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Title of the Practice: Financial Aid to the deserving students by the college

Objectives of the Practice: It has been obtained from the profile students joining various courses of the college that there are many students coming from the rural areas with low economic back ground. Their parents are unable to provide them a sustained financial support because agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the district, is not a source of assured income. So, the noble objectives of the practice are

- To extend financial aid to the poor students, especially from the rural, to save them from discontinuation of their studies owing to poverty.
- To support financially all the deserving poor students without any discrimination of caste, creed or gender.
- To promote the 'equality' among the students
- To inculcate the values of 'generosity' and a 'sense of social responsibility' among the students. The expected outcome is that the students should be able to complete their degrees with good marks. The beneficiaries should treat the needy with the principle of 'lend a helping hand without discrimination.'

The Context: The noble objective had its teething as well as challenging troubles in its designing and implementation.

- Pooling up of the required resources was a tough task.
- After many awareness sittings with the all concerned, the college set up a 'hundi' on the campus for voluntary donations by students, staff and other visitors including charity organizations. The college struggled a lot in deciding the eligibility criterion for the aid.

- After comprehensive deliberations with students and teachers, it was decided to extend the benefit to all the poor students, who do not have the advantage of government or endowment scholarships, without any discrimination of caste, creed or gender.
- Verification of the financial backwardness of the aspirants was yet another challenge.
- The management has insisted on strict adherence to the rules framed, about this fund in spite of the influential sections' and caste associations' undue interference in the implementation of the practice.

The practice:

In and around the areas of the college, there has been a long history of frequent droughts and famines, which have ravaged the rural life throwing the people into miserable conditions of abject poverty, illiteracy and ill-health. In a situation of such dire poverty, whatever meagre resources available are used primarily to make both ends meet. So, sending their children to the town for higher education becomes almost impossibility for the poor parents in the rural areas, in the context of higher education demanding higher amounts of money. Though, sometimes, they do venture to admit their children to colleges in the town, they are unable to give sustained financial support throughout the course of study because agriculture, being a gamble with rain in the district, is not a source of assured income. So, it is evident that without financial support from an external source, the rural youth cannot hope to successfully complete their higher studies.

Title of the Practice : Women Empowerment

Objectives of the Practice

Women constitute more than 60% of the total student strength of the college. The majority of them come from drought and famine-ravaged rural areas, where miserable conditions of utter poverty, illiteracy, ill-health and superstition take hold of their lives. Thus they are doubly affected by the backwardness and discrimination. So, the college has resolved to take up the cause of Women Empowerment for the women students with the objectives of –

- Mentoring women students on women specific issues with one women teacher as mentor for every 20 women mentees.
- Creating an environment through awareness programmes to enable the students to realize their full potential for learning and solving their problems independently

- Arranging special sessions with the police and social activists for enabling the female students to be aware of several types of 'evil designs' by professional criminals for the worst type of exploitation taking the advantage of their innocence and gullibility.
- Dealing amicably with the student victims of exploitation of all sorts maintaining utmost confidentiality of the private life to protect their dignity.
- Involving social activists and Government officials to enlighten the students on human rights and fundamental freedom for equal rights and opportunities.
- Organizing debates and discussions on gender equality to enable the students to realize gender sensitization, thus leading to more equality and harmony in family and society.
- Conducting seminars and special sessions on ragging, eve-teasing and dowry system to expose the ill-effects of the evils.

Context

The women students, in the beginning were not enthusiastic to participate in the deliberations.

- Some parents and staff vehemently opined that the awareness / sensitization programmes defeated the very purpose of sending their wards to college.
- The coordinator and the members of the unit had to visit certain families and persuade the parents that all the programmes were meant for the betterment and empowerment of their dear daughters.
- As the gender sensitization programmes designed revealed several disparities and inequalities, that we might not have noticed earlier, people especially the other gender, argued discussing gender and gender roles would break up families and destroy society.
- Similarly, the various legal protective provisions for women were misunderstood as undue favour meant to belittle men.
- Even some teachers supporting the argument often opined that the change was difficult to be accepted as the ideas emanated from these seminars/workshops/debates on gender inequalities appeared new and startling.

- Some parents even found fault with the college that their children were detained in the college beyond working hours for unconnected and counterproductive programmes.
- Under these circumstances, the college has thought it appropriate to forge ahead with the objective implementations the objective for which an exclusive cell is created.