

BEST PRACTICE – I

Sant Gadge Baba Assistance Scheme for the Students

1. Title of the practice

Sant Gadge Baba Assistance Scheme for the Students

2. Objective of the practice

- To help the students from economically backward class
- To attract the students for higher education
- To inspire and felicitate them for their success
- To motivate them for hard work to achieve success in their career

3. The context

The institution is located in rural area and is fed by the students from the economically backward families. Some families are below poverty line. Many times it was observed that some of the students were unable to submit their semester examination forms, cannot afford buying/sewing college uniform, unable to reach college on time due to non-affordable cost of private transport, unable to afford buying books and related stationary, etc. but still they have the ability to pursue and progress in higher education. To help and motivate such students to pursue their goals through higher education, the institution has adopted the scheme.

4. The practice

In tune with the vision and mission of the institution, the college implemented this scheme to help the needy students of the college by providing them financial assistance. For this scheme, the teaching and non-teaching staffs voluntarily contribute some amount every month from the salary. From this collection, financial assistance is provided to the students for examination fees, bus passes, college uniforms purchase and sewing, and any other need to support their academic carrier.

For this, the college has opened a separate bank account wherein monthly amount from the employee's contribution is credited. In the practice, the students are always in contact with the staff member and through such communication the needy students are identified. The staff members under the supervision of Principal make inquiry about the genuineness of the student's need, affordability and family economic background. The needy students are given bank cheque with required amount.

5. Evidence of success

Since this practice has been implemented the punctuality and attendance of the needy students in the classes has increased. The enthusiasm to learn and to be attentive in class is enhanced. As the words of this scheme have spread the belongingness of the students towards the institute has witnessed growth. Such affection of the students towards the institution is an essential part of human value system that promotes the sense of social responsibilities and gratitude.



6. Problem encountered and resources required

Bhatkuli taluka, where the institution is located, is considered as one of the most rural and underdeveloped taluka of the district. Our institute being the only institute for higher education in the taluka, it has considerable number of admissions every year and most of them are economically backward and some are below poverty line.

In such scenario, the number of needs and needy students are too many to address. Some of the economic issues are beyond the scope of the scheme given the amount of monthly contribution. It is also not possible to address all the issues and help all the students. At some point, the confirmation of the needy student requires too many

efforts, engagement of the personal contacts and human resource for the accurate information.

7. Notes (Optional)

Every institution has some of the students from economically weaker sections. For such students, today's support to the family by going for daily wages is more important than prospering future life through higher education. But still, some families and student somehow manages to pursue the higher education. For such student, the helping hands provided by the institution in the hour of need may change status and direction of the life. So, adopting this practice by any institution may serve to fulfill one of the social responsibilities.

BEST PRACTICE – II

“Resource Optimization: Converting Waste into Opportunity”

1. Title of the practice

Resource Optimization: Converting Waste into Opportunity

2. Objective of the practice

- The practice focused on making the best use of paper that had been partially used by students as well as faculty member.
- It aimed to raise awareness among stakeholders about the responsible use of paper, promoting eco-friendly habits, particularly in higher education institutions.
- Additional benefits included a cleaner, litter-free campus and a significant reduction in office stationery costs for printing and writing.
- This initiative also helped normalize the use of partially used paper for official documents on campus.
- Both students and staff were encouraged to reuse paper whenever possible, reinforcing a culture of sustainability and resourcefulness.

3. The context

Each academic year, students in the science, commerce, and art stream use hundreds of reams of paper for their assignments and practical experiment records. Most of these records are printed or written on one side, as required by the university. Once the required record-keeping period ends, these partially used papers often go to waste.

To address this waste of resources, the college decided to reuse these papers for printing and writing purposes. To ensure the effort was organized, the Department of Home Economics was put in charge. The Head of the Home Economics department, acting as the coordinator, collects the partially used stationery from all departments and redistributes it to the office and other departments for reuse.

4. The practice

Higher education in India still heavily relies on paper, especially when it comes to assessment, practical, and evaluation. Every year, our college uses hundreds of reams of paper for assignments, exams, and practical records. In some cases, like Computer

Science and Zoology practical experiment records, students are required to use only one side of the paper, leaving the other side blank. After assessments, these record books are stored for three years, after which they are either destroyed or sold. This practice wastes both natural resources and money.

We believe it is our responsibility to lead by example and embrace ecologically sustainable practices. In line with this vision, we initiated a program to reuse partially used paper, with the Department of Home Economics spearheading the effort. The department of Home Economics established a system for collecting, repurposing, distributing, and tracking the use of one-sided blank paper across college. Building on the success of this initiative; the Department of Home Economics has expanded its efforts by collecting unused/blank assignment small notebook from all departments. In a new and innovative step, students in need of financial assistance now use this unused/blank assignment to create small new notebooks. These new notebooks are then submitted to the college store; where for each new notebook earns the student five rupees. The money earned goes towards their academic expenses, providing both financial support and fostering a culture of reuse and resourcefulness on campus.

Today, around 14 reams of one-sided blank papers and 28 small new notebooks are reused in academic session of 2023-2024 by students, teachers from various departments and the administrative staff for printing and writing, saving approximately ₹ 10000 in paper costs. More importantly, this small step contributes to reducing the consumption of natural resources, while spreading the message of sustainability to students, staff, and other stakeholders.

5. Evidence of success

Blank paper are collected from various departments and reused every year and record of the same is maintained. In the academic year 2023-24, students created 28 small notebooks as part of the reuse initiative.



Photo of student making book

6. Problem encountered and resources required

The key problems encountered include excessive paper usage, as only one side of the paper is used in many cases, leading to waste. Additionally, storing paper for three years before its disposal incurs further costs and waste. Limited awareness also challenges the implementation of sustainable practices. Organizing the collection, repurposing, and distribution of reused paper requires a well-managed system, and scaling the initiative may need more funds. Resources required include collection bins, sorting staff, equipment for cutting and binding paper, a tracking system for incentives, awareness campaigns, and better storage solutions.

7. Notes (Optional)

The challenges and necessary resources for implementing a paper reuse initiative in an academic setting. Key problems include the inefficient use of paper, limited awareness, storage issues, and logistical challenges. To address these, the initiative requires resources such as collection and sorting systems, equipment for repurposing paper, and efforts to raise awareness and incentivize participation. Additionally, scaling the project will require financial support, better organization, and storage solutions to ensure long-term sustainability and success in reducing paper waste and promoting eco-friendly practices.

BEST PRACTICE – III

Science Association Forum

1. Title of the practice

Science Association Forum

2. Objective of the practice

- To create open forum for addressing student's queries.
- To provide platform for learning through discussion.
- To build-up confidence among students for asking questions.

3. The context

The institution is located in rural area. Many of the admitted students are introvert and do not come forward to raise and solve their issues related to the curricular aspects. The academic session 2021-22 had witnessed dual mode of learning viz. online as well as offline. After pandemic, during regular classes it was observed that the students were not enthusiastic enough to openly ask questions. This had created demand for secondary option to address the queries related to the syllabus.

4. The practice

The function of the forum is to address the queries related to the syllabus/curriculum. The boxes are kept in-front of Departments and students were encouraged to drop the questions/queries/issues pertaining to the curricular aspects in writing on the paper chit. Students were free to write paper note anonymously or with name. The box is remain closed to receive questions from the students for two weeks and later, on the basis of issues raised a suitable faculty is assigned for engaging the students. This cycle is continued on fortnightly basis.

5. Evidence of success

The practice has been implemented from 2021-22. The Departments on weekly basis had received queries and successful forum is running to address the issues.

6. Problem encountered and resources required

The institution does not encounter any problem for implementing this best practice.

7. Notes (Optional)

Many students due to lack of confidence or being introvert do not come forward with their problems. Most probably, this situation is common in almost every institute.

Being socially and morally responsible unit, it is expected from educational institution to support and work for the progress of every kind of student. So, implementation of this practice may provide an opportunity to such students to overcome at least academic issues.