

Best practice

Title of the Practice – Marian Skill development programs

Objectives of the Practice

To mitigate the gap between theoretical part and practical aspects

To facilitate vocational exposure

To enhance capacity building to promote Entrepreneurship development

The Context

The current era emphasizes vocational education to develop a skilled workforce. To create a systemic change in the system it will require capacity building and therefore the need of skill development. The development of Vocational capacities should go hand-in-hand with the academics. Through the Marian skill development program the institution aims at development of vocational skills in students.

The Practice

The institution has prioritized vocational education during the past few years, and as of 2014, it offers B Voc Multimedia and B Voc Software Development. In 2020, new Applied Biotechnology B Voc and M Voc programmes were launched. Through these programmes such as internships, field projects, hands-on training, on-site training, research on company organisations, and site visits, students are shaped to become effective professionals. In addition to these programmes, internship is a significant part of the MSc in Microbiology and Psychology. All UG and PG programmes need projects, and the majority of departments provide field trips and industry visits. These practical learning opportunities guarantee skill improvement.

Since developing and maintaining employability skills is a crucial element, the college has changed its time schedule since 2009 and increased its operating hours by an hour to give students the chance to enroll in a variety of UGC Add-on programmes and Certificate courses. These courses are an aid to students enhancing their employability while keeping up with the demands of business, government, and academia. Incubation hubs cater to the students first-hand experience.

The Entrepreneurship Development Club, RED Cell and Annual Marian Monsoon fest emphasizes on production and sale of students crafts and other innovative products promotes skill development.

Additionally, the institution offers a platform for the development of IT skills as well as life skills like communication, collaboration, teamwork through a variety of seminars and other activities.

The curricular enrichment programs are so planned that every academic programme includes elements for skill development. The College aims to introduce more skill oriented certificate courses to bridge the gap between Academia and Industry.

Problems encountered and resources required – Social stigma exist in students for opting vocational courses. As for certificate course, time limitations permit only basic introduction and funding is a limitation.

Notes – More course on skill training are to be introduced, so students could learn through first-hand experience.

Title –Community outreach Endeavour

Objective

To connect with the community

To bridge gap between Research and Extension

To identify problems of society and find solutions.

The Context

Education plays the central role towards transforming society. As according to the current scenario there is an urgent call for addressing issues that affect the communities. Therefore social Responsibility and community Engagement are to be incorporated as an important element in education.

The Practice

The outreach initiatives of the college emphasis local community and rural development. Each department conducts a series of extension activities. NCC, NSS, UBA play a pivotal role in leading the college extension initiatives. Under the UBA local needs of the panchayat are surveyed and need based research projects are submitted. Sanctioned projects on improvement of Soil fertility after the floods and Azolla production created great impact in Panchayaths. The Platinum jubilee projects, *Sparsham* – Moulding High School and Higher Secondary students by extending academic, psychological and financial support, *Vatsalyam*-Finishing School Programme for female college students, *Sakthikaranam*-Skill training under Marian Community Employment Generation Programme to women between age of 20-45 and *Suraksha*-Health schemes for women above age of 60 were initiatives conducted for the rural community.

Prakrithijeevanam- Organic vegetable and herbal garden initiative for households in Thrissur District and Urban Forestry Program- Planting and nurturing trees in urban area of Thrissur District were effective projects for a greener environment. St. Mary's employment generation programme conducted stitching classes to women in neighbourhood. Black gold project- Converting organic waste from neighbourhood flats and upgrading them to organic manure was highly beneficial for local community.

Project on Eco-friendly methods against pest control in mango plantations, production of microbial consortiums, growth promoters for organic farming, conservation projects on rare and endangered medicinal plants, Swacchata abhyaan, supply of economically viable tree saplings are important outreach activities.

The institution was a major collection centre providing support to society during floods. Even during the Covid pandemic apart from distributing needy materials, Online awareness programs were conducted.

Various social issues were addressed during the extension programs conducted including Food packet distribution to the needy, fund raising programme for mentally handicapped people, addressing poverty at a slum in Maharashtra, awareness against abuse of elderly people, poverty eradication, drug abuse and illicit trafficking were some among them.

Problems encountered and resources required -Coordinating the local people, panchayath and farmers was a challenging.

Notes- The institutions plans to organize more collaborative outreach activities