

7.2.1. Describe at least two institutional best practices (as per NAAC) format

Best Practices I

Title of the Practice:

Financial Aid to the deserving students by the college

Objectives of the Practice

It is obtained from the profile of the students joining various courses of the college that there are many students coming from the rural areas with low economic back ground. Their parents are unable to provide them a sustained financial support because of agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the district, is not a source of assured income. So, the noble objectives of the practice are:-

- To extend financial aid to the poor students, especially from the rural, to save them from discontinuation of their studies owing to poverty.
- To support financially all the deserving poor students without any discrimination of caste, creed or gender.
- To promote the 'equality' among the students
- To inculcate the values of 'generosity' and a 'sense of social responsibility' among the students.

The expected outcome is that the students should be able to complete their degrees with good marks. The beneficiaries should treat the needy with the principle of 'lend a helping hand without discrimination.'

The Context

The noble objective had its teething as well as challenging troubles in its designing and implementation.

- Pooling up of the required resources was a tough task.
- The college struggled a lot in deciding the eligibility criterion for the aid.

- After comprehensive deliberations with students and teachers, it was decided to extend the benefit to all the poor students, who do not have the advantage of government or endowment scholarships, without any discrimination of caste, creed.
- Verification of the financial backwardness of the aspirants was yet another challenge.
- The management has insisted on strict adherence to the rules framed. About this fund, in spite of the influential sections' and caste associations' undue interference in the implementation of the practice.

The Practice

In all around the areas of the college, there has been a long history of frequent droughts and famines, which have ravaged the rural life throwing the people into miserable conditions of abject poverty, illiteracy and ill-health.

In a situation of such dire poverty, whatever meagre resources available are used primarily to make both ends meet. So, sending their children to the town for higher education becomes almost impossibility for the poor parents in the rural areas, in the context of higher education demanding higher amounts of money. Though, sometimes, they do venture to admit their children to colleges in the town, they are unable to give sustained financial support throughout the course of study because agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the district, is not a source of assured income. So, it is evident that without financial support from an external source, the rural youth cannot hope to successfully complete their higher studies.

Innovation and Best Practices RRMK Arya Mahila Mahavidyalaya ,Pathankot

This illustrious institution, true to its legacy of pro-poor-student attitude since its inception, has taken a firm resolve to extend all possible financial support to the deserving students and help them to realize their fond dream of acquiring higher education.

For this, the college instituted committee maintains, the records of needy students and gather donations from Management and other Sources like NGOs. The financial support is extended to all the deserving poor students without any discrimination of caste, creed. The students, whose parents do not

have fixed reasonable source of income and do not enjoy any other financial assistance in the form of social welfare or endowment scholarships are eligible for the aid. A duly constituted committee of three senior persons of the college scrutinize the applications received from the aspirants for the aid finalizes the list of eligible students for the aid after due verification of the documentary evidence enclosed and strictly following the guidelines framed for the purpose, and submits the same to the Principal for sanctioning the actual amount of the aid. Endowment Scholarships and the individual teachers' help is also taken for the financial assistance. Apart from the financial aspect, endowment scholarships are a proof of academic achievement and hence, the students are developing a keen spirit of competition to secure the endowment scholarships the another source of the aid is our faculty members. Drawing inspiration from institution's legacy of pro-poor-student attitude and action, wherever possible, they are paying the tuition fee and examination fee of regular and industrious students who are unable to pay the fees owing to poverty. Lack of will on the part of the majority of the elite and successive droughts and famines in the district are the known constraints.

Evidence of Success

As the evidence, scholarship criteria is being printed on the prospectus and given as under

Name/Title of Scheme	Number of Students	Amount(Rs)
Financial Support from Institution(Concession)	78	142165

CONCESSIONS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

1. Due to withdrawal of Instructions issued by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi Vide D.O.No. 14012/2/2010- SCD- VI dated October 06,2010 as communicated to all the State Governments and U.T Admns Vide its letter no. F. No. 14011/01/2018 SCD-V dated 11.07.2018 to all the Private Institutions, not to charge any tuition fees from eligible SC student at the time of admission since amount of fees & funds will be received by them in their in Bank Account. **Therefore Fees will be charged from all the SC Students.**
2. As per the decision taken by the College Managing Committee vide its Resolutions No. 239 dated 22.04.2019 the only amount of fees & funds which will be received back by SC students in their Bank Account will be charged from those SC Students who are eligible for Post Matric Scholarship.
3. It will be the entire responsibility of SC students who are eligible for Post Matric Scholarship to apply ONLINE at her own in time during the dates notified and Portal of Punjab Government for Scholarship remain open.
4. The SC students should remain alert about this and keep timely ready all the document such as Cast Certificate, Residence Certificate, Income Certificate issued by the Tehsildar, Aadhar Card of Student and parents / guardians, Bank account linked with Aadhar Card Gap (if any) affidavit.

FEEES CONCESSIONS

Fees concession will be granted as under to all the students as per the decision of the college Managing Committee vide Resolution No. 237 dated 15.03.2019

Sr. No.	Criterion	Concession
1	Meritorious students above 75% Marks in the qualifying exam	10% of the total fees of the session excluding university charges and Uni. Exam Fee
2	Poor students from the BPL families who attach the valid documents with their application	10% of the total fees of the session excluding university charges and Uni. Exam Fee
3	Outstanding sports players who attach certificate of State level, National level, International level Participation	10%,30% to 50% respectively of the total fee of the session excluding university charges and uni exam fee
4	Children of the college employees and all other Arya Institutions run by the Arya Vidha Sabha(Regd.) Pathankot	20% of the total fee of the session excluding university charges and uni exam fee
5	Fatherless Children / Widows	10%of the total fees of the session excluding university charges and uni. exam fee
6	Orphans	20%of the total fees of the session excluding university charges and uni. exam fee

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).

In the beginning of designing the best practice, some groups of the students opposed the idea that the welfare scholarship holders too should be given the opportunity.

- They also expressed growing apprehension that the funds collected for the purpose would be misused.
- As a result, most of the students and staff did not come forward to contribute to the fund.
- Some even blamed that the idea of the Endowment Scholarships is not based on social justice.
- Motivating students towards competition for securing the scholarship is a challenge.

Best Practices II

1. Title of the Practice

Women Empowerment

2. Objectives of the Practice

Women constitute more than 100% of the total student strength of the college. The majority of them come from drought and famine-ravaged rural areas, where miserable conditions of utter poverty, illiteracy, ill-health and superstitious take hold of their lives. Thus, they are doubly affected by the backwardness and discrimination. So, the college has resolved to take up the cause of Women Empowerment for the women students with the objectives of

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- Mentoring women students on women specific issues with one women teacher as mentor for every 20 women mentees.
- Creating an environment through awareness programmes to enable the students to realize their full potential for learning and solving their

problems independently.

- Arranging special sessions with the police and social activists for enabling the female students to be aware of several types of 'evil designs' by professional criminals for the worst type of exploitation taking the advantage of their innocence and gullibility.
- Involving social activists and Government officials to enlighten the students on human rights and fundamental freedom for equal rights and opportunities.
- Organizing debates and discussions on gender equality to enable the students to realize gender sensitization, thus leading to more equality and harmony in family and society.
- Conducting seminars and special sessions on ragging, eve-teasing and dowry system to expose the ill-effects of the evils.
- Development of vocational and technical skills among the women students by providing special training to enable them to become independent earners of their living.
- Extending financial assistance to the deserving poor women of disadvantaged sections to help acquire their degrees.

3. The Context

- The women students, in the beginning, were not enthusiastic to participate in the deliberations.
- The NSS coordinator and the members of the unit had to visit certain families and persuade the parents that all the programmes were meant for the betterment and empowerment of their dear daughters.
- Some parents even found fault with the college that their children were detained in the college beyond working hours for unconnected and counterproductive programmes.

4. The Practice

Discrimination against women even in the 21st century is a devastating reality. That is why 'Gender Inequality' has been a matter of serious concern across the globe and within the countries. India still has a long way to go before achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Especially, the rural areas are ravaged by the miserable conditions of abject poverty, illiteracy, ill-health and superstitious. The college girls account for 100% of the total strength and most of them come from rural areas. The majority of these girls belong to the weaker sections including scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and minorities without proper access to

education, health and other productive resources. Therefore, they remain largely as the marginalized poor and socially excluded.

Joining a degree college in the town and acquiring higher education involve money and higher things. So the poverty-stricken and tradition-bound parents reluctantly admit their daughters to colleges. Being the most vibrant and dynamic segment, the youth including girls, is our most valuable human resource. We cannot afford to neglect our female force to be the victims of discrimination, exploitation and segregation. So the college resolved to empower female students to face the vicissitudes of life boldly and successfully for a life of peace, harmony and dignity.

To achieve the aim, the college established a Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) with a senior woman teacher as its Coordinator and three other senior women teachers as its members. All female students are eligible to take membership of the Cell irrespective of their status. There are two hundred girl student members in the unit.

The Coordinator and the members of the unit meet twice a month and decide the conduct of awareness sessions during leisure hours sensitizing the girls to know why and how they are given subservient role in spite of their equal or even more abilities than their counterparts. They also draw an annual action plan for organizing various awareness programmes / seminars /workshops and interactive sessions. The Principal along with the Coordinator monitors the implementation of the plan. The Coordinator and the members are responsible for the implementation of the programmes in consultation with NGOs , Inner Wheel Club and Government officials from the Department of Social Welfare, Adult Education, Women and Child Welfare, Judiciary and Medical Departments.

The Women Empowerment Cell is working for the protection of women's rights and actively empowers women creating conditions for gaining confidence in their abilities. It aims at curbing the social evils like eve-teasing, ragging and dowry system providing necessary counselling and guidance by professional women counsellors, social and rights activists, enlightened academics and professional psychologists and psychiatrists, so that the women students become aware of unjust gender discrimination, the human rights, the legal provisions available for their protection, importance of higher education for higher enlightenment, mental and physical fitness.

5. Evidence of Success

The NSS unit of the college in collaboration with women empowerment cell organized 1 day camp at village Nangal Bhur. The objectives are listed as under

- Play regarding dowry system
- Girl Child Education
- Gender Equality



6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- * The modest and shy students were reluctant to cross their academic borders affecting the successful conduct of awareness programmes.
- * Ensuring the all-round support and participation of women teachers in the programmes is also a tough task
- * Organizing various programmes during working hours, sometimes, has led to sacrificing the class work.
- * Sometimes, the participants were put to disappointment as the resource persons did not turn up for the camp.
- * Implementation of the annual plan and its monitoring has become a tough task in view of tight academic schedule.