

## **BEST PRACTICES**

**2019-20**

### **Practice 1:**

**Title of the Practice:** Community Outreach

**Objectives of the Practice:** To be able to work towards the betterment of society in general, and of the immediate locality in particular.

**The Context:** The program is meant to inculcate the values of empathy, civic sense and good citizenship.

**The Practice:** The students first makes a study of the immediate locality through surveys, mostly oral, to identify the problems in the locality and understand the causes responsible for the condition. They then form groups to brainstorm and find a possible solution to it based on the principles learnt during their course of study and the skills acquired. With the help of the local people, the plan generated is applied and the students stay in constant touch with the local community to assess the effectiveness of the plan.

### **Evidence of Success:**

Some of our prominent evidences of success are listed below:

- 1. PROJECT NAZIF-** This project had a two- fold objective: (1) Promote cleanliness and hygiene ; (2) Inculcate the thought process of recycling from waste. Women were taught the process of soap-making by recycling the used bar soaps taken from nearby hotels and converting them into liquid hand wash. These were then sold at a very minimal price to public toilets as well as donated as free hand wash in slums which lack sanitation. This project which started in July 2019 has till now impacted more than 10000+ lives with free distribution and selling of 2000+ bottles and bars of soap.
- 2. PROJECT VAARI -** Considering the ongoing water crisis especially in major parts of South Mumbai where the college is situated, “VAARI – Every Drop Counts”,

launched in August 2019, involved a group of approximately 200 volunteers. The idea was to distribute tap caps amongst citizens to promote water conservation. A tap cap is a device that reduces the flow of water through a fan-like device built inside it which is able to store and thereby save around 7 litres of water per tap per day. The event ultimately came off as a huge success. It also helped communicate the idea of water conservation.

3. On Children's Day 2019, team Talaash from Jai Hind College visited an NGO –“Our Lady's Home” in Dadar East, Mumbai. This event was in collaboration with Navneet “YOUVA” and distributed drawing kits to underprivileged kids as a token of gift and love, and to spread joy and happiness to them who have little. The organizing committee spent time with these children, conducting small activities like drawing activities, small introduction games etc. we made them feel special on that day. This activity was conducted with 100 children from age group between 5 to 12 years old.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** They have been manageable. There is support from community and local people. Faculty had to give one on one mentoring and guidance. At times, external experts were also called for guidance. No additional resources were required.

## **Practice 2:**

**Title of the Practice:** Inculcation of Research Culture

**Objectives of the Practice:** To promote a culture of research, scientific reasoning and innovative thinking

**The Context:** The College believes in producing students who are job-generators rather than a job-seeker. To promote this culture, it is essential that students are made to develop an attitude of problem-solving such that they are able to generate ideas to solve problems. This in turn will prepare them for the future where they will be able to venture into their individual specialities with confidence.

**The Practice:** Research was made an integral component of the syllabi across all courses offered in the college from Semester IV onwards. Students were gradually introduced to the concept of research by introducing the idea of identification of a research problem, literature review and collation of data. Small problems were given to students mapped with their theory so that they could correlate with them. Journal access and literature search was taught to them. The ideas generated and the theoretical basis formed in Semester IV, helped them to find practical solutions to these problems through various methods such as Surveys, Case studies, laboratory analysis, etc. in Semester V, In the final Semester, students compiled the data collected, analysed and presented their results.

**Evidence of Success:** A number of students had been successful in generating good research data which was evident in the increased participation of students in research platforms such as Jigyasa, Avishkar both which were inter-collegiate as well as in X-plore, an intra-collegiate research festival. Many amongst them also presented research papers in regional as well as national conferences.

1. Students from the department of Psychology presented research papers in conferences organised by the Bombay Psychologists' Association. Research papers were also published in "International Journal of Life Skills Education", as also in the "Journal of Psychology JHC".
2. Students from the department of Botany completed 4 interdisciplinary research projects, one with Haffkine Institute, one with Department of Chemistry and Life Sciences, JHC, one with Department of Department of Chemistry and Biotechnology, and one with Department of Department of Chemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology at the centre of research, JHC. All of these were also presented at the Inter-University Avishkar Meet.
3. Department of Chemistry was successful in completing two interdisciplinary research projects, of which two were presented as posters and two were published in journals.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** Training of students to acquire the mind set posed a problem in the beginning. However once trained, the students could carry out the work allocated on their own with guidance from mentors. Peer mentoring and mentoring by

seniors also helped. The management helped in procurement of resources. Teacher mentees also helped in applying for minor research projects, of which students were made a part of.