

H.A. College of Commerce
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
Best Practices 2017-18

1. Title of the Practice: Fostering Responsibility

Objectives:

- To make students resilient amidst adversity on an individual and societal level
- To enhance connections with the general public by conducting trust building activities
- To help students become action oriented and gain confidence
- To increase student participation in conveying a difference in society by actually working at ground level.
- To assist the under-privileged in society in whatever small way possible

Context:

The college is committed towards society and nation-building and has stated so in its vision and mission statements. In this context, it is the duty of the institute to contribute responsible and sensitized citizens to the society and to India. Together with mental stability and intelligence, a well-developed personality is one which has a sense of service and patriotism. The college aims to mould its students in this manner through its various outreach programmes. It is generally observed that students with a commerce bent of mind are usually not prone towards social causes. These activities and outreach programmes make commerce-minded students sensitized towards society and country, teaching them the ultimate goal of life. The founding fathers of the management and the donor of the college whose name the college carries, were social reformers, patriots and philanthropists. In this context, it is only fitting that the college constitutes in the tradition it was established.

The Practice:

To introduce students to the initiatives that can be taken for betterment of the society, college involved them in the following activities:

- **Joy of Giving: Charity by the H.A. Gandhian Society:**
The students of H.A. Gandhian Society celebrated the festival of Diwali by distributing biscuits, chocolates and food packets to the poor children in the Behrampura area of the city. This philanthropic initiative was taken to encourage charity and build ideals of generosity among the students.

- **Visit to Banaskantha District:**

The NSS Unit along with the Principal and other students participated enthusiastically in visiting the Najipura village of Banaskantha district which was badly affected by cloudbursts and heavy rains. The students went out of their way to give a helping hand to those affected and even distributed food packets and other items of daily use.

- **Charity of Stationaries to Charitable Trust:**

The faculty members and the students donated stationery items to Manav Seva Charitable Trust to help them in providing the basic essentials to the poor children in schools.

- **Talk on Health Awareness:**

Shri Rajan Dalal, an alumnus of the college and a fitness expert, addressed the students on Health and Fitness in the present times. He spoke about the dangers of fast food and the utmost importance of exercise in a world of desk jobs and stress and taught some beginner Yoga asanas as well.

- **Talk on Voter-Awareness:**

The NSS unit and the H.A Gandhian Society together organized a Voters Awareness programme to make the students aware of their voting rights and encourage more youth voters to actively participate in the voting process. The first time voters were also given knowledge about the polling procedures and the functioning of EVM machines.

- **Swachhata Abhiyan Drive:**

The NSS unit of the college invited Shri Jayeshbhai Patel to give a talk on the Swachhata Campaign undertaken by the government. He appealed to the students to take initiatives to cultivate the virtue of cleanliness throughout their lives. Prin. Dr. Sanjay Vakil along with faculty members and students took a pledge that they would remain committed towards general cleanliness and devote time for it.

- **Swachhata Awareness Rally:**

Students of the college participated in the Swachhata Abhiyan Jagruti Rally on 12 September 2017. It was jointly organized by the NSS and NSC units of the college and the H.A Gandhian Society. The students displayed various banners and placards portraying the thoughts of Gandhi and spreading the word of cleanliness.

- **Voters' Awareness Rally:**

The H.A Gandhian society and the NSS unit of the college organized a rally to spread awareness about the value of voting. Dr. Himanshu Pandya, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University and RJ Harshil from Radio Mirchi also joined the students for this social cause.

- **Swachhata Campaign:**

The NSS Unit and members of H.A Gandhian Society visited the city area of Bhadra in Ahmedabad and cleaned the streets for the preservation of the heritage of the World's first heritage city. As part of the national initiative for cleanliness, the college undertook this drive not only to spread the message of cleanliness but also to inculcate these values in the students. The students also distributed dustbins to the people of the locality.

Evidence of Success:

All the activities that the students are involved into through the institute cannot have a measuring rod for success. Nevertheless, the students learnt the realities of life through the visits to these places. They were sensitized to the marginalised persons of society, made aware of the medical facts of diseases and social apathy towards different classes of people. They were also taught to overcome divisions of caste and class, repulsion towards disease and squalor, and self-centredness. The vibrations of the waves created by these socialistic programmes can be sensed in the media coverage.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

It is very challenging to inculcate values of humanitarianism and patriotism permanently in commerce-minded students. It is not easy to convince a commerce-minded student to participate in such outreach programmes. The college is a grant-in-aid college, and has no extra funds for such programmes. Moreover, the students in the college are mostly from the middle class. This makes their ability to raise funds limited. Time and space are a constraint for events like charity day, visits etc. Logistics are a problem when students have to be taken to different places for these outreach programmes.

2. Title of the Practice: Students' Steering Committee

Goal:

- To enhance the teaching /learning of the students with regards to management and administration, data collection, report writing and documentation.
- To increase student-participation and support in the accreditation process.
- To give a platform to the creativity and innovative aspects of the students.
- To create a co-ordination between the faculty members and the volunteering students.
- To fulfil the vision and the mission of the college

The Context:

The Accreditation process is not simply a singular event. It is a culmination of the functioning of the college since its previous accreditation. The documentation, data collection and report writing is a difficult task. With the faculty members engaged in their routine academic activity, inadequate administrative staff, and students unaware of the process and value of accreditation, the college considered it an innovative and worthwhile practice to set up the Students' Steering Committee in this context. Students do not learn only in the classrooms. They learn better through practical experiences and exposure. Working on the preparation for accreditation, the learning of the students especially in the commerce faculty is enhanced in terms of application of management skills, data collection, documentation and filing systems, and report writing.

By working in tandem with the staff members, the students learn through observation as well. In addition, they also learn team work and group dynamics. The college has some special students who have innovative ideas, dedication towards the college, and outstanding skills, which can be very beneficial to the upliftment of the college. The Students' Steering Committee gives a platform to the students to bring out their innovative ideas and use them in a committed manner for the betterment of the college.

The Practice:

The Students' Steering Committee is based on the structure of the Steering Committee of the staff members. A team of two staff members and two student members work together on one criterion of the Accreditation Report. The staff members frame and write the answers to the questions in the report, and the students assist in data collection. The students make pertinent and innovative suggestions for each criterion after reading it. The data collected for each criterion is then filed and documented by the students and their professors in-charge.

Evidence of Success:

As a result of this innovative practice, the following have been attained:

- An organized documentation and filing system
- Division of jobs in data collection and compilation, so that there is less work pressure
- Students have learnt how to manage and compile data
- Students have got familiar with the techniques of report writing
- Students have learnt about the Reaccreditation process and about NAAC
- A spirit of team-work is fostered
- The overall quality of the college functioning is improved
- Students have a platform to make effective suggestions for the betterment of the college, and this is evident in many criterions prepared for the report.
- The problem of insufficient staff has also been solved to some extent
- The Students' Steering Committee worked during the vacation to clean and organize the library so that it would be ready for use when the new academic year begins.
- Through the heat and the dust, the student volunteers worked in coordination with the staff members and with the encouragement of the Principal towards refurbishing the library.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- To get students who would commit themselves to working after college hours
- To get permissions for the students from their parents/guardians
- Language and communication barriers
- To encourage faculty members to rely upon and work with students.