

Institutional Values and Best Practices

Best Practice-I

1. Title of the Practice : Dnyansadhana

More than 75 students of our college come from rural area. Most of them are not aware of the future opportunities and methods of preparation needed for success in various entrance and competitive examinations. To create confidence in the learners and encourage them to go for competitive exams, the Department of Geography initiated Dnyansadhana, an academic practice in 2015-16.

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To create awareness about competitive examinations among the students and sustain their interest in the respective fields.
- To provide basic knowledge and create foundation for the preparation of PG Entrance, NET, SET and M.P.S.C. /U.P.S.C. exams.
- To create question bank for the candidates.

3. The Context :

Many students in the college are the first generation or second generation learners with limited exposure to the competitive atmosphere for seeking good jobs. In this context this initiative was necessary to bridge the knowledge gap of these students. The preparation for higher education needs constant motivation from the peers. Dnyansadhana motivates the students and helps them in exploring new ways of acquiring knowledge necessary for the competitive world having multiple opportunities.

4. The Practice :

The practice is student friendly. The teachers ask subject-related five questions to students in one lecture per week. The questions are formed on the basis of the undergraduate syllabus as well as the syllabus of various competitive exams. One day duration is given to the students to find answers to the questions. In this brainstorming activity, the students read many reference books to search

answers. It motivates them to read more about the topics. The students also use online resources to find the answers and this process create more interest in the area/topic. The teachers explain and discuss answers in the next lecture and it creates participative learning environment.

5. Evidence of Success:

Dnyansadhana created a renewed interest in study and many students started looking at studies from a new, interesting perspective. They could relate these efforts to their prospective careers and it also started healthy competition among the students. The evidence of success can be measured through the number of students progressing to PG courses. Although there are no competitive exams declared due to Covid 19 at the end of the academic year, the students may continue their preparation for these exams and it will help them in future.

6. Problem Encountered and Resources Required:

The first problem was to motivate the students to read about something which was not directly related to their regular study. The second issue was that students had no free access to the central library. Once they were allowed free access to the library, the next challenge was the unavailability of standard reference material in regional language. As the students are from Marathi background, initially they found it difficult to understand the meanings of English words. The other issue was that some students did not have smartphones. They were given access to internet facility available in the college.

Best Practice-II

1. Title of the practice : “Shikshanmaharshi Senior Citizen Marathon”

Shikshanmaharshi Bapuji Salunkhe College Karad started Shikshanmaharshi senior citizen Marathon in the academic year 2018-19 to commemorate Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe on the occasion of the birth centenary year of the great visionary educationist and Dalit Mitra Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe who devoted his life for

spreading the light of education among the children of poor peasants in rural Maharashtra.

2. Objectives of the practice :

- To create health awareness among the elders in society.
- To express reverence and gratitude towards the senior citizens who had served the society in their active years.
- To create the feeling of inclusiveness and togetherness among these people.

3. The Context :

The senior citizens form an important section of our society. Although the elders have moved past their active years, their experience and wisdom can guide the new generation. Sometimes they feel alienated due to various social, health and psychological issues. The college decided to provide an opportunity to them to come together, have fun and get the feeling of enjoyment with the young college students. The marathon also created health awareness among the elders.

4. The Practice :

It was the second year of this annual marathon. The organizers formed various committees for the successful conduct of this event. A wide publicity was given to the marathon through local newspapers, pamphlets and local electronic media. The teachers of the college visited senior citizens' clubs to appeal to the elders to participate in the marathon. Pritisangam Hasya Parivar was the co-host of the event. The doctors of the Govt. Hospital, Karad Municipal Council and Police administration provided necessary support.

The route of the marathon was from the statue of Shikshnmaharshi Bapuji Salunkhe near Karad bus stand to Former Dy. Prime Minister Late Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial at Krishana Ghat. The number of participants was 210. The participants were divided into male and female participants, and further into below 70 years of age and those above 70. The participants expressed happiness for the neat organization and care taken by the college during the event.

5. Evidence of Success:

There were 210 participants in the marathon. All the participants were given certificates of participation. The winners and runner-ups from each category were given cash prizes and trophies. The participants showed great enthusiasm in the marathon. Many participants gave positive feedback after the event and requested to organize the event every year. The marathon was successful as the set objectives were achieved.

6. Problem Encountered and Resources Required:

Initially, it was a huge challenge to motivate the senior citizens for participation. The elders who were members of senior citizen associations could be motivated easily. However those who were not associated with any organization or group were reluctant to participate.

As the event required a lot of preparation in terms of finance and mobilization of resources, raising money for the event was a big challenge. The participants were given printed T-shirts, chest numbers, snacks, water bottles, trophies, certificates, banners etc. through sponsorship from Karad Municipal Council and a host of other firms and organizations as well as from individuals.