

BEST PRACTICE 1

1 Title of the Practice: “*Durga Shakti*” (Women Empowerment Initiatives)

2. Objective of the Practice (100): In Indian mythology Goddess Durga symbolizes women power embodying protection, strength, grace with boundless compassion. Our college has embraced the term ‘*Durga Shakti*’ in the sense that every woman is a part of Goddess Durga , and possesses the power within her. Following this mantra, at Sammilani Mahavidyalaya under the flagship name of ‘*Durga Shakti*’ all initiatives for women empowerment are materialized.

Most of them come from different parts of South 24 Parganas and economically weaker families. Aiming at improving status of women of the region Sammilani Mahavidyalaya, tries to make the girl students self-reliant, self-confidence and economically independent through different programmes.

3. The Context (150): In the prevalent patriarchal society both the Central and State Govt. have undertaken various welfare projects for the overall development and upliftment of the women in the society. In context of those efforts taken by the govt. our college has been implementing several programs for empowering the girl students under the umbrella of *Durga Shakti*.

Most of our girl students belong to families of farmers and land labourers. Under-age marriage, girl trafficking, dowry, domestic violence, etc. are prevalent in this region. Sammilani Mahavidyalaya believes in providing them with appropriate initiatives on women empowerment. To equip them to fight the menace it disseminates knowledge on women empowerment and make them aware on social issues. Financial independence helps to achieve women empowerment to a great extent. Therefore, skill development courses, coaching for appearing in competitive examinations and computer courses for making them IT enabled have been started. The self-defence courses have been arranged to make them physically and strong.

4. The Practice (400): The authorities have undertaken various programmes and activities to make our girl students mentally, physically, financially and socially strong. Seven components, related to women empowerment, that have been earmarked:

- i) **International Women’s Day** is celebrated every year where lectures are organised with eminent speakers on the theme of International Women’s Day of that year. Students actively participate in this awareness programme with activities like poster presentation on the topic, debate, extempore, etc.
- ii) **Tailoring course:** A diploma course in Basic Tailoring for the girl students offer the scope of self-employment as well as ‘*earn while you learn*’ opportunity. The course is running in collaboration with **AMBUJA NEOTIA** group and **Disha Fashion Institute**. Student learn basic tailoring from professionally trained teacher. Their crafts are sold to the interested teachers, staff and students over the year and during college foundation day exhibition or similar programmes. Fall, picco, blouse making of teachers and staff are done by the students of basic tailoring course. Students, outside college, nearby locality women and alumni students are benefitted from the course. It provides a great scope for our girl students earn while they are learning.

- iii) **Online training program:** The programme was held for female students under the scheme of Women Empowerment by Magic Bus India Foundation (NGO) for 45 days. The Career Guidance and Placement Cell organises coaching classes for appearing in competitive examinations. They have organised one month internship programme in Computer Accounting with Tally Prime and e-filing of income Tax and GST Returns jointly with the Department of Commerce organised in collaboration with Institute of Computer Accountants. Girls' students of commerce department successfully completed the course.
- iv) **ICT training for Girls:** Special classes for girl students on basic computing and a Certificate course in Mobile APP Literacy (CMAL) have been organised exclusively for women. Various topic related to mobile app application, genuine app identification, app security identification, online ticket booking, mobile payment process, types of cards, security measurement for transaction, secure email account, etc, are taught.
- v) **Kanyashree:** This scheme is an initiative of the Government of West Bengal Government to encourage women education and prevent under-age marriage for economically weaker families. Our office very active in helping the girl students for receiving the financial assistance under the scheme.
- vi) **Self-defence course:** Workshop on Self-defence training programme was organised to educate the girl students about the different types of violence against them and to train them with valuable tips of self-protection.
- vii) **Job placement:** Career Guidance and Placement cell organises Job fair and career counselling for the student's time to time. Female students got placement at various organization.

5. Evidence of Success (200):

Girl students of our institution actively participated in all the programmes organised by the institution.

Sl. No.	Practice	Outcome
i)	Awareness programme	80 to 100 students participate in the Women's Day Programme
ii)	Tailoring programme	20 to 25 girl students even from other colleges and local area is learning the course.
iii)	Online coaching and Training for recruitment	70 to 100 students participate in the career counselling session.
iv)	ICT training for Girls	45 to 50 girl students participated in the programme
v)	Kanyashree Prakalpa	On an average about 70% of the total girl students received Kanyashree every year.
vi)	Self-defence course	17 girls' students participated in self-defence programme
vii)	Job placement	8 to 10 girl students have got job through Career drive in college.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required (150):

- Due to lockdown during COVID-19 pandemic, there was no in-person classes and that demotivated the students.
- Introduction of CBCS required continuous 10-4 class hours to accommodate all credit-wise classes in the routine and there are many more examinations and assessments in a year. Many students found it difficult to find time during the class hours hence could not join the courses.
- Most of the students come from southern part of South 24 Parganas by overcrowded trains. The students find it inconvenient to come to college for the courses every day.

Resources required:

- Since it is a general degree college, there is no dedicated teacher for the courses for which extra fund is required to run the courses and program by trained personnel.
- More Fund is required for classrooms and related infrastructure the programs are also needed.

7. Notes (150): All the above-mentioned initiatives undertaken by this college for empowering women is very much relevant in the modern times. Other academic institution should follow our footstep and start various measures for empowering women. If other institutions like ours make an effort for their girl students and organise various activities that help in their upliftment then more girls will be empowered and society at large will be benefitted.

BEST PRACTICE 2

VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM (imparting moral values and traditional culture to our future citizen]

1. Name of the Practice: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

2. Objective of the Practice:

- To inculcate among the students the concept of collective welfare and harmonious living.
- To promote the values of unity, cooperation and empathy.
- To foster global solidarity and responsibility among the students especially in the context of the crucial issues like sustainable development, climate change, promoting peace and tolerance etc.
- To develop a global perspective and make the future generation ‘responsible global citizen’ who sees no boundaries of religion, race, gender, Creed, Caste, sect etc.
- To develop a sound value system among the students and other members of the institution.

3. The Context:

The ancient Sanskrit phrase ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, meaning ‘the world is one family’, beautifully encapsulates the very essence of global unity and hence, has enormous relevance even today. The idea prioritizes collective wellbeing over individual interest, it promotes the value of universal brotherhood, it emphasizes on kindness, empathy and compassion. These are the human qualities that Sammilani Mahavidyalaya wants to instill into its young learners, especially in the context of the emergent need of protecting our habitat earth in every sense. Moreover, in today’s world, degradation of moral values in youth is a very common phenomenon. Under the circumstances, to guide the young learners of Sammilani Mahavidyalaya to be conscious and responsible global citizens, the institution has embraced the idea of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ and has been following the practices which are woven around this concept.

(105/150)

4. The Practice:

The institution regularly organizes different programmes involving the students, under the initiative of different sub-committees, to inculcate the sense of responsibility, tolerance, empathy, love and respect for the elders, care and concern for animals, love and concern for Mother Nature.

- **Seba daan-** Under the scheme of ‘Seva Daan’, the NSS Unit of the institution organises various activities on and off the campus to serve the students as well as the people of the society. The ‘Yuva Bahini’, (as the NSS volunteers are called) takes active part in all these activities under the supervision of the concerned teachers. **Blood**

Donation camps are organised by NSS unit at regular interval where students, teachers and staff donate blood. **Free Vaccination Camp** was organised on the college campus during covid period, in collaboration with West Bengal Department of Health and family welfare and Department of higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal. **Orphanage visit** was also organised by the NSS unit of the college. Students and teachers visited Sampark Orphanage, located at Haridebpur, Bansdroni. Books, stationeries and clothes were distributed to the children there. **Free eye check up** camps are also arranged regularly in the college premises. Doctors from different clinics visit with modern testing equipments and eye check-up is done free of cost for the students. **Thalassemia awareness and screening camp, Dengue and Malaria Eradication** programmes are also organized by the institution for the benefit of the students and the local community.

- **Shram Daan:**

The students of Sammilani Mahavidyalaya actively participate in the cleaning programmes, regularly organised by the NSS unit and other subcommittees. The college campus has been upgraded to a 'plastic free zone'. Effort is being made to make every nook and corner of the college neat and clean.

- **Value Education:**

Sammilani Mahavidyalaya is committed to imparting human, ethical and moral values that contribute towards the welfare of the community and hence organizes different value education programmes. another certificate course on value education with reference to '*Shrimad Bhagabad Ggeeta*' was conducted by the Department of Philosophy. Apart from these, Sammilani Mahavidyalaya has signed two MOUs – one with Ramkrishna Saraad Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhaban Girls' college and the other with Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College , Rahara , with a vision of scaling up the value education initiatives. Apart from these, a separate slot has been allotted in the master time-table of the college, exclusively for value based education and it is mandatory for the students to attend the class.

- **Yoga and meditation:**

For reducing stress and enhancing mental and physical strength Sammilani Mahavidyalaya encourages the students to participate in Yoga and meditation. A short term Certificate course on Yoga was organized in collaboration with the Yoga University of Bangalore, in 2021-22. Every year on 21st June, International Yoga Day is celebrated in the institution. On this occasion, eminent speakers deliver speech and make the students aware about yoga practice. Yoga and meditation practice sessions are also being organized for both students and teachers.

- **Quote of the day:**

The day in Sammilani Mahavidyaalay starts with writing motivational quotation of eminent educationist and philosophers. Every day different students write quotation on the white board which is placed at the entrance of the institution. Other students while entering the premise can see the quotation. These quotes inspire the students and help to develop a positive frame of mind.

- **Celebration of the days of national importance:**

Commemorative days and days of national importance are celebrated on the campus with the initiative and support of the HOI to generate the feeling of oneness and social

harmony among the students, the teachers and the staff of the institution. The days which are celebrated include the Independence Day, Teachers' Day, Women's Day, Vivekananda's birth anniversary, Netaji's birth anniversary, Republic Day, International Mother language Day etc.

5. Evidence of success:

It is a matter of great satisfaction that, Sammilani Mahavidyalaya has successfully instilled human qualities into all the members of Sammilani family. They always come forward and extend support and cooperation to the people who are in distress, irrespective of their social status, religion, caste, creed etc. Not only they actively participate in all value related programmes, but they practise the same too. During pandemic period, the students and teachers of Sammilani Mahavidyalaya rendered voluntary services to the local community. The students served as volunteers in the vaccination camp organized by the college in collaboration with the department of health, Government of West Bengal. Besides, they often help the homeless people of neighbouring locality providing food, blanket, medicines etc. Sammilani family is concerned about the well being of the birds and animals also. Feeding and taking care of stray dogs and birds are common practices in the college campus.

6. Problems encountered and resources required:

Problems Encountered:

- Number of participations must be increased. It is not as per the expectation.
- Lack of resources and shortage of time make it difficult to arrange all the programmes successfully.
- More awareness is also needed.

Resources required-

More time is needed for conducting various programs within stipulated time.
Adequate funding is necessary for smooth running of the programmes.

7. Note: Promotion and inculcation of values should be the aim of other institution as well. Encouraging the students in participating in various activities through experiential learning and undertaking activity-based learning are powerful tools in instilling values in them.