

1 Best practice -1 Women Empowerment through Skill Enhancement.

Women population constitutes around 50% of India's population. However, their activities are confined to cooking and children. Women in rural area do not get much opportunities to become self-reliant. Their talent and strength can be better utilized through vocational skills training. It is with this view the college has established a Women Empowerment Cell.

Title of practice: Women Empowerment through skill enhancement.

Goal: To empower college economically girls by providing short term training of various vocations.

The context: The girls in Gaganvawada Taluka and adjoining konkan area are financially weak and unable to go to city place for doing vocational courses. Their employment opportunities remain limited. One day some girls came to the Principal demanding cookery class training. Then Maharashtra Business Training Board (MBTB) Kolhapur was contacted and a course of two weeks was designed.

The practice: Two trainers came every day from Kolhapur with necessary material. The cooking facilities were made available by the college. The syllabus of the course was prepared which included select South Indian, Maharashtrian, Chinese dishes and Cake making. The were dictated in the training room. Then the making of actual recipes was demonstrated. Girls were also given a chance to try these recipes. The uniqueness of this practice is that it gave choice to the girl students to learn something of their interest and earn some income.

Constraints: "Finance" was the main constraint in designing and implementing the course. Moreover it was difficult for the girls to convince their parents about the need of the course and amount of fees of the course. Evidences of success: 42 girls participated in this course. At the end of the course 'Anandi Food Festival' was organized in the central hall of Gaganbawada town. All participants arranged their food stalls and earned about Rupees ten thousands by selling to a items. The festival received overwhelming response of local people and they congratulated the college for this maiden activity held in Gaganbawada town.

A target of Rs.5000/- was fixed for selling the food items. The target was achieved by two times and the results were encouraging. These results

emphasized the need of organizing more short-term vocational training courses and boosting the confidence of rural girl students. Problems Encountered and Recourses required: Travelling expenses of trainers was the main problem faced in implementing the course. The Principal arranged for free travelling of the trainers. Course fee was another problem encountered in organizing this course. Considering the lower economic condition of girl students the Director of Maharashtra Business Training Board was requested to charge minimum fees. The Director agreed to charge a fee of Rupees 100 only per student.

2. Title of the Practice: Community Connect.

1. Goal: To work for community betterment.

2. The context: Our college is the only Institution of higher education in Ganganbavada town and its nearby area of 25 Kilometers. The level of economic activity is low in this area and hence most of the students have to rush to Pune, Mumbai and Goa for some unskilled job. It is, therefore, a social responsibility of the college to go beyond regular teaching, learning activity and do whatever possible for the benefit of local community and win their support and cooperation.

3. The Practice: The college has developed the following practices to achieve its goal of community connect

1. Felicitation of meritorious students in Ganganbavada Taluka at Xth and XIIth examination.

2. Felicitation of heads of institutions for their Nobel work of spreading of education.

3. Felicitation of the newly elected members of Grampanchayats in Ganganbavada Taluka.

4. Organizing skill providing workshops for students in the area

4. Evidence of Success: The community connect practice has achieved good results. The rapport with the community has increased. The local people have been attending the Flag hoisting function on 15th August and 26th January and actively participating in other functions. The enrollment of students in the college has increased. The college is getting more co-operation of community in various programmes.

5. Problems encountered and resources required: In the planning of the launch of community connect initiative the college encountered the problem of

convincing its teaching staff about the need of such practice. The teaching staff was not ready to think out of box and perform its responsibility towards the society. The resources required for this practice are raised through self-funding and assistance under lead college scheme.

6. Notes: Considering the success of community connect practice the other institutions of higher education are advised to start such practice at their level for discharging their responsibility towards the society.