

1) Title of the Practice

Financial support to under privileged students for academic as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Objectives of the Practice

To help minimize the drop-out rates of students due to their economic condition and to encourage them to participate in various other activities. Making the students financially self-reliant is also an important mission of the college.

Context

Many of our students come from under-privileged socio-economic background. Due to this, some students face difficulty in paying the college fees after taking admission as well as engaging in other activities.

Practice

- The college provides fee waiver to those who need them most. The Teacher's Council maintains an emergency fund to help students in case of untoward incidents.
- The college sanctions financial aid to students for participating in State or National level competitions, eg. Rs. 10,000/- as financial aid was given to Ms. Priya Patra, B.A. General student, for participating in the WAKO India National Senior & Masters Kickboxing Championship held at Goa between 26th to 29th August, 2021.
- Apart from this, various departments provide financial support to their students as and when necessary. One student of Victoria Institution (College) suffered major losses from devastating fire in their slums on 16th January, 2021. She was Chumki Samaddar, student of History (Hons) (University registration No. 134-1211-0202-10). A fund was created by the Department of History where many teachers of the college contributed generously for Chumki and her family. The amount collected was given to her in phases as she was living in a makeshift arrangement in a nearby school building during that time.

Evidence of success

Priya Patra had won Silver medal at the WAKO India National Kickboxing Championship, 2018-19. She again won Gold in the 2nd All WB State Kickboxing Championship held in August 2019. Seeing her promise the college, in order to further encourage her, provided the said assistance. She won the Gold medal in the WAKO India National Senior & Masters Kickboxing Championship 2021 and fulfilled the faith the college had in her.

In spite of facing such adversities, Chumki Samaddar regularly attended online classes from her make-shift home and successfully completed her graduation. She is planning to enroll in an open University for Post-graduation course.

Problems encountered

- It is a challenge for the teachers to counsel the students on a regular basis to continue their studies in the face of financial hardship.

- There is constant pressure from family upon the girl-child to get married as soon as possible. It is challenging for the teachers to counsel the families of the students to prevent early marriage of their wards.
- It is also a challenge to convince a large part of the students to complete their studies and become financially self-sufficient.

2)

Title of the Practice

Distribution of home-made three-ply cotton face masks among the needy in one's neighbourhood as a part of Community support and awareness during pandemic

Objectives of the Practice

This programme not only intended to lend a helping hand to the impoverished but also evoke a sense of social responsibility and sensitivity among students.

Context

In a deeply fractured society like ours, it was but natural that a sizeable section was unable to follow the minimum covid protocol of wearing a face mask thereby increasing the risk of contamination with each passing moment.

Practice

Students were trained using YouTube videos in the craft of three-ply cotton mask making and were asked to make some. Further, they were asked to identify such people in their immediate neighbourhood who did not possess the capacity of affording a face mask during the trying times of a world-wide pandemic.

Evidence of Success

30 students were involved in mask-making, approximately 300 masks were made. They were distributed almost evenly in areas like Topsia (Kolkata), Sonarpur (South 24 Parganas) and Barasat (North 24 Parganas).

Success of this event could be gauged from the satisfaction which the students (NSS volunteers) expressed upon completion of the work. Not only did they experience satisfaction by standing beside the needy but they also educated themselves with the intangible quality of humanism.

Problems encountered and resources required

This event being conceptualised and executed during unprecedented times of nation-wide lockdown, it became impossible to conduct it in a structured and formal manner. Resources which were put to use were the sheer enthusiasm of students and other materials like cloth, needle and thread, available in nearly all households which are a part of our society.

7.2.1 Pictures

❖ Certificate of Priya Patra



❖ Report of Chumki Samaddar's incidence in a Kolkata Daily, The Telegraph, dated 16.01.2021



Students engaged in mask-making activities

