



GOVERNMENT SCIENCE COLLEGE

Sector – 15, Gandhinagar-382016

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NAAC Accredited – B+
(CGPA-2.69)

Best Practice: 01

1. Title of the Practice:

Social Services through National Service Scheme (NSS)

2. Objective of the Practice:

The role of HEIs is significant in human resource development and capacity building of individuals, to cater the needs of the society. Therefore, learning activities of HEIs should have a visible element for developing sensitivities towards societal issues. Extension also is the aspect of higher education which emphasizes on community services which are often intended to help, serve, reflect and learn. In view of these, Government Science College – Gandhinagar offers NSS program to inculcate sense of social service and social responsibility by engaging students with community and helping both to develop holistically.

3. The Context:

Gandhinagar district is an administrative division of Gujarat, India, whose headquarters are at Gandhinagar, the state capital. It has an area of 2140 sq km, and a population of 1,391,753 of which around 43 % lives in urban regions and 57 % in rural regions. Average literacy rate is 84.16%. The district includes Gandhinagar with two Suburbs - Motera, Adalaj. The four tehsils are - Gandhinagar, Kalol, Dahegam and Mansa – and collectively have 293 villages. Association of HEI with the Rural - Urban communities of Gandhinagar district helps both to develop mutually.

Government Science College - Gandhinagar is the only one Government College (Affiliated, UG) of Gandhinagar District offering higher education in science. The college as a part of its extension, emphasizes on community services and aim to prepare its graduating students as responsible citizens by engaging them in social services in nearby communities through 'National Service Scheme'.

4. The Practice:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. It provides opportunity to the students of colleges and Universities of India to take part in various Government led community service activities &

programmes. 'NOT ME BUT YOU' - is the motto and 'Education through Service' is the purpose of NSS.

Government Science College – Gandhinagar is affiliated to Gujarat University and the college has its functional NSS unit that works as per rules and regulations of NSS unit of Gujarat University. In the beginning of the academic year, First Year students of the college are oriented about NSS and invited to register themselves as NSS volunteers. About 100 students are registered as NSS volunteers every year, and they are involved in following activities of social sector, every year.

- (1) **NSS Camps:** Such camps are organized every year and the duration of each camp is of 7 days with day-night boarding & lodging. These camps are held in nearby village(s) of Gandhinagar City. Each camp involves 50 NSS volunteers and about 10-15 teachers to undertake the scheduled activities. In addition to this, NSS volunteers of the college are also engaged in various on-campus and off-campus/beyond the campus - social activities of following types.
- (2) **Indian Constitution and Voter Awareness:** Celebration of Constitution Day, Voter awareness runs, Involvement in electoral roll revision camps. Impactful voter enrolment campaigns, National voter's day celebration.
- (3) **Health, Hygiene and Road Safety:** Pulse Polio Day celebration., Health seminars. Cleanliness campaigns, Hand washing awareness, World yoga day celebration, Thalassaemia checkups, Cancer awareness program, Blood donation camp, World HIV Day program. COVID-19 awareness programmes, Campaigns for traffic awareness, Road safety, Bicycle Rally, Distribution of safety kits.
- (4) **Civic Education:** POCSO Act Awareness, Support to blind students in examinations, Advocating for a Drug-Free India. Educational programs on superstition prevention, Anti-child marriage rallies.
- (5) **Patriotism:** Independence Day celebration, Republic Day celebration, Tribute to the martyrs of Pulvama attack, Gandhi Jayanti Celebration
- (6) **Youth Empowerment:** Swami Vivekanand Jayanti celebration, District inter college mock parliament event, Suicide prevention seminar.
- (7) **Environment Awareness:** Tree plantation program, Environment awareness program, E-waste collection efforts, plastic-free plogging runs, Water and environmental rallies.

Through these multifaceted efforts student volunteers would have the exposure and experience to be the following:

- an accomplished social leader
- an efficient administrator
- a person who understands human nature

5. Evidence of Success:

- (1) **AY 2018-19:** About **100** volunteers participated. **01** NSS camp, **11** social extension programs/activities were successfully organized. Volunteers also participated in **05** different workshops.
- (2) **AY 2019-20:** About **100** NSS volunteers participated. **01** NSS camp, **18** social extension programs/activities, **01** Summer internship program, **01** NSS officer workshop were successfully organized and in addition to this, volunteers participated in **05** different workshops.
- (3) **AY 2020-21: (Online/Offline)** Even during Covid-19 pandemic and then after, total **17** different programs of social activity and extension were carried out in which about **80** students participated. However, NSS camp was not organized due to restrictions of Covid-19 pandemic.
- (4) **AY 2021-22:** **01** NSS camp and **15** social extension programs/activities were carried out in which about **90** students participated.
- (5) **AY 2022-23:** **01** NSS camp and **20** social extension programs/activities were carried out in which about **100** students participated.

Satisfaction expressed by NSS volunteers and members of the society, certificates issued by authorities and agencies who collaborated with us and media coverage of social activities certified the success of the scheme. Our institution has received '**Best NSS Program Officer**' and '**Best NSS Unit**' awards from the State and Central Governments.

6. Problems encountered and Resources required:

- A. Problems Encountered:** Arrangement of medical devices, logistic support and coordination with voters were quite problematic. Despite the full strength of NSS volunteers, challenges persist in securing adequate funds and sustaining volunteer commitment. Organizing such programs throughout the year is problematic since it affects regular academic programs.
- B. Resources required:** Appropriate venues for the programs, information materials, organizational support, financial support, streamlined logistics.

Best Practice: 02

1. Title of the Practice:

Finishing School: Nurturing Soft Skills for Holistic Development of Students

2. Objectives of the Practice:

‘Finishing School’ - a project initiated by Higher Education Department, Government of Gujarat is implemented by GSC - Gandhinagar to prepare skilled youths by giving extra-curricular trainings to final year students. Main objectives of the project are: (1) To provide Life skills, Employability skills, Functional and Spoken English skills enhancement training, (2) To boost self-confidence of students by providing professional and communication skills, (3) To increase employability of students and make them ready for professional life, (4) To add values to the education of students and develop them holistically.

3. The Context:

To prepare graduating students for better employability, industry readiness and prosperous career through appropriate interventions is the current need of higher education system. Such need can be fulfilled by skill enhancement training that bridge the gap between academic knowledge and professional readiness of students. Finishing school training program is intended to provide such training that includes modules on soft skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, resume writing, interview and time management. Additionally, it covers employability skills and professional grooming to ensure students are well-prepared for their professional life. This holistic approach ensures that students not only possess academic knowledge but also the interpersonal skills required to excel in their careers, make them more competent. By the end of the training program, graduates are expected to exhibit a heightened sense of sophistication and grace, ready to face the challenges and opportunities that come with professional and social interactions.

4. The Practice:

Educational institutes are increasingly recognizing the importance of employability skills beyond academic qualifications. Finish school cater to this need by equipping students with the confidence and skills to excel in job interviews, networking events, and the workplace itself. This sets graduates distinguished in a competitive job market.

Government Science College - Gandhinagar has offered Finishing school training program every year, designed specifically for final year students. Program involved structured curriculum aimed at enhancing soft skills, along with academics, preparing students for the dynamic workplace. Students were given a total of 80 hours of skill enhancement training by expert trainers. The whole training was divided into 4 modules/sets viz. [A] Module/Set-A Life & Employability Skills (20 hours), [B] Module/Set-B Functional English Skills - I (20 hours), [C] Module/Set-C Life & Employability Skills (20 hours), [D] Module/Set-D Functional English Skills - II (20 hours). This program equipped students with professional skills, complementing their academic knowledge and fostering their holistic development for a successful career. The training program ran successfully in last five academic years.

- (1) **AY 2018-19:** Initially, lack of enthusiasm among students for newly introduced training programme, but the program's strength lies in its training contents such as life skills and functional English modules generated interest among few students.
- (2) **AY 2019-20:** Distinctively, this programme empowers students to do more than just survival. Beyond knowledge, this training prepares them with self-improvement skills for an ever-evolving workplace. Through soft skill development, they gain additional potential to adapt in competitive dynamic workplace. Major constraint was to accommodate this training program within the time frame of regular curriculum of B.Sc.
- (3) **AY 2020-21: (online/offline)** Typically, this training program blends traditional academic learning with practical soft skill building practices, polishing students for the demands of the modern competitive workplace and in shaping their successful career. Major constrains in online learning platforms were connectivity issues, restricted data usage, limited activity-based learning, distractions and to accommodate diverse student's needs.
- (4) **AY 2021-22: (online)** Uniquely, this training program blends traditional academic learning with practical soft skill building practices, shaping or polishing students for the demands of the modern competitive workplace. Major constrains in online learning platforms (MS teams) were connectivity issues, restricted data usage, limited activity-based learning, distractions and to accommodate diverse student's needs.
- (5) **AY 2022-23:** Limited multimedia classroom facility and ensuring scalability to cater the needs of diverse students were major constrains.

5. Evidence of Success:

- (1) **AY 2018-19:** The training turned doubting students into confident learners. Training sparked interest in **45 participants**, boosting English fluency, self-confidence, writing skills, social etiquettes, personality, and communication. Their enthusiasm proved programme effectiveness and ignited thirst for learning beyond books
- (2) **AY 2019-20:** Success of training was reflected in the **44 students'** performance, improvement in communication, English language fluency and satisfaction rate displayed in post training surveys. Students' enthusiasm for the training sessions indicated overall program efficacy.
- (3) **AY 2020-21:** Due to sustained efforts, even after the transition from online to offline training, **42 students** successfully completed finishing school training amidst challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (4) **AY 2021-22:** Increased focus on self-improvement and skill development during lockdown increased student's participation. Improvement in writing skills, English language fluency and effective communication skills of **61 participants**. Although, it was online training, post-training surveys revealed satisfaction among students.

- (5) **AY 2022-23:** Increase in confidence levels, effective communication skills and improvement in English language fluency of **59 participants**. Moreover, 95% satisfaction rate from post-training surveys.

Note: Every year the training program was concluded with awarding a certificate to each student who maintained over 80% attendance.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

A. Problems Encountered:

1. Initially, lack of enthusiasm among students for new training programme.
2. Extra efforts were required to build confidence among students.
3. Availability of limited time period for Finishing School, along with academic schedule of theory and practical.
4. During Covid-19 pandemic, major problems were: student engagement throughout online training session, limited network coverage and lack of face-to-face interaction
5. Post Covid-19 during offline training session, regular attendance of students was low due to pandemic effects.
6. Difficulty in managing ICT enabled classrooms, during training.
7. Maintaining continuous engagement of students throughout training.

B. Resources required:

1. Streamlined administrative processes to help smooth functioning of the training program.
2. Good numbers of qualified trainers.
3. Regular availability of Multimedia classrooms.
4. Compatible IT devices.
5. High speed internet.
6. Self-paced leaning modules.

Best Practice: 03

1. Title of the Practice:

Environmental awareness through Eco Club activities

2. Objective of the Practice:

UGC underlines the importance of making environmental education an integral part of curricula and encouraging environmental awareness and sensitivity towards its conservation and sustainable development. In line with this, GSCGNR promotes environmental awareness through Eco Club activities with objectives such as: (1) To engage students in environmental education and awareness activities and sensitize them for environment protection and preservation (2) To identify the beauty of flora and fauna and sensitize students for its conservation. (3) To organize guest lectures, seminars, workshops etc. on environmental issues. (4) To carryout environmental activities in collaborations with environmental societies, government organizations and NGOs.

3. The Context:

Overpopulation and pollution adversely affect our surrounding environment and ultimately the ecosystem. Environmental education is one of the important ways to sensitize people for protecting and preserving our environment. The Environment Education Division of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, GoI, implements the 'Environment Education Programme (EEP). The EEP aims to supplement the knowledge that the children and young generation gain from classrooms with experience from nature and hands-on activities. Eco-clubs formed under National Green Corps (NGC) Programme are main beneficiaries under EEP. Eco Club of GSC- Gandhinagar is also a part of NGC Programme and is also supported by Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, - an autonomous body of Department of Forest & Environment, Government of Gujarat. The main role of this Eco Club is to explain the importance of environment, and to raise environmental awareness in students through educational activities.

4. The Practice:

- (1) **AY 2018-19:** Students of the Eco club actively raised awareness about biodiversity, mangroves and wetlands. Through environmental activities and educational tours, they enhanced their knowledge of environment. As a part of the curriculum, students went on an educational tour to visit forest and collected different plant specimen and submitted their tour reports to the examiners at the Gujarat University practical Examination.
- (2) **AY 2019-20:** In collaboration with the GEER Foundation, students attended a Nature camp and carried out tree plantation program and observed biodiversity. As a part of the curriculum, students went on an educational tour to visit forest and collected different plant specimen and submitted their tour reports to the examiners at the Gujarat University practical Examination.
- (3) **AY 2020-21:** Eco Club in collaboration with Gujarat Medicinal Biodiversity Board (GMPB), planted medicinal plant species at the College Campus and they are well maintained by the institute. During Covid 19 pandemic. Eco Club organized online events

such as Eco-friendly “Ganesha Making workshop” and “Poster making competition” on Environment.

- (4) **AY 2021-22:** Under the Green Campus Program, Tree-plantation was carried out for environment awareness among the students. A new Cactus Garden was developed in the college campus. Eco Club organized a guest lecture and webinar on “Kitchen gardening and Medicinal Plants”. Students visited Nature camp at Serenity Library and attended an “Awareness on Sparrow Conservation” programme at Indroda park organized by GEER Foundation (Gujarat Ecological Education Research) and GUJCOST (Gujarat councils on science and technology), Gandhinagar. Students participated in Drawing Competition as a part of World Forest Day, World Water Day and Wild life Day celebration.
- (5) **AY 2022-23:** A “Plastic free environment campaign” was initiated by students and plastic was collected from Indroda Park and from nearby areas of central bus-stop of Gandhinagar. Students participated in programs like Tree-plantation, Seed ball making, Eco-friendly-Ganesha making, Lecture on Snake-bite awareness and Bird watching programme. Students also participated in two-day workshop on “Sustainable Lifestyle Practices” at GEER foundation, Gandhinagar. As per the MoU with Horticulture Department of Gujarat Government, students participated in Urban-training programme and were acquainted on Kitchen-Gardening and Organic farming. Students participated in various events, including quiz, essay writing, drawing competitions, Slogan competition. These events were centered around themes such as International Tiger Day, World Lion Day, World Ozone Day etc. Students also prepared beautiful bird nests in bird nest making competition.

5. Evidence of Success:

- (1) **AY 2018-19:** The Eco Club students were awarded certificates for their environmental activities. They hoped to learn more about environment through educational excursions and environmental activities.
- (2) **AY 2019-20:** Participation in environmental sustainability activities has given students a holistic approach about Bio diversity and Environment awareness. Students developed a greater understanding of ecological balance and its conservation through their interactions with nature.
- (3) **AY 2020-21:** Cultivation of medicinal plants was carried out on campus. Students celebrated pollution free festival by making Natural Clay Ganesha – chemical free and non-polluting idols. Students participated in poster making competition on the theme of “I Love Sparrow” and achieved First Prize and Certificate from GEER Foundation.
- (4) **AY 2021-22:** Students were made aware about nature preservation, healthy and green environment. Development and maintenance of green campus has helped students in identifying Plant and Bird species.
- (5) **AY 2022-23:** Students gained an understanding on how to conserve nature, treat forest as their friend and convert “best out of the waste” for sustainable development. Students participated in Nature camp, Tree-plantation programme and Quiz, Drawing Competition on theme of Environment. Certificates were awarded to participants.


6. Problems Encountered and Resources required:

Students and faculty members encounter challenges in incorporating environmental activities into their regular academic schedules due to time constrain. Non-availability of regular gardeners/helpers was the major set-back.

7. Notes:

Debate, Kitchen gardening, organic farming programs, rallies regarding environmental issues and energy conservation can be done.




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