



Lekshmi Puram College of Arts and Science
Neyyoor-629802
(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli)
Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu

Best Practice -1: Free Noon Meal Scheme

Goals of the Practice

To provide free noon meals to the needy, deprived, and socially weaker sections of the student community, thereby minimizing the dropout rate in higher education and helping to reach higher education to the unreached.

The Context

Lekshmi Puram College of Arts and Science was established in 1964 at Lekshmi Puram, a remote, interior part of the village surrounded by the coastal belt of Mondaicadu to Colachel. The intention of the founders was to provide higher education to the socially weaker and economically poor sections. As well as to reach higher education to the unreached through the upliftment of weaker sections of the neighborhood community. The majority of the students who seek admission to the college belong to the economically and socially weaker and deprived section of society that hails from the interior parts of rural villages. Also, most of them are doing part-time work either before or after the college's working hours. A few students are continuing their studies without lunch in the afternoon; a few of them left the institution without attending afternoon class and became dropouts from higher education. Hence, the institution has decided to provide a free noon meal since 2004 to the needy and weaker sections of the student community, which in turn helps to minimize dropouts.

The Practice

The institution has proposed a new initiative to provide free noon meals to college students. It was started with the financial contributions of the members of the teaching faculty; initially, free lunches were provided to 20–25 students. Later on, the number was increased to 30 per day. The beneficiaries of the initiative are identified by the respective class teachers or mentors, and the same is forwarded to the principal through the head of the department. The principal has constituted the committee to scrutinize the recommendations without informing the students, identify target beneficiaries, and monitor the program. The amount collected from the faculty for the scheme is directly credited from their salary to the account open for the purpose. A token was issued to the beneficiaries in the morning, and they took their lunch from the canteen. The quality of the food and their attendance were monitored continuously.

Evidence of Success

The scheme was successfully conducted from the date of its commencement. An average of 25–30 students benefit on all working days; dropouts are minimized; and leaving the college in the afternoon is also reduced.

Problem encountered

The cost of food materials as well as the retirement of the faculty posed problems in the budget. Also, some of the girls students are not ready to accept as beneficiaries of the scheme.

Notes

An effective mentor-ward system helps identify target beneficiaries for the scheme.

Contact Details

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Best Practice 2: Development and Nurture of Innate Talents**Goals of the Practice**

To develop and nurture the innate talents of undergraduate students

The Context

Lekshmipuram College of Arts and Science is situated in Mondicaud village in Lekshmipuram, a rural village in Knayakumari District. The majority of the stakeholders are first-generation learners and from the rural belt of neighboring villages. Most of them have some innate talents in the arts, culture, and other co-curricular activities, like cultural folks. Due to a lack of opportunity, their innate talents are buried in many contexts. By realizing this, the college has identified 'development of innate talents of undergraduate students' as one of the best practices.

The Practice

First of all, the college has identified the innate talents possessed by the individual students department-wise with the help of the respective faculty. The database has been created, and they are motivated to take active part in various competitions held at various levels. Achievements and their participation are appreciated by being displayed on the notice board, and the expenditures are met by the college. Training is also provided in various items by inviting resource persons. Finally, a one-week program named 'Talents Week' was celebrated.

Evidence of success

Opportunity for exhibiting their innate talents is provided to the students, and 30 items were demonstrated on stage. All the participants were appreciated, and prizes were distributed on the college day. Moreover, students participated and won prizes and cash prizes.

Problem encountered

On regular working days, it is difficult for the organizers to bring all the students under one umbrella. Some of the regular working hours are necessary for arranging practices and talent festivals. Seeking the coordination and cooperation of other members for this novel cause becomes very difficult on all occasions. The cost of costumes and other stationery is high.

Notes

Identification of all innate talents of students is a challengeable task. A committed coordinator is necessary.

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