

7.2 Best practices

7.2 Best Practices (I)

Financial support for weak as well as bright students through various schemes and programmes.

Title of the practice	“Wings to Fly”: Support financially weak students who are good in studies through various schemes and programmes.
Objectives of the practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No student discontinues studies due to financial constrains. 1. No student goes hungry during meals time in this campus. 2. No student’s study is hindered due to lack of text books. 3. No student’s talent shall go unrecognized.
The context	<p>The strategic location of the college amidst the marginalized fisher folk places an additional responsibility on the college to ensure that the students who are enrolled in our institution successfully complete the academic programme and become employable. Majority of our students are from financially poor background and many of them are first generation college going youth. The fisher folk, Scheduled Tribe and Castes and other backward communities constitute around 81% of our student strength. The deplorable situation forces many of them to take up part-time jobs to support their families and to meet their academic needs. It is in this context of their social and economic vulnerability that the institution comes forward with student support programmes realizing very well that they need assistance in financial as well as academic matters.</p>
The practice	<p>Various schemes and practices and programmes are established to provide support for financially backward and academically bright students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student Welfare Fund: A fund is raised by the teaching staff of the college to provide financial support for the financially poor students. The amount can be used to buy academic books, meet contingency including bus fare, pay hostel fees, etc. 2. Noon meal scheme: Free noon meal coupons are issued on a daily basis by the college on recommendation from different department heads, for financially backward students who cannot afford a noon meal. 3. Book Bank Facility: Academic books are collected from senior students who pass out from college and are used as a bank for the juniors to make a reference. 4. Scholarships and Incentives: Every year deserving students are given scholarships and other incentives to help them come up in life to realize their full potentials. Students are offered scholarships not only for their academic performance but also for their achievements in sports and liberal arts.
Evidence of success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almost all the beneficiaries of the Welfare Fund completed their study successfully. As a result of the support for transportation facility, students are on time for class. 2. Noon Meal scheme has improved attendance and active participation in the afternoon classes. 3. Book Bank Facility has led to better academic results 4. Scholarships and Incentives have helped the students to develop healthy competitive spirit in curricular and co-curricular activities.

	Many students make use of the programmes and the number of beneficiary students is the evidence of success.
Problems encountered and resources required	<p>Problems Encountered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Raising sufficient funds. 2) Managing the demand 3) Timely collection and distribution of text books 4) Increase in the number of eligible students. <p>Resources required are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A Corpus Fund for stability of the programme 2) Collected data regarding financial, academic and social background of the students. 3) A convener and a team to coordinate and run the programmes efficiently 4) Sufficient Fund for every year.

7.2 Best Practices (II)

Organic Cultivation of Vegetable

Title of the practice	“Greening the Sand”: Promoting organic farming of vegetable in the campus with the help of students to promote a healthy and sustainable co- existence.
Objectives of the practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To contribute to the greenery of the campus 2. To hinder global warming 3. To supply fresh and healthy vegetable 4. To uphold the culture of physical labour among the students and learn agricultural skills 5. To promote the culture of organic farming to protect the Mother earth 6. To increase the Eco-friendliness of the campus 7. To cultivate love and respect towards nature, among students 8. To have this proramme as a start-up for the students
The context	Largely an agrarian society, the state of Kerala once was self sufficient in agricultural produce. But over the years there is a decline in the agriculture sector. Essential commodities like rice, fruits and vegetable come from other states and there are reports of large scale use of pesticides creating a serious problem in health care. The increasing cases of cancer reported in Kerala to a large extent are the result of the consumption of such malignant vegetables. There is a new urge among the people of the state to produce sufficient vegetables through organic means of production in their own premises saying ‘NO’ to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In this modern technological job culture, the college considers it important to train and motivate the youth in agricultural farming. Besides, great ecological problems such as climatic changes, deforestation, holes in the ozone layer, and global warming etc. point out the necessity of working for an Eco- friendly universe.
The practice	The Govt. of Kerala provides financial support to NGOs and educational institutions to undertake organic farming projects in their premises. Making use of this opportunity the college signed a memorandum of understanding with the local body authority, Kadinamkulam Grama Panchayath. Accordingly, the institution is

	<p>given a fixed sum of money to organize and extend farming activities in the campus. Panchayath ensures steady supply of quality seeds through the regional office of the Department of Agriculture. Under the leadership of the PTA and the Nature Club, interested students are being organized into groups and assigned different tasks like preparing the ground, planting the seeds and irrigating the farm, etc. The yield is sold to students and staff of the college and the money raised is used for giving incentives for students involved in the project and the rest of the amount is used for running various student support programmes of the college.</p>
Evidence of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased student participation and interest · Great demand for organically produced vegetable · Instances of students cultivating vegetable in their home yards · Better awareness among the students and staff for ecological sensitivity · Income generated from the sale of vegetable · Reports and photographs of the events in leading news papers and in the college website · Reports of the PTA and Nature Club of respective years
Problems encountered and resources required	<p>Problems Encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The arid sandy soil of the campus is not sufficiently conducive for cultivation · Inspiring the students to come for regular irrigation · Getting students to help on weekends and holidays · Hard to keep all the pests away as the project does not use any chemical pesticides <p>Resources Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Students need to be given incentives to work on weekends and holidays · Preparing the land involves hard labour, hence the need to hire professional hands · Constant advise from agricultural experts is required · Financial aid is required from the Panchayath every year