities with more frequency.