

Best Practice I

1. Title: *Shikshak Aplya Daari*

2. Objectives of the Practice

A very unique practice conducted by Vivekanand College is “*Shikshak Aplya Daari*” which means “A Teacher is at Your Doorstep”. The main objective of this practice is to visit homes students of Vivekanand College and to get acquainted with the socio-economical or other familial problems they face at home that may become a hindrance in their higher education.

3. The Context

It was observed earlier that the attendance of students belonging to rural area was not up to the mark for some courses. As preventive measures taken by the college could not be much effective, we planned this activity which, we thought, will provide interface of the socio-economic scenario of their family and native place and help to take more effective measures.

4. The Practice

Under the scheme, “*Shikshak Aplya Daari*” we visit our students’ homes. We make teams of 4 to five faculty members and allot one village to each team. The teams visit their respective villages in the evening. During the visit they meet the students and their parents and discuss various problems they face regarding their curriculum, transportation or any other issue. We also take their suggestions. After the visit the team prepares a report and on the basis of that report measures are taken to achieve the objective.

5. Evidence of Success

20 teams visited near about 30 villages and met more than 500 students and their parents. Students’ major problems like transportation were identified and necessary measures were taken to resolve them. It has been observed that gradually students’ attendance got improved. This activity has been appreciated by students, parents and other stakeholders.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Basically, the students from the rural areas either belong to agricultural families or they have some small business shops. So parents were busy either in their farms or shops. Teachers have to go there and meet them. As team members used their own vehicles, the issue of commutation was resolved at their own levels so no their resources were required.

7. Notes (Optional)

Best Practice II

1. Title: Panchaganga Ghat Cleaning

2. Objectives of the Practice

A practice conducted by Vivekanand College is “*Panchaganga Ghat Cleaning*”. The main objective of this practice is to go to the Panchaganga river and maintain cleanliness in the premise of the river *ghat* along with spreading awareness about cleanliness among people.

3. TheContext

The Panchaganga River is one of the most important rivers of India located in Maharashtra. The river travels 81 kms and passes across major areas around Kolhapur city and rural area. People from the region always come to the river Ghat to throw their *nirmalya* (the garbage collected from holy places or the funerals etc) into the river. This makes the river polluted and the water undrinkable.

4. The Practice

Every day (even on Sundays) our students and staff members visit the Panchaganga ghat and they do cleaning of the ghat. They dissuade people from throwing their *nirmalya* into the river. The students spread awareness about cleanliness among people in the morning time.

5. Evidence of Success

Because of this practice most of the people stopped throwing *nirmalya* into the river and as a result, the quality of water of the river has improved.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The *nirmalya* is a part of religious faith of the people. So, many times it became difficult to prevent people, especially from rural background, from throwing *nirmalya* into the river. So the team worked very patiently in order to prevent any communally sensitive issue.

7. Notes (Optional)