

Institutional Best Practices

Title of the Activity

CHATHRA SAMVARDHANI (छात्रसंवर्धनी)-Support to Financially backward Students

Objectives of the Practice

The college is collecting individual profile from students at the time of admission. From these profiles, we understand that most of them belong to financially backward families. Some of them have to depend private hostels for residence as the construction of the college hostel for ladies is yet to complete. The college has noticed that many of the students especially girls have dropped their education due to inability of their parents to pay the hostel fees. Once the ladies hostel construction is finished, the problem will be resolved. But for the time being in order to support these students the college decided to give a support to those who deserve it. IQAC suggested that such assistance may be done on departmental basis as they can easily understand the needful one. So, every department extends financial support to their students adopting two criteria. Criteria

1(a). Providing hostel fee for hostel inmates.

1 (b) Educational aid to day scholars.

2. Incidental assistance on special needs.

The main objective behind such as assistance is to minimize dropout of students because of financial constraints. This will facilitate in sustaining of the academically better students especially girls in the higher education. Thus the college assures its social commitment towards weaker sections in the society.

Under the head incidental assistance to students, we extend support in medical needs, helping them to participate cultural activities and even in constructing homes.

The amount for such assistance is raised by departments through monthly contributions from the teachers.

The Context

Contribution of the faculties in the departments is the single component in this practice. There was the difficulty in tracing out the deserving students. After verifying the students' profile, the class tutor personally contacts the parents to ensure the necessities. Sometimes the teachers of the department visits their home.

There are 12 direct beneficiaries who got hostel fee assistance. Out of them, two students completed their courses successfully. Others are continuing their studies.

Preservation of Manuscripts

Government Sanskrit College, Tripunithura is well-known among the world of Sanskrit by its treasure of Manuscripts. The manuscripts library was established in 1927. Scores of rare manuscripts, scripted either

on palm leaves or paper from different corners are stored here. There are 1470 palm leaves and 533 handwritten paper scripts. The subjects dealt with in these books are ancient wisdom on Mathematics, Ayurveda, Jyotisha, grammar, philosophy, and literature. Domini Goodal, a researcher from England remarked – “I was amazed to see several versions of Raghuvamsam, in this unique storehouse of Manuscripts.” He added that the authorities should take this knowledge bank to the entire world so that the world will know the richness of Indian literary heritage. (The New Indian Express.-2-8-2010). Many scholars from in and out of the country had mentioned this library during their visits. This shows the importance of the library in the area of research. The physical condition of these books are deteriorating because of dust and other weather conditions. These manuscripts represent an age of intellectual development of our ancestors. Thus it has a cultural and heritage value. The preservation of manuscripts is thus a part of preservation of culture and heritage. This college is the only one of its kind, which preserves the treasure of knowledge with preserving the heritage.

Every year, the college utilizes an average amount of Rs. 200000/ from its allocation to library development for this purpose. More than 90% of these scripts are preserved in digital forms. Still the college tries to protect the original manuscripts in its own form with a cultural value.

The context

The main challenge in the preservation of manuscripts is the non-availability of properly trained hands to do the work. The college notifies the matter through newspapers and other media and selects the eligible quoting from the available tenders. The work requires time, dedication, and patience along with the skill. Vision of the college is to evolve and energize Sanskrit with a view to create a refined scholarly and edified student community. This requires production and dissemination of original thoughts once created, through proper preservation. Thus college, through the activity of manuscript preservation tries to attain its vision. To achieve this vision we have also included – enable the grater academic community to appreciate the value of Sanskrit and Indology. This preservation satisfies the mission also. In other words, we are trying to achieve the vision through this mission.

Evidence of success

More than 95% of the preserved manuscripts are good condition. Researchers from different part of the world are visiting this library to have references. This adds more value to the knowledge dissemination.