

Padmashali Shikshan Santha's
(Telugu Linguistic Minority Institution)
A.R. Burla Mahila Varishtha Mahavidyalaya, Solapur

BEST PRACTICE- 1
FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN A
VILLAGE COMMUNITY

1] Title of the Practice: *Fostering Sustainable Growth and Prosperity in Village Communities*

2] Objectives:

- 1] To extend social service to the residents of *Gulavanchi* village.
- 2] To foster positive transformation in the lives of the villagers.
- 3] To promote sustainable and inclusive development within the village.
- 4] To empower individuals to lead productive lives and realize their full potential.
- 5] To support marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly women, senior citizens, and youth.

3] Context:

Village adoption entails working directly with the community at the grassroots level to foster empowerment and development, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary goal of village adoption is to familiarize the community with socio-economic changes, shifting perceptions, and aspirations, thereby inspiring self-help, facilitating sustainable development, and enabling individuals to realize their potential.

4] The Practice:

Several villages were initially considered for adoption. Our NSS (National Service Scheme) program officers visited multiple villages and engaged with Gram Panchayat members. After careful consideration and multiple interventions, we selected *Gulavanchi* village due to existing ties and connections with the community, including students from the village. The following initiatives were implemented in *Gulavanchi*:

- Conducted cleanliness drives, focusing on graveyards, schools, and main roads.
- Initiated tree plantation campaigns.
- Organized blood donation and hemoglobin check-up camps.
- Promoted rainwater conservation efforts.
- Educated villagers on the importance of sanitary toilets.
- Delivered lectures on socio-economic issues.

- Hosted talks aimed at empowering youth and women through education.
- Conducted cultural programs to engage the community.

To ensure continuity of these efforts, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the *Gulavanchi Gram Panchayat*.

5] Problems Encountered:

Despite the enthusiasm of our NSS volunteers, some challenges arose during implementation. One significant hurdle was convincing parents to support the initiative, as they were initially resistant to change. Reaching out to villagers proved difficult due to their reluctance to shift their long-standing mindsets. Promoting education for children and encouraging the use of sanitary toilets faced considerable opposition.

6] Evidence of Success:

The initiatives led to a significant positive impact within the village. The community began to recognize the importance of cleanliness, health, and hygiene. There was a marked increase in the number of youth pursuing higher education. Ten toilets were successfully constructed within the village, contributing to improved sanitation. The overall quality of life in the village improved, with residents adopting a more positive outlook. The villagers actively participated in organizing programs and health camps, further demonstrating the success of the initiative.

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BEST PRACTICE- 2
PROMOTING RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND CRITICAL
THINKING IN STUDENTS

1] Title of the Practice: *Promoting Research Engagement and Critical Thinking in Students*

2] Objectives:

- 1] To introduce fundamental concepts of research.
- 2] To encourage students to develop a research-oriented mindset.
- 3] To promote intellectual honesty and uphold academic integrity.
- 4] To raise awareness about research misconduct, including plagiarism.
- 5] To cultivate a research culture among students.

3] Context:

Research begins with a quest for knowledge about the unknown. It is not merely an archive of information but an intellectual endeavor that stimulates the minds of scholars through reasoning, rationality, and critical thought. Research is not confined to prestigious institutions or affluent individuals; it originates from curiosity and a spirit of inquiry, culminating in finding appropriate solutions. While research requires patience and perseverance, it instills an investigative and critical mindset in individuals. Our students, often credulous and trusting, can benefit greatly from developing the ability to critically evaluate information, and research plays a key role in this transformation.

4] The Practice:

Our institution has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Research Centre at Dayanand College, Latur. This MoU aims to increase awareness about intellectual property rights, research misconduct, and to promote the exchange of faculty and students for the dissemination of research knowledge. During the academic year 2023-24, experts from the Research Centre conducted four sessions on topics such as the philosophy of research, research ethics, academic integrity, and the prevention of plagiarism. Additionally, four students from the research center participated in the certificate course on research methodology.

Our M.Com students have actively engaged in research projects, demonstrating their analytical skills and commitment to academic excellence. These research projects cover a wide

range of topics related to commerce, business, and economics, reflecting both theoretical knowledge and practical insights. Through these projects, students have learned to apply research methodologies, gather and analyze data, and present findings in a coherent and structured manner. The process has helped them develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a deeper understanding of their field of study. These research projects not only contribute to their academic growth but also prepare them for future professional challenges.

BCA students at our institution actively engage in research projects, exploring innovative solutions in the fields of computer science, technology, and software development. These projects allow students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world problems, utilizing various programming languages, tools, and technologies. Through these research initiatives, students enhance their problem-solving, coding, and data analysis skills while gaining hands-on experience in areas such as web development, artificial intelligence and database management. The research projects not only foster critical thinking and creativity but also prepare BCA students for successful careers in the rapidly evolving tech industry.

The college encourages students to engage in research activities. For example, three students participated in the *Avishkar Research Festival 2023-24*, which enriched their academic experience.

Furthermore, an expert session on Research Methodology was organized by the English Department, led by Prof. Rani Mote, with 69 students in attendance.

5] Evidence of Success:

The institution has successfully equipped minority students by encouraging them to pursue higher education and fostering a spirit of inquiry and scientific thinking through research knowledge. Many of our students, who come from religious backgrounds, have begun to think more rationally and critically. This practice has significantly influenced the intellectual development and attitudes of the students. It has enhanced their self-esteem and fostered independent thinking. Additionally, research activities have challenged and transformed the rigid and orthodox belief systems held by some students, promoting open-mindedness and a more progressive outlook.