



KUKKE SRI SUBRAHMANYESHWARA COLLEGE, SUBRAHMANYA

Best practices successfully implemented by the Institution

Best practice 1:

1. Title of the Practice : Mid-day meal (Annaprasada)

Description of the title: Free mid-day meal to all students and staff during working days is called Annaprasada.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

Following are the aims of Annaprasada:

- ❖ To minimize the incidental expenses of education for rural students which discourage them in accessing higher education.
- ❖ To help economically poor students to overcome hunger.
- ❖ To provide hygienic food.
- ❖ To increase the working hours and attendance.
- ❖ To make the staff available in the campus for interaction during the lunch break.
- ❖ To iron out the barriers of caste and religion.
- ❖ To help the day scholars who travel from remote places to reach the College on time.

Principles and Concepts: The fundamental principle of dana deeply ingrained in the Indian tradition is the motivating factor behind Annaprasada scheme/ practice. Dana, in the sense of feeding the hungry that bestows on the giver a sense of fulfilling life's mission on the earth and makes the receiver to continue the tradition as and when he/she gathers affluence. Annadana and Vidyadana function as the twin eyes of the Indian society having shades of gurukula of yore. In a democratic society a scheme like Annaprasada aims to fulfill the goals of equality, social justice, leadership responsibility, and division of labour.

3. The Context:

The practice of free distribution of mid-day meal to the students of the College initially started in the annashala (common dining hall) of Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple. However, with the passing of years certain difficulties arose at the implementation stage on account of the growing number of pilgrims who also received bhojana along with the students. The place became crowded and more than that the students had to walk a kilometer after the classes at 1 p.m. to reach the temple dining hall to receive annaprasada. There were long queues and waiting for one's turn to receive food created a lot of hardship for students. To overcome this difficulty due to the proposal of the IQAC, the College Management and the Temple authorities decided to

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launch Annaprasada to the stakeholders of the College within the campus. The innovative scheme changed the whole dimension of Annaprasada and facilitated the students to access the higher education. This shift of distribution venue facilitated a number of changes having a direct bearing on the stated aims.

4. The Practice:

Kukke Sri Subrahmanaya temple situated in Sullia of Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka is a noted pilgrimage centre in India and Kukke Sri Subrahmanyeshwara College is established and managed by the same temple. It is one of the very famous temples in the state of Karnataka coming under the control of the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment Department.

A portion of the temple revenue is dedicated for the promotion of education and this has enabled the temple management to start a pre-university and an under-graduate College in Subrahmanya. Around 2,000 students from the surrounding villages study in these two educational institutions as day scholars. The idea of feeding students was mooted immediately after the establishment of institutions. Since then the practice of feeding the students has continued uninterruptedly for the last 40 years. This mid-day meal includes sumptuous lunch that includes a variety of dishes along with Payasam (sweet rice pudding). It is needless to say that the quantity of food given to students is based on a motto "each according to his / her need". The food is prepared in the temple kitchen using fuel saving technology called steam-stoves. Then the prepared food is transported in a vehicle to the College. This food is distributed to students in two separate distribution counters for men and women. Sufficient care is taken to serve the food in a hygienic environment and methods. The vessels / utensils and plates are cleaned twice. The students clean their individual plates immediately after finishing their meal. Then the support staff of mid-day meal section clean the paraphernalia involved in the practice. Every day the plates are kept for drying inside a room free of dust. An amount of Rs. 100 is collected annually from every student which is pooled for the salary of the support staff. The temple management meets the expenses of the transport cost. In order to serve the food, systematic arrangement is in place. The IQAC of the College has devised a strategy for food distribution to all the students. A system is put in place so that food distribution is assigned to students by turn. A class-wise time table with faculty in-charge is prepared in the beginning of the academic year. Accordingly the service is rendered and the whole process of distribution food is done in about half an hour. Another interesting practice in this scheme is that the Principal, teachers and non-teaching staff also clean their own plates. An idea of self-help is imbibed through the practice besides demolishing the barriers of caste, creed, hierarchies etc., through the Practice of Annaprasada.

5. Evidences of Success:

The scheme Annaprasada is a highly successful one both in its implementation and outcome. It is a time saver for both the students and staff. Punctuality of the students for afternoon classes and maximum attendance are noted on account of this practice. Additional time is available for students to visit library, engage in co-curricular activities, and to meet faculty. The impact of this scheme could also be seen in the increase in the pass percentage of students in the exam which has always remained above Mangalore University overall percentage. An unseen but strongly felt result is the inculcation of value based education by the students reflected in social


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harmony established through this scheme. Students belonging to all castes / communities/ religions serve, share, and satiate themselves, a unique way of practicing co-existence by creating a nationalistic space in the academic environs. The feedback collected by the IQAC reflects a high level of satisfaction.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required :

Due to growing number of pilgrims and increased pressure on the temple management in distributing food to the pilgrims at the temple, sometimes transportation of food to the College is delayed. In spite of the best efforts made by the College team in charge of the practice, once or twice in a year, food is not received on time. Except this there are no hardships encountered in the implementation of the Practice. Resource crunch is never felt in the implementation of the scheme as temple management is self-sufficient to run the program besides there is a steady flow of income for the Temple Trust. However, the College IQAC has felt that a dedicated modern Dining Hall within the College campus can render the practice more effectively. The idea of a dedicated Dining Hall is in the pipeline. A few NGOs are also involved in helping the Temple Trust in running the scheme.

Best practice 2:

1. Name of the Practice: KUSUMASARANGA (Student Theatre Unit)

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- ❖ To train the students to acquire skills related to theatre activities.
- ❖ To produce plays on contemporary issues and educate the community.
- ❖ To make students to explore employment opportunities in art and cultural fields.
- ❖ To encourage and preserve Indian traditional art forms.

Principles and Concepts:

Definitely the concept of dukha or sorrow has been one of the prime concerns of the philosophical discourses for a long time in the traditions of India. To overcome dukha the natyashastra of Bharatha is a divine intervention. Elements of plot, acting, music and rasa were drawn from the Vedas to create a new Veda called natyaveda to entertain sarvavarnika. That is to say, that the very idea of theatre is an attempt to remove sorrow that engulfs the common humanity. Theatre art as a confluence of many forms of culture leads to rasothpathi among varied categories of people who witness the performance. Theatre education thus broadens the horizon of the higher education beyond the precincts of College to a larger world outside.

3. The Context:

The beginning of KUSUMASARANGA (the acronym stands for Kukke Sri Subrahmanyeshwara Mahavidyalaya Samskrithika Ranga) way back in 1993 was a significant cultural event in Subrahmanya. This troupe began when television was making its inroads into the life of villagers distancing the younger generation from art forms which were the part of their cultural identity. It was felt at that point of time that the television as a

passive form of entertainment needs to be countered through invigorating the existing tradition of theatre art. At the same time the dramas of NINASAM repertory staged in Subrahmanya and the availability of trained directors were opportune moments to start a theatre unit in the College. The decennial year celebrations of the College gave thrust to the first one month long drama production workshop in 1993. The opening of Madhavamantapa, a spacious auditorium by Sri Samputa Narashimha Mutta in Subrahmanya coupled with charitable public support for the drama workshops and productions continued uninterruptedly. So far a total of 29 dramas of reputed dramatists were staged in the last 29 years. Today KUSUMASARANGA is an important student theatre movement / troupe in the state of Karnataka.

4. The Practice:

The debut of a student into theatre training begins with the enrolment for a workshop. Usually the workshop is organized during summer vacation. A batch of 15-20 members consisting men and women aspirants/ entrants is formed. A director having considerable experience is chosen /invited to conduct the month long workshop. The theatre training is residential by nature and offered free to students. The convener of KUSUMASARANGA and few other faculty members shoulder the tasks like mobilizing resources, conducting publicity drive, fixing the shows, and managing the event. The trainees attend the workshop early in the morning for a workout session between 7 am and 8 am Later on they are taught stage movements (angika abinayan) to discipline gestures and postures in accordance with theories of abinaya/acting before adjourning for breakfast. The forenoon sessions offer lessons in history of drama, acting skills and theories related to theatre. Afternoon and evening time are used for the rehearsal of drama text. Thus in about three to four weeks time a drama is readied for performance. The services of costume, make –up artists and musicians are hired who also train the students in those specialized field of theatre. On the penultimate evening of the workshop dress rehearsal is conducted. The workshop formally concludes with a premiere attended by good number of theatre lovers, parents and the public. Honorarium to the director, the backstage artists, the sound and light technicians are paid from the public contribution raised for the purpose. After the production and premiere of drama the troupe accepts contracts from the public to perform in the villages and surrounding taluks. The expenses necessary for staging of the drama are met by the organizers. Depending on the quality of stage production the numbers of shows vary every year. Festival season, literary meets, and competitions create opportunity for drama shows. Looking at the learning outcome, the theatre activities teach the students not only acting skills, stage design, backstage work, music, leadership, inter-personal skills, event management and socializing skill. Students of KUSUMASARANGA are felicitated at the end of every academic year as recognition for their skills and efforts. It is needless to say that it is offered as a certificate course.


5. Evidences of success:

KUSUMASARANGA, the student theatre unit of the College has drawn considerable attention of the public in the state of Karnataka. The dramas produced by it have received prizes in the inter-college competitions. It has received the best troupe award at the state

level. Government organizations, NGOs, clubs and associations have invited the troupe to perform on various occasions. Researchers working in the area of theatre studies have approached the unit to gather data and conducted interviews of artists. Doordarshan Kendra of Bengaluru screened the play Chora Purana staged by the College troupe. Media has given regular coverage of the events of the troupe from time to time. Karnataka Nataka Academy has sponsored the drama production of the troupe. Moreover reputed as well as budding directors have directed plays in the 29 years of its existence. For students it has become a springboard to attain a career in the field of art and culture. The selfless service and sacrifice of the convener of the troupe was duly honored with a State Award in 2010-11 by the government. The troupe was able to hold grand celebrations during the decennial, Vimshati and silver jubilee celebrations. The cultural worth of a drama troupe, especially for the younger generation seen in the context of its social acceptance is unfathomable.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Initially the theatre unit faced the problem of student enrolment. To overcome this concern, the faculty involved in theatre movement had to work overtime and motivate the students for enrolment. The faculty joined the troupe and started the activities and was successful in drawing the attention of the students. The organizational skills of the convener /faculty and the successful shows resulted in the increase in the enrolment of students. Paucity of financial resources was also a cause of concern during the nascent years. However, with the efforts made by the troupe and continuous staging of the plays in and around the vicinity, the public started to come forward and funding was never a problem later on. Today, KUSUMASARANGA is not only financially sound but also a name to reckon with.


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