

ANJUMAN ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE COLLEGE, BHATKAL



7.2.1 Best Practices

Best Practice 1

I Title of the Practice

To Avail Financial aid or assistance to our economically weaker students.

II. Objectives of the Practice

To help the students continue their higher education: There are high chances that some of the students will discontinue their studies because of financial problems. When students bring this problem to our attention, we make a list of those who are eligible for financial help. Many of our college staff wholeheartedly contribute to paying fees for poor and needy students. We personally go and meet the office bearers of some of the local charitable educational and social organisations in Bhatkal town and request that they give some financial aid or assistance to such students, which will enable them to continue their education.

III. The Context

Of all the students who take admission in our institution, many get fee concessions or scholarships from the government of Karnataka. These are the regular provisions available at all colleges for reservation categories. But some students who fall under the general category are not eligible for these benefits, and it is difficult for them to make arrangements for tuition fees. We started this practice of approaching college staff and the local charitable associations and organisations with a primary focus on getting timely help.

IV. The Practise

We started this practice in 2009–10 onward. We are very happy to state that during these 11–12 years, we have been successful in procuring financial help for a number of students. Well-known charitable organisations and associations in Bhatkal that are rendering great service to educational and social causes are

- Rabita Society
- Majlis-e-Islah wa Tanzeem
- SIO-I: Students Islamic Organisation of India

We know that we cannot help everyone, but we make humble efforts to do whatever we can to help the student community. Over the years, many students received financial assistance and completed their graduation. Though the amount was modest, it was a great help to them during their educational careers. This assistance greatly helps them to continue their higher education.

V. Evidence of Success

Empowering the students through education is the best help that can be given to them. When we noticed that some of the students, in spite of good results, had not taken the admissions, we interacted with them to know the reason(s) for the delay in taking the admissions. Some students reluctantly told us about their financial problems.

Those students who sought the benefit of financial aid at that time have now reached the position that they are giving financial help or aid to some school children, which is a commendable return from them.

VI. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems

- Some students hesitate to share their problems.
- To identify the degree of need and genuineness.
- Funding becomes difficult for charitable organisations if there are more applicants.

Resources

- Availability of limited funds
- The number of charitable organizations/associations that receive funding is limited.
- Contribution from a few staff members.

Best Practice 2

(i) Title of the practice: "Mentoring System"

(ii) Objective of the Practice:

- To guide the students in choosing the best career path and also to get better personal growth.
- To encourage the students to attend all the classes and participate in all sports and cultural activities.
- To motivate the students in such a way that they become successful professionals in both curricular and extracurricular activities.
- To prepare the students to be ethical and more knowledgeable.
- To improve the attendance and academic performance of the students.

iii) The Context:

The institution introduced a mentoring system in order to fulfil the student's requirements, shape their careers successfully, and make them grow psychologically and spiritually. Initially, the students were distributed to different mentors. Every mentor takes care of 18 to 20 students from different classes. Regularly update the attendance and marks of the students in order to monitor their individual performance throughout the year. In order to have regular mentor-mentee meetings, our institution has set a time for interaction. To discuss the student's performance and the proper organisation of the mentoring system, faculty meetings are also regularly conducted. While designing the template, the institution took care to place the signatures column in order to pass the information transparently to the parents.

(iv) The Practice: The goals of the committee were decided after meeting with the mentoring committee. Regular meetings between the committee members and mentors will be held and discussed about the problems, ongoing activities, and future plans, and the same will be documented. Instructing the students regarding the meeting timings, when and which information to be given to the mentor.

The mentor regularly takes information from the various departments about student's attendance and other information from the discipline committee, NSS and NCC offices, sports department, and Student Welfare Office. The above information will be interpreted in terms of the students' performance in terms of attendance, marks, behaviour, involvement in seminars, and participation in sports and cultural activities. Encouragement will be given to all the students to participate and to become successful in all the curricular and extracurricular activities. Counselling will be given for those who do not participate or are poor in academics, who are irregular in college, and whose behaviour is not proper.

Students who are not responding and are not showing interest in meeting their mentor will be called separately and counselled.

(v) Evidence of Success: After counselling, the students who secured less marks in their internal exams have improved because of regular meetings with their mentor. The identified irregular students started coming early to college after receiving proper mentor guidance. Most of the students started participating in Seminars, Workshops, NSS, Sports, and cultural activities after encouragement by the mentor. The result of the mentoring system identified was the placement of students in various jobs. The students showed improvement in their psychological and spiritual growth, which was appreciated by the parents. The continuous mentoring efforts showed a remarkable improvement in the behaviour of the students. The interaction between mentor and mentee made the student think independently and take individual decisions to properly shape his career, which was observed as a key improvement with the mentoring system.

(vi) Problems encountered and resources required: Regular meetings between mentor and mentee are a problem because sometimes students do not come to meet the mentor. Some students, even after counselling, do not show any improvement in their academics. Hence, it's a challenge for the mentor to make the student improve. Involving the students in social awareness programmes and making them participate in cultural and sporting activities is also a big challenge. The collection of information was also a key issue, and some students did not provide the correct details, so verification was a challenge. The Collection of Updated information from students, like changes in phone numbers, addresses, and other details, is also a challenge. The biggest challenge was counselling a student in every aspect, both academically and personally.