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| **Best Practices** |
| **BEST PRACTICE -1**: **Admiration Towards Social Responsibility**  Social Awareness is the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to understand social and ethical norms for behavior, and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports. Social awareness is a crucial component of appropriate classroom behavior, which contributes to an environment conducive to learning. Social awareness is also widely established as an important factor in workforce success. One recent employer survey conducted by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills demonstrates that four of the five most important skills for graduates entering the work force are linked to social awareness: professionalism, collaboration, communication, and social responsibility.  The prime goal of the NSS Unit of St.Mary’s Group of InstituttionsGunturis the personality development of students through community services. The concept of National Service Scheme is started in the year 1969 to build sense of social responsibility through teacher and students involvement in constructive service with the motto of “Not Me But You”. NSS volunteers work in rural areas, adopted villages and school to the serving the cause of society through survey, education and health awareness programme.  **Regular Activities:**  NSS volunteers generally work with villages, slums and voluntary agencies to complete 120 hours of regular activities during an academic year. As per the fundamental principles of National Service Scheme, a volunteer is expected to remain in constant touch with the community. Hence, it is of vital importance that a particular village/slum is selected for implementation of NSS programmes. As the NSS volunte4er is to live with the members of the community and learn from their experience during his/her tenure in NSS, the village/slum should be carefully selected for adoption by NSS unit.   1. **Adoption of Villages**   Adoption of a village and area is a very meaningful programme in NSS. It is far better to concentrate attention on one village and take up the task for development perspective, than to fritter away energy in many locations involving too many activities which may not be completed at all or where the follow up action may not be possible. From this point of view, village adoption programme should ensure continuity of work vis-a-vis sustained action, evaluation and follow up work.   1. **Contacting Village/Area Leaders**   As a first step in this programme, it is necessary to establish contact with more than one village which would help to select a village where 'Leadership' is well established. In other words, selecting a village with proper leadership is very important as the sustained follow up action and evaluation is ensured in such places. To start with, the NSS unit can take the help of the Block Authorities, District Panchayat Officer, District Tribal Welfare Officer, District Medical Officer, Extension Officer of Agriculture, Irrigation and Education Departments for the selection of the village. It is to be noted that the selected villages should be within a short distance from the college so that constant contact can easily be made.   1. **Survey of the Village/Area**   Before drawing up the plan of action, it is absolutely necessary to conduct a comprehensive survey of few villages situated at a short distance from the college. The assistance from the teachers and students of agriculture, economics, commerce, geography, statistics, home science, social work, medicine, psychology and education etc. have to be sought for the purpose. Conducting socio-economic survey can be an interesting field activity which has direct bearing on the curriculum of economics, commerce, statistics, psychology, health education etc. The report of such a survey will provide up-to-date information about the problems and potentials of the village and help in programme planning for village development. The applied field work will help the students to increase their analytical ability and deepen their thinking. Further, this will help them to identify the problems which have been left unnoticed. The survey work can also be accomplished with the help of PRA exercises (Participatory Rural Appraisal)  **4. Identification of Problem(s)**  It is on the basis of this need assessment that projects/programmes are to be formulated. The programme officers should use their discretion and should identify the projects which can be completed by seeking assistance from the communities/other agencies.  As the aim of adoption of village or area is to give new ideas of development to the villagers which would improve their living conditions. Once the trust of the communities is won, they start cooperating with the NSS volunteers and approach them for solution of their problems. One of the important services that is rendered by our NSS volunteers is disseminating information about the latest developments in agriculture, watershed management, wastelands development, non-conventional energy, low cost housing, sanitation, nutrition and personal hygiene, schemes for skill development, income generation, government schemes, legal aid, consumer protection and allied field.    We have conducted the following activities during 2018-19 as a part of NSS Activities   * + - Swatch Bharat Pakhwada     - Teacher’s day     - Gandhi jayanti     - TITLY Cyclone relief camp     - National unity day     - Mega blood donation camp     - Mock Parliament     - International Yoga day     - Celebration of Independence Day     - Celebration of Republic Day     - World AIDS Prevention Day     - World Computer Literacy Day     - Awareness Camp on Eco-Friendly Diwali     - Safety Awareness Workshop     - Traffic Safety Program     - Environment Preservation and Plantation Drive     - Eco-Friendly Vinayaka Chathurdhi     - One day Seminar for skill development for Female students     - Self-Defense Workshop for girls     - Seminar on Gender Sensitization     - Campaign for Enhanced Spirit of volunteerism and women Safety     - Awareness Program on Women Safety and Respect     - Seminar on International women’s day     - Economic Empowerment of Indian Women: Theory and Practice’     - Poster making & Debate Competition     - Poster Making Competition on ‘’Women in Science’’     - Swachhta Pakhwada     - Anti Ragging Drug Awareness Program     - Dr.Abdul Kalam Death Anniversary     - Dr. Athal Bihari Vajpayee Death Condolences     - Teacher’s Day Celebrations     - Helping Hands to Orphanage People     - International Women’s Day     - Protest Program against Pulvama Attack     - Vanam Manam Program     - Raising Funds for destitute in flood of Kerala     - Observance of Rashtriya Ekta Divas     - Observance of World AIDS Day     - Blood Donation camp     - Observance of Republic Day     - Observance of Independence Day   **BEST PRACTICE -2** :  **Improving Teaching – Learning Process**   1. **Goal**   To ensure the completion of syllabus according to the academic planner of each department   * To encourage teachers to adapt to technological advancements including ICT adoption in class room teaching * To improve pass percentage and enhance the number of ranks bagged by the college at the university level examinations  1. **The Context**  * The syllabus coverage in some cases is being hurried and towards the end of the semester where information are being crammed at once. This sluggish coverage initially and hurried coverage later should be avoided giving enough time to student in comprehending the topics and assimilating the facts. * The teachers find it difficult to keep pace with the techno – savvy student learners. It has become essential for some of the teachers to adapt to the latest pedagogic styles and include ICT in class room teaching. The mismatch between the student learner and the teacher in the use and comfort of handling varieties of tools available for teaching – learning needs to bridge.  1. **The Practice**  * Academic planner along with the calendar of events is uploaded on the website for information to students. * The teaching – learning committee along with the heads of different departments monitor the pace of coverage of the syllabus. * Informal feedback is obtained from students regarding the content delivery by different teachers. The teaching – learning committee members and the class teachers hold frequent informal meetings and cull out the information needed.  1. **Special Aspects**  * Frequent assignments, tests and evaluation are conducted to improve performance in the semester – end examinations * Seven class rooms are made ICT ready and many departments have the necessary tools for handling the class room teaching with the help of ICT. * Computer science department staff and programmers train the teachers in the use of Power Point Presentations, browsing the internet for useful resources, uploading content on the college website, use of google docs for information sharing, etc.   **5. Evidence of Success**   * Some of the teachers have adopted modern pedagogic styles and ICT in their classes. * Some of the notes are uploaded on the college website. * Appropriately paced and timely completion of syllabus * Increased attendance in the classes * Improvement in results.   **6. Problems encountered and Resources required.**   * Development of animation based power point presentations in teaching, particularly in science subjects, has been hindered due to the want of in – house technical expertise. * The demand for ICT resources is increasing and paucity of funds has been the biggest impediment which may dampen the spirit of technology adoption by teachers. |