

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE

1) Savitribai Phule Student Welfare Scheme

Goals:

1. To bring the students of rural and slum areas into the mainstream of higher education
2. To provide financial assistance to the needy and desirous students
3. To introduce *Earn and Learn* scheme for facilitation of above scheme
4. To extend academic guidance as our students are from poor educational background
5. To improve students' attendance
6. To make students self-reliant

Context:

The institution primarily aims at accommodating the girl students from social, educational and poor economic background, residing in the nearby villages and slum areas. These students somehow manage to complete education upto XII only because of Government policy of providing free education to girls upto XII. However, they discontinue their education due to financial constraints and gender bias. The parents pay due attention to their boys' education and give secondary importance to girls' education. Furthermore, they consider these girls as burden to be relieved by way of getting them married as early as possible.

The institution realized this precarious condition of these girls and devised a systematic planning to overcome barriers mentioned above. Hence the financial aid scheme is in the name of Savitribai Phule.

The faculty visits the nearby villages to give counselling to the parents and their wards, who have completed their higher secondary education. During this visit, the villagers raised their doubts and expressed their financial constraints in providing higher education to their wards. The faculty informed them about the advantages and benefits of higher education and assures them for the resolution of their financial and other problems. They also provide financial help in seeking admission by remitting their admission, examination fees and other expenses. In this way the parents and their wards are brainwashed and finally they decide to enrol their wards in our college.



The Practice:

The scheme covers students from as many as around 30 villages. Initially faculty used to help students individually and informally. Later on it was decided to devise a scheme to make financial assistance in an organized and formal form to needy and desirous students. The issue was put forth before IQAC and unanimously decided to give the name of Savitribai Phule, a great social reformer and champion of women' education. The faculty realized that due to shortage of funds some students remained un-benefited by the scheme. Hence, faculty increased the contribution amount from Rs.2000/- to Rs.3000/-. Thus the said scheme was systematically operationalized from the academic year 2008-2009. Initially, the said scheme covered students of first year only. Later on students of second and third year were also covered under this scheme. Since then it has become distinguished practice of our institution.

Evidence of Success:

Through this scheme we could contribute a little to the national goal of improving the gross enrolment ratio. Earlier the faculty members used to visit the parents of XII passed students on a larger scale. However, due to the wide publicity given to the scheme, the students and parents from rural region approached the faculty. Hence, the physical efforts of the faculty members were minimized. As a result, the aspiring students from poor socio-economic background were brought into mainstream of higher education. Thereby we could realize goals of the said scheme. The students acquired knowledge and skills that made them self-reliant.

Following table shows the year wise beneficiaries of the scheme:

Sr. No.	Year	No. of Beneficiary Students	Allotted Amount
1	2019-20	21	11550
Total		21	11550

The above table clearly reflects that as many as 21 students were benefited by this scheme and overall amount spent on the scheme is Rs.11550/-. The scheme helped students who were enrolled into higher education, especially, from rural and social economically poor background. They were empowered by imparting higher education.



Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The first and foremost problem was how to raise the funds required for running the scheme. Then another problem was how to select the beneficiaries. But solutions to the problems were found in the discussions held by the Principal with the faculty members. The Principal and the faculty unanimously agreed for the need of introducing the poor student aid scheme and it is our pleasure to state that the entire faculty voluntarily agreed to offer donation in the form Rs.2,000/- each year to raise the fund for the scheme. On realization of shortage of funds, the faculty themselves increased their contribution in the form of Rs.3,000/-. The office staff helped technically in devising and implementing the scheme.

Conclusion:

It is realized that the scholarships provided by GOs, NGOs and other funding agencies fell short of the requirements of all the needy students. The available schemes require the complex parameters for eligibility to get the scholarship. The schemes available for students do not reach out to the villages and slum areas of cities. Therefore, by keeping in mind the necessities and problems of needy and poor students from our college we started the above said welfare scheme. The scheme yielded fruitful results and improvement in the academic performance. Fortunately our staff members are conscious about their social responsibility, without which we could not achieved the goal. If the other institutions devise such schemes, they will also be able to contribute to the growth of higher education among target group. It contributed to building the rapport between teachers and students. We humbly claim that the scheme helped to enhance relationship between educational institutions and society at large. We are aware that the scope of such scheme may be widened in time to come.



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2. Cycle Bank Scheme:

Goals:

- a. To encourage students residing in remote areas for seeking admission in our college.
- b. To bring the students from nearby slums and adjacent rural areas into the mainstream of higher education.
- c. To improve the attendance of students having transportation problems.
- d. To promote the use of environmental friendly mode of transportation.
- e. To assist students from distant places who used to come on foot to the college.
- f. To involve the philanthropers, donors and NGOs in the educational process.
- g. To create awareness about the physical fitness.

Context:

Our management started this college with a view to improve the gross enrolment ratio of the students who are residing in remote & distant places in the town as well as surrounding villages. Initially, we realized that they had several constraints and financial constraint was a significant hurdle.

Initially, the faculty observed the students from distant places showed unsatisfactory attendance. Consequently, the teachers discussed with the students to identify their problems and issues. This made the faculty realize the need to introduce the scheme.

Accordingly, the faculty deliberated on the financial provision required for the implementation of the scheme. It is our pleasure that all the philanthropers whom we approached generously donated bicycles and funds.

Practice:

The institution had already constituted a student welfare cell for the arrangement of the students welfare activities. Hence, it was unanimously decided to entrust the committee with the responsibility of executing the Cycle Bank Scheme. Accordingly, the committee devised a procedure for implementation of the activity. The committee



prepared rules and regulations and the process for selecting beneficiaries from the short listed needy students.

The procedure for running a bicycle scheme is as under:

1. Display of information of the Cycle Bank Scheme on notice board
2. Invitation of applications in a prescribed form
3. Receiving duly filled in applications with due recommendation of respected HoDs.
4. Scrutiny of received applications.
5. Conducting interviews of scrutinized applicants
6. Display the list of selected beneficiaries
7. Allotment of the bicycles to the selected beneficiaries

Evidence of Success:

Earlier the faculty encountered some difficulties in introducing the scheme. The most important difficulty was raising the necessary funds for implementation of scheme. The faculty deliberated on the matter and decided to make an appeal to the donors for the funds. Accordingly, our committed faculty members took huge efforts by approaching various individual donors, philanthropers and charity institutions.

Despite the financial constraints, the faculty members made up their mind to implement the scheme come what may. We realized that there are good numbers of philonthrophers who generously donate for educational cause. The scheme initially introduced with only five bicycles in 2014. Gradually it developed into thirty nine bicycles in 2019. And we hope it will continuously increase in number of bicycles and thereby beneficiaries in the coming years.

- Significant improvement in the attendance of student beneficiaries
- Increase in student participation in academic and extra-curricular activities
- Academic growth among beneficiaries
- Increasing no of visitors and seating hours in the library
- Awareness about physical fitness among students
- The unexpected evidence of success was that some students bagged prizes in cycling competition held in local areas.



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Following table shows the year wise beneficiaries of the scheme:

Sr. No.	Year	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of cycles
1	2019-20	39	39

Problem Encountered and Resources Required:

While implementing the scheme the major problem faced by faculty was the financial crunch. We could overcome this by strenuous and continuous pursuance of our factually members in approaching donors, sponsoring agencies and charity institutions.

The second and equally important problem encountered was the ratios of demand as majority of our students are from poor socio-economic background. We received almost 47 applications. Hence it was necessary to devise a mechanism cautiously so as to select the neediest 39 students among them. All the H.O.D.s and faculty members gave valuable suggestions to the committee in proper selection of beneficiary students. Accordingly, the committee arranged personal interviews of the short listed applicants. Finally 39 beneficiaries were selected. The committee gives wide publicity of this scheme to acknowledge the donors and agencies.

Conclusion:

The first and foremost conclusion drawn from outcome of this scheme is that:

- Innovative Scheme like Cycle Bank Scheme came into existence
- Realization of the truth that if genuine efforts are made the society responds with wholeheartedly
- The scheme inculcated the sense of social accountability
- The scheme contributed to save the environment movement
- The educational institution can establish the rapport with society for their involvement in educational development
- Such schemes can be a trendsetter for other institutions realization of the sense of larger responsibility among educational institutions

