

Practice No 1- Training for School Children

Objectives

The institution ensures instilling values and social commitment in the youngsters along with quality education. Innovative practices serve to extend out-of-class learning opportunities to students and to promote the message of social consciousness among them. Various departments of the college instigate several socially committed programmes and activities to empower the students of the college as well as contribute to students outside the college. The college community actively engages in encouraging the students to be a part of value-based learning initiatives and efforts are taken for quality sustenance as well as quality improvement.

Context

This best practice displays the active student participation in collective learning ensuring that quality of the education imparted by the college is significant in its educational services. The practice of support to schools was thought of in the context of reaching out to schools, especially where there are not many facilities available on account of different reasons. Again, some schools are selected on the basis of relevance of the training methodology. The programme is conducted under the leadership of students of the college so that school children have a relaxed feeling of interacting with their elder brothers and sisters.

The Practice

Understanding the importance of English language today, the English Department takes various initiatives to promote English language learning among school students. 'Namaste English', an extension programme of the Department of English, is conducted every year with the prime agenda of reaching out to school students to make English learning interesting and also to mark the spirit of literature in academia outside the campus. 'Namaste English' of the year 2018-19 was designed with the primary motive of "Education in Schools through Theatre". The first session of the programme was conducted on 11 March 2019 at Amala Public School, Vaikom. A talk on "Theatre and Education" was organized for the students and a theatrical rendition of a syllabus prescribed play was staged. The play was directed by Sri. Jithin John, Assistant Professor, Department of English and the students of the department joined hands to make it a successful performance. Vaikom being a coastal place,

the impulsive response and evaluation of the play was a testimony of the play's success. The play was also staged in St. Philomena's School and Junior College, Elanji on 5 March, 2019.

Teaching and Learning Mathematics is generally understood as a difficult task among school students. The Department of Mathematics initiates special training programmes for school students to make learning Mathematics in an easy and relaxed manner. The department develops mathematical concepts through games and puzzles which are introduced to schools by the students of the department. For the same, students with social commitment and teaching skills are identified and trained to serve as tutors. Selected students of II- and III-year BSc Mathematics are grouped into two teams and classes are arranged every Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 9.45 am. In each session a team of six tutors engage the students. Students of V to X standards of Government Model High School, Kottayam are selected for the special training classes. Students of classes V and VI, VII and VIII and IX and X are combined under the monitoring of two tutors per group. The student strength of 36 for the last three years and the collected feedback of the students reflect the success and popularity of the class.

Selected students of B.Sc final year chemistry took classes from 15-1-2019 to 30-1-2019 for the students of high school and higher secondary school of Sree Vidyadhi Raja Vidya Bhavan, Kottayam. Physics department organized a one-day science exhibition Physibit on 28th January 2019 for the benefit of young students. It was open to students from M.T. Seminary higher secondary school Kottayam, St. Annes higher secondary school Kottayam and other schools. There were about 250 attendees in all. M.Sc students of physics department conducted science demonstration class for the school students.

On 29th June 2018, as part of the non-academic extension programme the student representatives and faculties of Commerce and Management Department, Baselius College, Kottayam, visited the Madonna Jyothis School of mentally challenged in Puthupally at 3.00 P M. There are around 60 inmates at the school A fund collected from the students and teachers of the department was handed over to the Head of the institution. The students also spent some time with the inmates of the centre, motivating them and engaging them in activities.

In commemoration of Prof. P. C. Alias [the former HOD of Dept of Economics and Principal, Baselius College], the Economics department organized an All-Kerala Economics Quiz competition for higher secondary students on 03.11.2018. 42 teams from different parts of Kerala participated in the programme. Moreover, a lecture on the importance and scope of

economics as a discipline was also arranged to the Higher Secondary Students as part of the programme.

Evidence of Success

Most of the schemes have been operational for years. School authorities often welcome this practice and offer all support to the contingent. The enthusiasm shown by the school children and the feedback collected have been indicators of the success of this programme.

Problems encountered and resources required

The main problem faced is the clash in the academic calendars of schools and colleges. The examination schedules of the colleges often change and this affects the continuity of the programme. This has also restricted the activity to a few schools only. The students who undertake this training activity do it on a voluntary basis and without any remuneration on account of the financial constraints.



Training for School Children



Namasthe English- Screening of the play 'Matsyagandhi' at Amala Public School, Vaikom on 11th March 2019



Quiz and Training Programme for Higher Secondary Students



Visit to Madonna Jyothis Centre

Practice 2 – Red Ribbon Club and Blood

Objectives

Red Ribbon club is a voluntary club in the campus with the intervention of blood donation among youth between the age of 18-25. It also aims at the physical and mental health of the youth and conducting awareness programs among the youngsters.

Context

Baselius College had identified the importance of blood donation and also the need to create an awareness on the same among the student community. So as early as in 1990's, a forum was formed on the campus under the title 'Bolld Donor's Forum'. The forum in association with the Youth red Cross took initiatives for donation of blood and arranging Blood Donation camp. This was at the time when Blood donation forums were not popular at colleges. Later when the initiatives of establishment of Blood Donation Clubs were taken by many institutions, the forum was re-names as 'Red Ribbon Club' in line with the common policy. The role of this forum is very important as many people are not aware about the importance of blood donation and many are not willing to donate blood even if they are perfectly healthy. In order to remove the stigma centred around blood donation and to impart proper awareness among students the Red Ribbon Club was started in the college.

Practice

Our volunteers arrange blood donors needed for the patients in various hospitals who contact our RRC club. The data is then monitored and filed in the register for future references. The blood group details and contact number of the students are also included. Blood donation camps are organized inside the campus so as to benefit the students in avoiding the long journey. Blood donation camps are regularly conducted in the college to create awareness among students on the necessity of saving lives by donating blood. Blood Donation Day is celebrated and awareness programmes are conducted.

Evidence of Success

The evidence of success is clear from the number of calls received by the students for donating blood both at the time of emergency and otherwise. It can be undoubtedly said that students of Baselius college have helped many patients and the needy by donating blood and undertaking this as a service to the mankind.

Problems encountered and resources required

Lack of awareness about blood donation is one of the major issues faced. Proper monitoring and data handling is very essential for the activities of this club. One of the major issues faced is that some hospitals do not provide a blood donation receipt of ticket to the students and this limits the evidences of donation. Another issue observed is that the genuineness of some request cannot be verified. The main requirement at present is the need for a portal which manages the data and requirements.



Practice 3 – Anti- Narcotic Initiatives

Objectives

The extensive use of narcotics within and outside educational institutions has become a serious concern nowadays. Drug dealers target students both as carriers as well as clients. It's high time teachers and parents started working against this menace and eradicating the same. The highly energetic youth can be guided by proper awareness campaign and initiatives and at the same time by warning them against the adverse effect on the use of narcotics. With this noble intention, the college formed an Anti-narcotics cell.

Context

There are many news appearing in the media on the rampant use of drugs and narcotics by students. Reports suggest that many college students are not just users of the same, but also act as carriers. Many youngsters are found to be admitted to de-addiction centres. A college situated in the town limit has to be extremely careful on account of the vulnerability of the campus. The college has been organising awareness campaigns and lectures in this connection. But the need for a forum fully dedicated for this purpose was felt to be the need of the hour and this resulted in the formation of the Anti- Narcotic Cell. The Cell of our college along with Excise Department has joined hands under the umbrella of 'Vimukuthi' which indicates 'freedom from the grip of the evil'

Practice

The Anti- narcotic cell has come out with a number of initiatives including observing days, arranging campaigns, organising events etc. intended to provide awareness on the ill effects of drug abuse. The major events organised include:

a) World No-Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day was celebrated by conducting a flash mob at Gandhi Square and Mall of Joy, Kottayam. The program was conducted in association with Global Cancer Concern, India (GCCCI) and the Excise department. GCCCI Kerala Coordinator Mrs Manju Philip and the officials from the Excise department addressed the gathering.

b) Anti-Narcotics Day (June 26th)

An Anti-Narcotics rally was conducted from Baselius College to Nagampadam bus stand by the students in association with Vimukthi, Excise Division Kottayam, Mount Carmel School and CMS College. Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble MLA flagged off the rally in

the presence of Baselius College Principal Dr.Jancey Thomas and Head of Physical education Department Dr Biju Thomas. The rally was led by Captain Murali Kumar. An oath against drugs was taken at Nagampadam in the presence of Dr Abu Joseph of the college and Mr.Abdul Salim of the Excise Department.

c) Awareness Class & Poster Designing Competition

An awareness class was conducted by the NSS unit on the harmfulness of drugs and the need to wipe it out from the youth of the society. C.I. C.O. Sajeev, Excise department, led the awareness class. A Poster designing competition was also conducted by the unit in association with Vimukthi on the topic “Anti-Drugs”. As art is a powerful medium of expression, the students were able to spread the message against drugs through this program. The program was led by Preventive Officers, Kottayam Mr. Gopakumar P.G. and Mr K. Rajeev. The winners were given prizes and certificates by Inspector Anil Kumar, Civil Excise Officer.

d) Friendly Cricket Match between teachers and Students

On 15th February 2019, a friendly cricket match titled ‘Arjunas v/s Dhronas’ was organised between the students and teachers of the college. The student's team *Arjunas* was led by the College Students’ Union chairman Unnikrishnan M.J and the teachers’ *Dronas* team was led by Head of the Physical Education Department Lt. Dr Biju Thomas. The team members wore jerseys displaying the messages “Say No to Drugs” and “No Drugs, Only Hugs”. The students’ team won the match by 4 wickets. Dr Jancey Thomas, Principal, Baselius College, Kottayam and Prof. M.J. Mathew, NSS Program Co-ordinator, MG University addressed the teams. Prof. Thomas Kuruvilla, NSS Program Officer and officials from Excise department gave anti-narcotics messages. The initiative was also instrumental in spreading the message of a campus fraternity.

Evidence of Success

All the programmes organised by the Anti-Narcotic Cell and the constant monitoring of the campus by the members and the volunteers have created a very positive response. Students have been getting proper awareness on the ill-effects of the narcotic use. They also have involved actively in spreading the message in the society.

Problems Encountered

Many initiatives started by the government and authorities often lack continuity and direction. The colleges have lots of limitations in organising a wide spread campaign. The authorities have to take stern and strict action in this connection.



Rally Organised against Drugs



Baselius College NCC Unit celebrated anti-drug day by participating in the rally which was conducted by Excise division of Kottayam.



