



Best Practices

Surentranath College

24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road,

Kolkata- 700009, West Bengal, India

<https://www.surentranathcollege.ac.in>

PRACTICE I

1. Title of the practice

GENDER EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN MULTILINGUAL PLATFORM

2. The context

Suendranath College is a coeducational Institute with students coming from various social backgrounds, among whom a vast number of students are first-generation learners and are both socially and economically challenged, having an almost 1:1 ratio of male and female students. Hence it is always a big challenge to bring those underprivileged students from economically weaker backgrounds into mainstream education and motivate them to pursue higher education and excel in life.

3. Objectives

To bring all the admitted underprivileged students from economically weaker backgrounds irrespective of their caste, creed, and religion into mainstream education, make them feel at home, increase their confidence level, and motivate them to pursue higher education and excel in life.

4. The Practice

The college carries out/holds/offers/encourages/conducts/ensures/addresses

- Department specific orientation programs and student counselling sessions
- Free psychometric tests for all the students and guidance of the Students Counselling Cell
- A host of state government and other funding agency aided scholarships and free ships with dedicated committees constituted of teachers to look after these issues
- Individual mentoring to the students
- Individual psychological counselling of all the students and the needed help through Psychology Department of the college
- Four different language options namely English, Bengali, Urdu, and Sanskrit to its students to promote cultural exchange in a multilingual platform
- Parent Teacher meetings in every academic session as and when required
- Remedial classes at departmental level for weaker students
- Different religious, social, and cultural programs within the college premises and outside to generate universal brotherhood
- Placement of students in suitable positions with the help of dedicated Placement Cell of the college
- All the needs, problems, and grievances of all the students through dedicated Student welfare cell, SC, ST, Minority Cell, ICC, and Women Cell of the college, constituted of faculty members with desired student representation
- Free vaccination for all in the lockdown period

- ICC cell ensures no ragging of students in the campus
- Communicative English classes with a nominal fee to help students to resolve language problem

5. a) Problems Encountered

Wrong attitude and reluctance of some of the faculty members to change and think differently and also initially the precarious nature of some of the rural students to mix with others.

b) Resources Required

A bit of money (with a pro student financial policy) and more of empathy, sympathy, and compassion towards students are the main resources required for implementation of this practice. Sincere devotion and commitment of all the faculty members and office staff is also a must have.

6. Evidence of Success

- Admission of students from the remotest locations of the state and even from other States
- Huge students (almost all deserving students) are under various Scholarship/Free ship Schemes
- Participation in various social outreach activities through NCC, NSS, individual departments
- Student representation in various sub committees and cells
- Free Vaccination of huge number of students in pandemic period
- Individual monetary help to distressed children, promising children
- No complain lodged to ICC so far

PRACTICE II

1. Title of the practice

STUDENT ENRICHMENT BEYOND CLASSROOM

2. The Context

Students often get bored with the classroom teaching. Various enrichment programs enable students to realize their potential in a variety of settings beyond the classroom. Through such programs students can develop a sense of self-awareness and understand their study better. With enrichment programs that are in line with the curriculum, they can also learn how to positively grow their interests and skills to have a more robust understanding of their potential. All the enrichment initiatives strive to enrich the students' lives by introducing them to many forms of art and science fields, requiring them to use their imagination and creativity and rely upon their growing knowledge of math and technology.

3. Objectives

- To provide all students the desired exposure
- To increase the skills and Interest level of students
- To enhance the confidence and personal abilities of the students

4. The Practice

- Several free of cost value-added skill enhancement courses to develop skill, knowledge, and overall grooming of the students
- Invited talk by experts for nurturing scientific mind and broadening knowledge base of the students
- Seminar presentation by students themselves, for improving communication skill and gaining confidence in public speaking by eliminating stage fear
- Publication of wall magazine/e-magazine/tabloid by students on regular basis for nurturing the students' creative skills
- Industry/lab/research institute/relevant place visit of the students for the desired exposure
- Several International/National Seminars arranged regularly for student enrichment
- Ensure student participation in both external and internal scientific, cultural, and social events for their holistic development
- Running of well-maintained departmental seminar library (along with the central library) with considerable number of books (specially the costly ones) to cater both honours and general students

5. a) Problems Encountered

Wrong attitude and reluctance of some of the faculty members to change and think differently. At the early-stage lot of students also thought this practice as a huge waste of time and energy.

b) Resources Required

A bit of money (available with a pro student financial policy of the college authority) and more of empathy, sympathy, and compassion towards students are the main resources required for implementation of this practice. Sincere devotion and commitment of all the faculty members and office staff is also a must have.

6. Evidence of Success

- Active participation of students in all add-on Courses
- 100% Participation and Presentation of students in the departmental Student Seminars
- Publication of College Tabloid, Wall Magazine & E-Magazine by 17 departments of the college
- Publication of 4 books (international publisher) with student-written ~50 review articles as book chapters
- Enthusiastic participation of students in Industry visit, Laboratory Visit and field trips
- Active participation of students in various Cultural Programs
- Active participation in Competitions/Quizzes/Poster presentations with success

PRACTICE III

1. Title of the practice

OUTREACH ACTIVITY FOR GENERAL WELLBEING OF THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

2. The Context

Extension activities concentrate on putting across in an understandable manner new ideas and improved technologies of practical utility to the rural, tribal, and urban privileged and underprivileged people. It enables all to use the newly acquired knowledge and skills to improve their general standard of living. It is a social science that attempts to adopt various strategies of change in the behaviour patterns of people through technological and scientific innovations for the improvement of their standard of living. The idea behind the extension work is coming together for the task of social upliftment. Extension makes good communities better and progressive and contributes to national development.

Participants of such activities typically develop leadership and teamwork skills and become more attuned to working amongst populations of varying ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The institution itself is likely to benefit from more satisfied students, often more motivated and more likely to stay in college, as well as from better relations with potential employers, neighbouring communities, voters, state legislators, parents, and current and future alumni. Extension is a learning-teaching method that connects meaningful community service to academic curricula. Service-learning blends community service goals and formal and informal (standard/academic and experiential/non-standard) educational goals in a manner that benefits both the participants and recipients. Extension activities and learning is a set of techniques and tools that can strengthen community relationships and connections.

3. Objectives

- To directly help the community by the activities of NCC, NSS, Students Union, CSR of college etc.
- To create awareness about matters like child labour, diseases, child marriage, importance of health and hygiene, drug abuse, child trafficking etc.
- To encourage students to participate in such activities which might help in their overall development of personality and skill
- To provide opportunities for students and community members to grow
- To generate scientific temper and social responsibility among students
- To upbringing all the students as global sensitive citizens
- To go with the motto “Work together, Grow together”

Thus, extension activities can arouse social consciousness of the students by providing them opportunities to work with and among the people. It can help to develop an awareness and knowledge of social realities and also help to have a concern for the well-being of the community at large and engage in creative and constructive social action.

4. The Practice

Active NSS and NCC units of the college conduct a lot of outreach activities, for example:

- Visiting schools for creating scientific awareness
- Visiting old age homes to help
- Visiting schools for street children to help
- Organizing awareness campaigns on different health-related issues locally, arranging health camps inside college and outside too for general health check-ups, Thalassemia detection camps, blood grouping, blood donation, etc.
- Promotion of health consciousness among slum and street children is also intended to by organizing different seminars on social work and hygiene consciousness and by distributing water bottles, stationeries, handkerchiefs, etc. among them from time to time.
- Donation and relief work to natural disaster-stricken areas is also done religiously. Distribution of old and new garments among poor people in the outskirts and in the nearby slum areas also takes place.
- Initiatives in fighting against pollution, working for green rallies, water conservation, waste management, etc. NCC and NSS regularly observe and celebrate Swachh Bharat, World Health Day, Earth Day, No Tobacco Day, Environment Day, Yoga Day, Drug Abuse, and Illicit Trafficking Day, etc.
- Organizing advanced leadership camps, speeches, debates, drawing competitions, etc. are also their routine job.

Beside all these things, there is much more to say:

- In association with Department of Chemistry, College launched a new brand of hand sanitizer SPARSHA just before the lockdown in time of its dire need and distributed it among security, bank, police, and media people at free of cost.
- A Psychological Counselling Cell was also formed to help the students to beat the possible stress and tension during lockdown.
- In lockdown period NCC unit also formed a special task force team **Corona Warriors** who always tried to help all people in distress providing necessary information and physical help wherever and whenever possible. During the first Corona wave student union of the college initiated a free rationing system to help the local people and during second wave also, they were busy in delivering food at free of cost to the Covid affected local people.
- College has already signed MoUs with five colleges, some nearby and some in the outskirts for all possible knowledge and resource sharing, and currently mentoring a remote college at Sagar Island and an outskirt school. Initiatives are also there for adopting a remote village soon.
- In addition, five departments from science, humanities, and commerce are now recognized as Ph.D. awarding centres with well-equipped laboratories where external scholars can enrol themselves under the faculty members to carry out their doctoral dissertations and in three departments there are provisions for performing summer projects by students from other institutions /colleges/universities.

5. a) Problems Encountered

Wrong attitude and reluctance of some of the faculty members to change and think differently and initially some students were also there, who thought this practice as rubbish and were very reluctant to participate.

b) Resources Required

A bit of money (as sanctioned for corporate social responsibility by the college authority) and more of empathy, sympathy, and compassion towards students are the main resources required for implementation of this practice. Sincere devotion and commitment of all the faculty members and office staff is also a must have.

6. Evidence of Success

- Two of our cadets got DG commendation
- Our ANO was chosen as the best ANO in West Bengal and Sikkim Directorate
- Our ANO got DG commendation
- Our college got the ZEE Bangla Education Excellence Award for its contribution to Society
- Our college got Mother Teresa International Award for its social contribution
- In last five years, 6 PG students from other universities did summer project here
- Five research guides have provided guidance to six external students for their doctoral research