



**VIVEKANANDA GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, VIDYANAGAR,
HYDERABAD**

(Affiliated to Osmania University)

Accredited by NAAC with "B" Grade ISO 9001:2015

Best Practice -1

"Action without study is fatal; study without action is futile"

Mary Bead

Name of the Best Practice: Student –Centric Learning through Extension Activities

Objectives

- To promote professional skills and knowledge through hands-on experience.
- To enable students to build confidence and ability to work in project mode.
- To improve attitude towards learning and enable students to grasp concepts better.
- To provide an opportunity to the students to become more creative.
- To enable students, acquire entrepreneurship capabilities.
- To inculcate 21st Century Skills, namely the four C's (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Culture)

Context: Today's world is dynamic and ever-changing. To support students in this continuously changing world, it has become imperative to prepare students for life and workplace. Educational Institutions have adopted Student-centric methodology, which involves and allows students to "**Learn by Doing.**"

Vivekananda Government Degree College (VGDC) encourages and practices Student Centric learning. The Institution has initiated various extension activities that help alter perspectives and change the mindset among the students. The teachers offer opportunities that complement their coursework through class activities like group discussions, seminars, role-plays, Project Work, and assignments that involve student participation. Besides, the College arranges extension activities that facilitate first-hand experience with real people and events. The exposure and experience benefits students to gain new insights and transform them into confident graduates.

Practice: The College, as a part of Education and Engagement, coordinates various extension activities that promote student-centric learning.

The following are a few Student centric learning extension activities conducted by the Institution:

1. Volunteering: The Institution advocates among students to volunteer for academic and social causes. Various Departments enable students to interact with the outside world and gain exposure through volunteering.

- **Department of English:** The Department encourages and sends student volunteers to the Hyderabad Literary Festival and NGO Ruberoo (Inspiring leadership for social change) every year. The experience helps students learn people's management, improve communication skills, teamwork, and gain Organizational Skills.

- **Department of Hindi:** Students from the Department of Hindi participate in plays and volunteer during National Seminars conducted by the Research Foundation for Literary and Cultural Studies TulsiBhavan, Osmania University.
 - **Department of Social Sciences:** Students participate in the training camp for voter's verification and EVM machines working mechanism at Osmania University and volunteer to help voters and election agents during elections.
 - **Department of Commerce:** As part of Income Tax subject, the students volunteer to fill in the ITR forms and help teachers file their income tax returns.
 - **Women Empowerment Cell:** WEC arranges student volunteers for the NGO MAVA (Men against Violence and Abuse) to participate in social activities on gender parity.
 - **NSS Unit:**The NSS unit conducts Blood Donation Camps, Haritha Haram (plantation of trees) and SwacchBharath (clean and green program) and involves student volunteers in the activities and strengthens their ties to the community.
- **2. Field Trips:** The Departments organize field trips and open doors for students to make an observation and experience the real world.
- **Department of English:** The Department of English organises a field trip to the Hyderabad Literary Festival every year. The experience helps students to explore and meet eminent personalities, interact with theatre artists, writers, and dramatists, and get to know the literary world first hand.
 - **Departments of Life Sciences:** : Conducts field trip to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) which enables students to gain insight into the Science and Technology advancements in the fields.
 - **Departments of Social Sciences:** Arrange a field trip to the Art Gallery (History of Telangana). The students acquire a sense of historical identity and are able to contextualize Telangana culture and its place in the map. The students understand the ideologies held in the past and how the human experience has changed over the years. The Department also facilitates visit to the News Channel and the State Assembly and helps students gain insight and understand their working mechanism.
- **3. Workshops:** Departments organize various training workshops involving students' active participation.
- **Department of English:** Conducts activity-based workshops on Communication Skills every year.
 - **Departments of Life Sciences:** The Departments of Life Science and Eco club in collaboration with WOW-ITC organize a workshop on "Waste Management." The Eco-club also organizes workshops on making "Clay Ganesha." It further encourages students to make poster presentations on "Water Conservation," Biodiversity to promote environmental consciousness.
 - **Department of Arts:** Conducts a workshop on the operation of EVM's. Train students to guide voters on how to use EVM's.
 - **Department of Commerce:** Organizes workshops related to commerce wherein the students are trained to study companies' annual reports and prepare final accounts. Students are also trained to read the balance sheet and profit and loss account and the accounting and financial ratios by investors in stock markets.

Telangana Skill Knowledge Centres (TSKC)

- TSKC, in collaboration with Mahindra Pride Classroom, conduct workshop on Interview Skills and Employability Skills.
- TSKC in collaboration with INNOVI conducts a workshop for girls on Entrepreneurship.
- TSKC in collaboration with the US Consulate conducts Boot Camp on Entrepreneurship and train boys and girls in the planning and execution of a start-up.
- TSKC conducts Inter-Collegiate competitions on Entrepreneurship to motivate students to develop innovative ideas and take up entrepreneurship.

Departments of Telugu, Hindi and Sanskrit:

- Department of Telugu organizes seminars under the banner "Sahithisadassu," and involve students, and help them exchange their ideas; students are also encouraged to actively engage in compiling the Wall Magazine periodically and Annual College Magazine every year.
- Department of Sanskrit encourages the students to speak and recite Shlokas in Sanskrit. The Department conducts Sanskrit Sambhashana Abhyasha activities in the classroom to preserve the culture and language alive.
- Department of Hindi conducts study projects every year. The study Project "BetiBachao, Betipadhao", "Swacch Bharat" have won prizes at the state level competitions.

Other Departments:

- Sciences, Commerce and Arts involve students in project works.

Success of the Practice:

- Students interact actively in the workshops. They learn different methods of communication through various activities.
- The panel discussion organized by the Department of Telugu promotes leadership qualities in students.
- The project presentation by the Department of Hindi enables the students to develop presentation skills.
- The Science Day celebrations help in the inculcation of scientific temper in the students.
- The field trips organized by various departments enable students to understand the real scenario and widen their thinking horizon.
- The training programs organized by the TSKC have marked the beginning of inculcating entrepreneurship culture in the college.
- The inter-collegiate Entrepreneurship competition was the first of its kind organized by a Government Degree College in the State.
- The activities conducted by the vibrant Women Empowerment Cell help to change the perspective of the students and promote gender equality.
- Boot camp and Entrepreneurship competitions enable students to become entrepreneurs in the future.
- The NSS unit of the Institution enables the students to become service-oriented and environmentally conscious.

Challenges:

- Due to the semester system, time constraint impedes in arranging student centric learning activities.
- No allocation of extra credits discourages students from participating in large numbers.

Best Practice -2

"A Woman with a voice is by definition, a strong Woman"

Malenda Gates

Title of the Programme:

Capacity Building of Women through Women Empowerment Cell

Objectives

- To provide a platform for Women staff and Girl students to actualize their aspirations and empower themselves.
- To identify strong leaders, change-makers among Women and Girl students and build their capacity.
- To promote a culture of respect and equality and work towards gender parity.
- To organize awareness programs on gender sensitization.
- To conduct seminars and workshops to impart knowledge of opportunities available and train the women.
- To arrange seminars to create awareness of women's economic, social, political, and legal rights.
- To highlight the importance of Health, Hygiene, and Safety
- To inculcate entrepreneurial attitude among young girls so that they can be "job providers" rather than "job seekers."

Vision: The College visualizes empowered women living with dignity in a gender-neutral society.

Mission: To provide a platform for women staff and girl students to actualize their aspirations and empower themselves.

Context: In India, a wide gap exists between the goals enunciated in the Constitution with regards to women's rights and status in society and women's situational reality in India. Women empowerment does not just mean constitutional rights but providing a window of entrepreneurship opportunities and providing exposure to pursue their dreams with dignity and safety.

Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) of VGDC works with the motto "**voice your dreams**" and help girls mould their talents and skills. The Cell encourages women, staff, and girls to dream and accomplish their dreams.

Practice: Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) works in tandem with Internal Complaint cell (ICC) Anti Ragging Cell and Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) and ensures a safe and secure environment for girls/women. The WEC and its members are actively involved in ensuring to redress students' and staff's grievances and proactively see that the college is a ragging free campus, with zero tolerance to sexual abuse on campus through ICC.

Workshops

A Sanskrit saying goes, "**Women is the Home, and Home is the basis of Society**"

UNDP (DISHA) in Collaboration with the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education (Telangana State) has initiated a flagship program UNDP (DISHA) in January 2017 for girl students in Government Degree Colleges (TS) on "**Creating Robust Career Guidance and Counselling Capacity.**" WEC, VGDC implemented UNDP (DISHA) program from January 2017 to meet the following objectives:

- Conducting Psychometric assessments to find out career aspiration of the candidates.

- Career Counselling to create awareness opportunities available for each candidate based on their strength.
 - Connecting them to various career options.
- WEC has encouraged and involved girl students in the UNDP workshop and training sessions in two batches and have successfully completed the pilot project.

WEC facilitates guest lectures and workshops to empower women through capacity building, thus contributing to building a healthy and great nation. WEC promotes gender parity by conducting diverse programs such as extension lectures on, '**Gender-Related Issues**', '**Women Empowerment in the Indian Context Issues and Challenges**', '**Men against Violence and Abuse.**' The Cell involves both Men and Women staff and students in the awareness programs to produce a balanced atmosphere on the campus and in society.

JIGNASA Project

The girl students have worked on a project titled "**BetiBachao,BetiPadhao**" and presented the same in the State-Level project presentation competition titled JIGNASA(conducted by Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, Telangana State) and were awarded first prize with a cash of RS.30,000.

Physical Fitness and Hygiene

. WEC encourages girls to practise yoga to build up their physical and mental stamina for the nation's development. The cell also arranges programs on health and hygiene to inculcate research competency among students. WEC organizes self-defence training classes for girls to uplift their self-confidence in light of the Nirbhaya incident in case of harassment and provides SHE team (Meant for Women Safety) numbers in case of harassment.

Training in Entrepreneurship

WEC initiates to train the girls in entrepreneurship skills to build a spirit of self-reliance. It facilitates Entrepreneurship training in collaboration with INNOVI and Berkeley University, and U.S. Consulate Hyderabad to make girls job-ready and independent. WEC conducts workshops on pot painting, cookery, paper bag making and jewellery making.

Etiquette, grooming, and interview skills

In collaboration with the Women Empowerment Cell and TSKC cell, the Department of English organizes extension activity on Etiquette, grooming, and interview skills with Hindustan Unilever Limited. Students learn about the measures to be taken before the interview, during the interview, and post-interview. The team from Hindustan Unilever Limited distribute health and hygiene kits to the girls and create awareness about the importance of women's health in a nation's progress.

Gender Parity:

Women Empowerment Cell conducts a workshop on Gender Parity to sensitize students and faculty on the need for equality for socio-economic development of our country. Students from Tata Institute of Business School (TISS) advocates equality between men and women through skits and various activities.

Women Empowerment Cell ensures that girl students are actively involved in various activities conducting in the college like organising Orientation Program for first-year students, Fresher's Day and organising Bhatkamma Festival (Telangana State Festival) Yuvatarangam Cultural and sport festivals, Farewell and College day etc.

WEC organises free lunches to students during the IEP (Intensive Examination Preparation) an initiative by the Government of Telangana State to prepare students from socio- economically challenged backgrounds for the final exams. This gesture by WEC (VGDC) helped students stay back extra hours and prepare for the examinations.

WEC makes sure that girl students are included in all the committees to promote leadership skills.

International Women's Day: March 8th

Women Empowerment Cell celebrates International Women's Day to acknowledge the success and challenges that women face in everyday life. The women staff and appreciate the Men for their cooperation and contribution in making VGDC a safe place to work and study by giving MITR thank you cards.

Outreach

The WEC, in collaboration with the Department of English, train the counsellors capacity building at the NGO," PRAJWALA," a rehabilitation home for trafficked women and children run by Padmashri Dr.Sunitha Krishnan.

Success of the Practice:

- WEC is instrumental in changing the perspective of the boys, girls, and staff at VGDC. Gender parity is advocated and practiced in the Institution.
- The contribution of women is acknowledged, and respect for women has become the norm.
- The interaction with Resource persons from NGOs helped in widening the horizon of the students.
- MoU with NGO Tharuni,Ruberoo and collaboration with Roshni paved the way for the students to participate in various off-campus activities.
- Inviting Women Entrepreneurs are inspirational to the girl students.
- The WEC teams up with ICC, GRC, and Anti-Ragging committees to provide a broader forum to achieve gender equality on and off the campus.

Challenges:

- The socio-economic status of the girl students is primarily responsible for their inhibitions and to break the shackles of patriarchy to realise their potential
- Lack of parental support to take up challenging tasks.
- NGO's working for women's empowerment need to extend their support in Government Colleges and work at the grass- root level to fight for gender parity.

Notes

The Institution sets an exemplary example of Women Empowerment with women staff holding key positions such as Principal (Dr. G. Sukanya), Vice-Principals (Ms.S. Nirmala, Ms. Anita Abraham)), IQAC Coordinator (Dr.N.C. Sowjanya), Academic Coordinator (Ms..JDSaraswathi), RUSA coordinator (Ms. G. Bangla Bharathi), Anti-Ragging and ICC coordinator(Ms. Anita Abraham) and TSKC coordinator(Dr. B. Suchitra Singh).

Girl students have been included in all the committees to promote leadership skills.