

BEST PRACTICES OF NEWMAN COLLEGE, THODUPUZHA



2020-2021

BEST PRACTICE 1: Community development through holistic education.

BEST PRACTICE 2: Education based on moral values and global Competency



BEST PRACTICE 1

Title: *Community development through holistic education.*

1. Objective of the practice

- To create social consciousness among students along with their education.
- To contribute to the well-being of the community
- To inculcate eco-friendly attitude in an environmentally vulnerable situation.
- To help the rural community achieve better opportunities in academic and vocational fields.

2. Context

The college being the first higher education institution of the high ranges it can never limit its scope to the academic matters alone. The community expects the intervention of the college in many aspects. The institution being the social and cultural capital of Idukki district, it can't be blind to the cultural and other social needs of the people alongside with its primary motive of providing quality education to all. The college also has the responsibility of protecting the needs of the agrarian community since most of the inhabitants find their livelihood from agriculture. The ecological sensitivity of the high ranges from where a considerable number of our students come, poses great threat to their educational, economic and cultural life. This bestows in us the responsibility of imbibing a sense of sustainable development of the community flavoured by ecological consciousness.

3. The Practice

To achieve the above objectives, the institution organizes several programmes. Through the mid day meal collection conducted every day, around 500 food packets are provided to the poor people in Thodupuzha Municipality. The institution has adopted a village in Kumaramangalam and involves in the developmental activities of the village. Programmes like door to door plastic eradication awareness programme, Swatch Bharat awareness, compost pit construction in the adopted village maintain a healthy living condition for the people of the village.

The college also extends its helping hand to places other than the adopted village in pandemic situation. Being the responsible youth, the students actively involved in the supporting activities during the pandemic. The students engaged in mask preparation and distribution of sanitizers during the covid -19 outbreak when these things were not easily available. These masks and sanitizers were freely distributed among the needy. The staff and students also contributed to the development of corona centers in cash and kind. We also provided quarantine facilities. The yearly agricultural fest hosted by the college and properly maintained greenery of the college also contributes the ecological consciousness of the institution. All initiatives are taken to avoid the usage of plastics in the campus. The campus also has a plastic shredding unit which recycles plastic wastes if any within the campus itself.

The institution also gives special consideration for the vocational needs of the community. By arranging placement drives for the students and public, it helps in the upward social mobility of many families. Students are directed not only to identify the problems in the society, but also to provide effective solutions in their capacity as a student. Participation in Reboot Kerala Hackathon – an initiative of the Department of Higher Education – Government of Kerala and ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition programme) is an evidence for this. The programme helps students to find cost effective solutions for the removal of barriers in development of a state.

4. Evidence of Success

The initiative taken to achieve the objectives are successful to the maximum extend. Students themselves take the responsibility of collecting the food packets and their distribution without compulsion from the teachers. The active participation in organic farming, blood donation camps, flood relief etc., shows how the college molds students as socially committed citizens.

5. Problems Encountered

- Hectic academic schedule sometimes hinder the conduct of community oriented programmes

BEST PRACTICE 2

Title: *Education based on moral values and global Competency*

1. Objective of the programme

- Inculcate moral and ethical consciousness among students
- To enable the students to reflect and act upon moral issues in the society
- To help students achieve global standards in all activities

2. The context

In the rapidly developing society characterized by technological advancement, social harmony and humanitarian values are out of place. But many of the social issues can be tackled if people have strong ethical and moral values. So the coming generation should possess such values for the formation of a better society. This is the necessity of having value based education.

Due to the immense job opportunities in the global scenario education should be structured so as to build global competency in students. in the extremely competitive world where qualified candidates outnumber the required posts, being globally competent is mandatory. Here comes the relevance of an educational pattern that boost up global competency.

3. The practice

With the aim of triggering discussions over ethical problems and to give insights on practical measures for addressing them, separate time is given for value education classes every week. Materials are provided and exams are conducted. The winners are awarded prizes also. On a practical level students engage in activities like blood donation camps, midday meal schemes, anti-drug campaigns, women empowerment programmes, and observation of various days in commemoration of great personalities who upheld human values. The students of our college actively took part in mask preparation and the distribution.

To build global competency in students several programmes are added to the curriculum. Special training in communication skills, group discussion, interview training etc., is given to equip students to compete in the extremely challenging job scenario. The

college also makes arrangements for opening the online courses offered by foreign universities via Coursera and other online platforms. This gives them an additional benefit for the students. The research centres also promote research that meets global standards. Students are promoted to present papers in national and international conferences. Collaborations for research and programmes with reputed institutes like IUCAA, CUSAT, IARI etc. were also there to work towards achieving global competency.

4. Evidence of success

The number of placements, university ranks and NET-JRF winners bear testimony to the success of this practice. Ten 3 ranks and 21 UG ranks were received. Twenty Seven of our students got placed in various institutions. Nineteen students presented papers in various conferences. We have 11 NET holders, one JRF and 4 GATE holders during this academic year.

5. Problems Encountered

- Lack of proper syllabus by the university regarding value education.
- Lack of time for practical and activity oriented sessions
- Pandemic has restricted interpersonal contact