

## **BEST PRACTICES 20-21**

### **BEST PRACTICE 1**

- 1. Title of the Practice :** “ **DUARE SHIKSHA “ ( BRINGING EDUCATION AT THE DOOR STEP)**
- 2. Objective of the Practice :** Because of the pandemic and subsequent lock-down, the institution had been declared closed for almost two years. As a result, teaching-learning was affected to the most. Hence, the need for devising means of overcoming the problems, and finding solutions to these, was felt by both the teaching and learning communities.
- 3. The Context :** The foremost challenge in this endeavour was to make the faculties technology-savvy. Once they became confident and well-practised, were they able to deliver effectively. Creating WhatsApp groups, bringing students under the different umbrellas and acquainting them with the modern techniques of teaching-learning were also some of the issues that needed to be addressed.
- 4. The Practice :** During the period of the lock down, the biggest challenge was, how to use modern technology for the benefit of the students and teachers. The extensive use of ICT s provided students with facilities to continue learning from their home. Full-fledged virtual classes were conducted through platforms like Google Meet and Zoom and Skype. Many departments uploaded relevant study materials on the website and posted recorded readings or study materials in their respective Whats App groups. Faculties of the Science departments conducted on-line practical classes for the first time in the history of the institution. In addition, a series of webinars was organized by the different departments, which were attended by participants from other institutions as well. The range of activities was extended to include on-line sports, cultural activities, and various other programmes. This , of course, couldn't be made 100% problem-free. The students mostly residing in the interior villages, found it difficult to access a steady network. Poor electricity in many of the areas often prevented them from attending on-line classes. Moreover, with an average of 3 to 4 classes everyday ( 3-4 hours ), their mobile data would get exhausted in no time, and re-charging was a great problem. Many of them could not afford to re-charge their

mobile data because of financial crisis. Many of the students did not have mobile phones either.

5. **Evidence of Success :** After a month of on-line classes, it was observed that the Honours students were interested and enthusiastic while attending classes. Moreover, the faculties realized that they were being able to deliver meaningful lectures without any disturbances. As a result, the prescribed syllabi could be completed well within time, and students got the opportunity to interact better.
6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required :**
  - a. Interrupted electric power supply in the rural villages of South 24 Parganas.
  - b. Lack of mobile re-charging facility.
  - c. Quick exhaustion of mobile data.
  - d. The inability to buy smart phones.
  - e. Poor connectivity.

## **BEST PRACTICE (2)**

1. **Title of the Practice :** “Let them Stand on their Own Feet”
  
2. **Objective :** The objective of this practice is to explore all possible avenues of providing financial assistance to students keen on learning, but unable to make arrangements on their own. The faculties and other staff members feel their plight and have been trying to bridge this gap, to the best of their abilities.
  
3. **Context :** The need for funding education for the students of this college became more apparent during the period of lock-down, as the source of income had dried up for many. It was imperative that the college took the initiative to provide students with scholarships from various sources.
  
4. **The Practice :** Dhruva Chand Halder College has always been a pioneer in the area of procuring scholarships for the students of this institution.
  - All girl students above the age of 18 are eligible for the ‘**Kanyashree**’ scholarship, initiated by the Government of West Bengal. Under this scheme, even during the pandemic year, 108 such students received Rs 25,000 each, the process made easier by the college staff. This institution can take pride in the fact that for two consecutive years, it has been declared the most efficient in this regard, by the Government of West Bengal.
  
  - Since our institution caters to the educational needs of the Sunderban belt, students here, are from different classes of society. It is therefore, the duty of the College to procure funds for them so that they can continue with their college education. The **AIKYASHREE** scholarship, ranging from Rs. 12,000 to 60,000, is rolled out to such students, by the Government of West Bengal. Again, the college staff is particularly helpful in this regard, helping the students from SC, ST, OBC get proper notifications, process their applications and see to it that they get their dues in time. 2101 students got this benefit during the pandemic year, amounting to Rs. 14,762,400.

- Other than these two, scholarships are also provided to the students from the Minority Communities, by the government of West Bengal. In 20-21, 4075 students got this benefit which amounted to Rs. 1,80,93000
- In addition, the College provides concessions to all the needy students, to the best of its capability. Students are required to apply individually to the Principal; these applications are scrutinized by a team of faculties, and based on their means and requirements, the amount is decided. In 20-21, 210 students got this benefit, and the total amount disbursed from college was Rs. 1,51020.
- The Vivekananda Merit cum Means scholarship was provided for 694 students, the amount of which was Rs 1,1016000.

**5. Evidence of Success :** Nearly all students eligible for different scholarships apply and get these and this makes them continue with their studies. Once the scheme takes way, the money is transferred to their individual bank accounts and they do not have to stand in a queue near the college office, for answers to their queries.

**6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required :**

- Dependence on the West Bengal Government for disbursement of funds.
- Inadequate institutional fund for increasing the concession amount.
- Overlapping of the Minority/ Aikyashree scholarships.
- Due to poor network connectivity , students often fail to apply on-line, within the stipulated time.