

Best Practice - I

Title: Involvement of Students in Community Welfare Activities through NSS

Goal: To identify the needs and problems of the community at large by engaging the students as NSS volunteers

The Context: As per the fundamental principles of NSS, a volunteer is expected to remain in constant touch with the community. Hence, for proper implementation of the NSS programmes, it is imperative to select at least one nearby village rather than fritter away energy in a no. of locations. Identification of problems and potentialities of the adopted village can go a long way in fruitful utilisation of the village resources and help in proper planning of village development. This will in turn also develop a sense of social and civic responsibility amongst the students.

Practice: We, at Nowgong Girls' College, have an effervescent NSS unit guided by a teacher-in-charge, which has been established with a rudimentary objective to provide a platform for interested students to partake in social work apart from their regular classes. The students also extend their services to the neighbourhood community and society as a whole by providing different kinds of services such as rallies are organised from time to time to raise awareness about various social issues such as domestic violence, rape, evil effects of tobacco, AIDS awareness, blood donation camps, health, and hygiene-related seminars, visit to orphanages and old age homes, extending support in kind to the needy and deprived street children, supplying relief materials during natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, etc. A village namely Itapara situated within a short distance has been adopted by our college with the aim of giving new ideas of development to the villagers which would improve their living conditions. One of the important services rendered by the NSS volunteers is disseminating information about various schemes such as Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, etc. to the villagers apart from other social issues, health, and hygiene and also generating mass awareness about environment conservation.

Evidence of Success: The initiatives of the NSS Unit of the college is widely appreciated since all such activities have a long-term positive impact on the overall development of society at large.

Problems Encountered: It is necessary to win the trust of the communities for engaging in any kind of community work. So the basic problem encountered by the volunteers is convincing the villagers towards the implementation of new schemes and programmes.

Best Practice - II

Title: Institutional Research Fund for faculty members and students to encourage research activities

Goal: To encourage quality research among the faculty members and students that will make significant contribution to the community.

The context: Research is considered as an important dimension of higher education. Therefore, the institution has decided to initiate an 'Institutional Research Fund' for the faculty members and students. Students can avail this benefit for research works/ projects except those which are mandatory as per curriculum. The institution has initiated this effort as UGC has limited its provision of funds in the respective areas of research.

Practice: The institution provides fund for research activities after proper scrutiny and recommendation by the 'Research and Collaborative Activity Cell'. The institution identifies possible areas of research and invites collaboration with designated bodies in order to undertake quality research. The 'Research and Collaborative Activity Cell' of Nowgong Girls' College carefully enquires into the problem areas identified by faculty members and students and after considering the nature and significance of the problem, the Cell streamlines the process based on the availability of fund and other resources. After getting recommendation from the Cell, an approval from the authority is necessary. Initially 60 of the total fund sanctioned for the selected project is released to the researcher to undertake research. The rest of the amount is released after submission of the progress report of minimum 50 of the investigation or completion of the investigation. The Duration of the project is maximum of two years.

Evidence of Success: A number of faculty members have applied for the 'Institutional Research Fund' and has been granted research fund as per availability of funds and after fulfilment of the required criteria.

Problems Encountered: Although many applicants had applied for the 'Institutional Research Fund', it was not possible to allocate funds for all the applicants due to limited availability of fund.