

## Best Practices - 2

### Titles of the Practice 2: Breaking the barriers for Holistic Education

#### Objectives of the Practice

1. To address Learner's- 360 degree needs, for **Holistic development**.
2. To gratify Intellectual needs along with the Spiritual, Physical and Psychological needs.
3. To ease the Socio-economic factors that hamper Whole person development, enabling students to bring their best to campus.
4. To foster an Eco-system that inspires students to create and innovate.

#### The Context

1. Situated in a Tier -III City, in the Sub-urban area, the institution shoulders the added responsibility of providing a supportive learning environment that addresses the needs of the Learners.
2. Assessment of the needs of the students and adopting appropriate measures are not mere support schemes but are essential equity measures.
3. Creativity Frees the Mind and widens perspectives. Hence fostering creativity and Innovation is essential part of offering a competent and engaging Learning experience.

#### The Practice (458/400)

1. **Challenges in Entry to Education:** 65% of stakeholders hail from economically challenged sections, 50% from rural areas and 30% First Generation Learners seek admission. Applicants who cannot access internet facilities are provided assistance and counselling services operated by student and Faculty volunteers within campus. From

taking passport size photographs for the application to the payment of fee and downloading of HSC Mark statements, can be done within the campus Free of Cost.

2. **Bridging the Skill Gaps:** From Induction to Placement, the Institution provides consistent training to groom the personality through Mentoring and honing skill sets of the students through Bridge Courses, Computer-aided language Learning (CALL), Life Skills training, Project-based Learning and pre-placement trainings and Exchange Programmes and beyond Classroom Learning Experiences.
3. **Financial Health Assessment:** For 65% of students, finance is a major challenge. Steps were taken to assess the financial health of the students through the Student Help-Line (SHL) Scheme by the Deanery of Student and Staff welfare. Based on the suggestions of the committee, sufficient number of Scholarships, Full & Partial Fee Waiver and Noon–Meals are provided. Under SHL, every class gets 3 to 5 supports each year reaching out to 16414 students to a scholarship amount of Rs. 3.61 Crore. “Heber Helping Hands (HHH)” the Faculty Philanthropy Scheme, has supported 101 students with a sum of Rs. 4.63 Lakhs.
4. **Honouring Work: Earn-While-you-Learn(EWYL) Scheme** is a great way of teaching students, the value of work, financial prudence and being responsible.
5. **Psychological needs:** Students' psychological needs are evaluated for each batch. Necessary counselling and mental health coaching sessions are organized based on the needs specified by students in addition to Career Counselling and Mentoring.
6. **Addressing Needs of Sports-persons:** Sports Students are provided separate Free Hostel, Full fee waiver and special meals. Special exam schedule, back up practical classes, re-exams and flexible internal assessment modules are conducted for the Sports students, enabling them to take part in practices and tournaments without any academic lapse. They are trained by national trainers and are provided opportunity to interact with Olympians in all sports days.
7. **Addressing Needs of NCC & NSS Students:** NCC students who spend early coaching hours and Drill practices are provided food and refreshments in the College Mess in addition to the Government provisions for food. This helps them attend practices regularly, to reach the drills and practice session consistently and practice effectively.
8. **Eco-system for Innovation & Creation:** In 2017, the College conducted HEATS-an in-house Ideation exhibition. Identifying the thirst for creation among students, the Institution

provided the ambience and opportunities for Innovators by Bootstrapping. IIC, Department Incubation Centres and 3 Heber Marts provide space for ideators to crystallize ideas to products.

## **Evidence of Success**

### **1. Positive Feedback from Applicants and parents:**

- Positive feedbacks poured in from parents and influx of First generation learners, Students from rural areas of Trichy District increased. Student Progression increased from 34% to 63% in the assessment period. Highest salary band of placements raised from 4.2 Lakh to 5.5Lakh. 103 Students chose to pursue higher education abroad. 120 Students progressed to IITs/IIMs and Central Universities. 272 Students cleared competitive examinations. 156 students secured University Ranks.
2. By ensuring that no student is denied education because of financial constraint, the college dropout rate is near zero. Demand Ratio doubled. The demand for hostels tripled and parents preferred College hostels rather than Private Hostels and PGs.
  3. From 2017 -2022, 191 students were provided part-time jobs earning ₹ 22000 on an average in a semester.
  4. 2756 Students took up career counselling and 1598 students attended psychological support sessions. Students of the College are resilient and mentally agile showing growth mind-set.
  5. In 2022, **A SelvaPrabhu** won the Silver Medal in the Common wealth Games-(U18). A total of 269 Medals and recognitions at the National/State/University level were won by students in NCC, NSS, Sports and Games.
  6. For Three Consecutive Years, NCC cadets won awards at the National Level. CUO. Reshma won the Prime Minister's Best Cadet Award in 2019, CUO Jenni Francina won the Defence Minister's Commendation award and A Dharmasastha won the

Country's 'Best NSS volunteer' Award. Seventeen students participated the RD Parade at New Delhi. 25 completed Army attachment camps.

7. Our Student team won the FIRST place in the Smart-India Hackathon in 2022 with a cash award of 1 Lakh. 70 students involved in developing college ERP, 11 Apps were created by 5 students, 16 students authored books, 5 entrepreneurs were born within the campus. 25 Patents were filed, 4 awarded and 2 copy rights.