

BEST PRACTICES 16 - 17

Best Practice 1. Nurturing Inclusion in Students (would be teachers)

Goal:

- To create awareness and sensitize the students towards inclusion and its practices
- To develop the skills and the attitude pertaining to inclusion.

Context:

Inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, disability, medical or other need. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and getting rid of discrimination and intolerance.

The philosophy of inclusion rests on the idea that every individual regardless of his/her abilities or disabilities has the right to be incorporated fully into the fabric of the society.

To transact that knowledge among our students the syllabus of all the courses comprises of core course on Inclusive Education

The future teachers need to know and acknowledge the diversity and should be equipped with the approaches and strategies essential in dealing with inclusive classroom.

With this motto , our institution had organised various activities throughout the year to make the students understand and value diversity, develop competence on inclusion which involved a multifaceted pedagogy that recognises how teaching should take account of children's individual characteristics; the learning that takes place outside school; and learners' previous knowledge, individual and cultural experiences and interests.

The activities steered by the institution are as follows:

- A visit to an inclusive school named Ankur Vidya Mandir was organised. The school believes in bringing about an educational revolution to ensure the right of equal opportunity to all. The philosophy of inclusive education at Ankur Vidya Mandir is based on Awareness, Acceptance and Assistance. The students of our institution interacted with the teachers of the school and they were also oriented about the inclusive practices taking place at the school.

- Guest lectures on inclusive education and its innovative practices were also conducted to make the students aware about the concept, principles and innovative practices of inclusive education.

Renowned inclusive schools from Pune city were invited to share their thoughts, experiences and pedagogies used in their schools. The following schools were part of the sessions

Sr. No.	School's Name	Representative from the School
1	Gram Mangal	Ms. UnnatiGokhale
2	AnkurVidyaMandir	Prin. Neeta Awate
3	Morris Trust	Ms. Medha Pathak
4	Euro International	Ms. ArpnaVinod
5	VanchitVikas	Dr. ShrikantGabale

Each school had its own distinctive approach and teaching methodology which was apparently seen in their presentations. These presentations/ sessions emphasised on the importance of creating and maintaining an environment conducive for inclusion where the teacher's role is instrumental. The teachers should develop and possess a positive attitude towards differently abled children and also be geared up with the skills required to deal with diversified learners.

- A two-day International Conference on "*Inclusive Education for Dynamic & Equitable Societies*" was organized. The main aim of the conference was to create awareness regarding need and importance of Inclusive Education for creating dynamic and equitable societies. The resource persons spoke about various aspects of inclusive education like use of technology in Inclusive Education, social discrimination and need of Inclusive Education for social integrity, change of attitude for inclusion, etc.
- Many Students of all the programs run by the institutions actively participated in the conference. Students also presented their papers on various subthemes of the conference.

Evidence of Success:

- It fostered a sense of understanding, respect and acceptance towards diversity in children.

- It helped in promoting skills required for inclusion which include the ability to: develop an understanding of the right of every child to learn in any school; gain knowledge about various disabilities and how they influence the learning processes of a child.
- It also helped in developing empathy and patience in dealing with students with special education needs; be open and actively seek knowledge on student-centred teaching methodologies; planning and teaching in order to meet the demands of students with disabilities.
- These activities made the students realise that Inclusion / Inclusive education is not an optional extra but is a basic necessity and having diverse population in the class is benefit for teachers which will give them a chance to develop their teaching skills , positive and optimistic attitude.

The students also acknowledged that good teaching is actually inclusive teaching. Good teachers value student diversity and focus on a student's strengths rather than deficits.

Problems encountered:

Planning is prepared in a perfect way, but to conduct all the activities including outside resources, sometimes face availability of Resources during the planned time slot. The problem was solved doing some minor changes in tentative schedule.

Resources required: Outside resources required are Inclusive Schools for visits, Experts from the inclusive schools to orient the students, Experts from and outside India for International conference, ICT enabled rooms etc.

Best Practice 2: Enhancing Students Perspective on Social Integration

- To train the students in making the community aware about social reformers of India.
- To strengthen community engagement strategies.
- To engage students in various social activities and to identify varied social roles.

Context: Social integration is the process of promoting the values, relations and institutions that enable all people to participate in social life on the basis of equality of rights, equity and dignity. It is an inclusionary goal, implies equal opportunities and rights for all human beings. With this thought, institution organises variety of social activities for students. Following are the activities organised by the institution.

Rallies and Day Celebration:

- **Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Puniyatithi Rally:** This rally was organised on 28th November 2016, thus creating community awareness for women education.
- **National Education Day Celebration:** 11th November is celebrated as National Education Day, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Institution celebrates this day by arranging few activities like speeches, acts and debates related to ideas and thoughts of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Students show their complete involvement in all these activities. Leading towards promotion of these thoughts in the society.
- **Paigambar Jayanti Rally:** Paigambar Jayanti Rally was arranged on 12th December 2016, spreading the message of Communal Harmony.
- **Shiv Jayanti Rally:** During the independence struggle, leaders appropriated Shivaji as a symbol of resistance and valour against the invading forces to help strengthen the freedom movement. Shiv Jayanti rally was organised on 19th February conveying Shivaji Maharaj's thoughts, like Swaraj, equality and brotherhood. Students pass on the message of Shivaji Maharaj during the rally through banners, posters, songs on bravery and patriotism of Shivaji and his soldiers (mawalas).
- **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti Rally:** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti Rally was arranged on 14th April for promoting constitutional obligations amongst the community. Rally showcased 'Pune Pact' of 1932 through live tableau. 'Pune Pact' is An agreement between Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi was signed on September 24, 1932.

All the faculty members and the students participate with enthusiasm in all these rallies.

- **Community Service:** Institution arranges various visits throughout the year. They are as follows:
 - Visit to old age home (Prem Niwas, Sandhya Home and Pitashree Vrudhashram)
 - Visit to orphanages (Tayyabia, Anjuman Islam, Darul Uloom Qamar Ali Duresh, Safosh Sasson Hospital)
 - Visit to NGO's.

Students arrange recreational activities for the elderly people in the old age home and children in the orphanages. Along with this, they also take care of studies of orphanage children. Our

students helped orphanage children to develop few of their skills like drawing, painting, dancing, gardening etc.

Working with NGO's give them an idea and a firsthand experience about various social issues and concerns and ways to tackle/ deal it.

Evidence of Success:

- Student developed a bond between them and community.
- Students developed awareness about various social reformers of India and their contribution in women education, communal harmony, equity and constitutional obligations and they communicated the same.
- It developed a sense of community awareness among students.
- Students also developed an insight about the ideas and thoughts promoted by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- Through these activities students acquired knowledge about various issues and concerns of the orphans and elderly people and develop sensitivity towards them. It also helped to mould students to become responsible citizens.

Problems encountered:

Hesitation from student's side at earlier stage of visits to old age homes or orphanages

But once they became familiar with the atmosphere, the problem disappeared and students started developing sensitivity towards these people.

Resources required:

Material for banners posters drapery, literature books, Availability of old age homes and orphan ages with respect to their permission.