

1. Title of the practice:

Social outreach activities

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice

'Not me but us' is the need of the hour. Close knit interaction with people belonging to all possible social strata nurtures a sense of responsibility in the growing minds of the students and instills the sense of empathy for their fellow members in the wider society. The target group at the receiving end is equally benefitted. The practice also ensures holistic development of the students in line with the vision of the institution.

3. Objectives of the practice

To develop a sense of compassion in the young minds for the deprived sections of the society and to enable them to reach out to their requirements in whatever small way possible.

4. The Practice

There are four units of social outreach activities in the institution namely: National Social Service Unit, Leadership Training Service Unit, Community Outreach Social Unit and Social Welfare Committee. These units try to touch the less privileged sections of the society with different kinds of activities conducted all round the year. Each committee comprises teachers as well as student members who meet at the beginning of each session to plan out the year round activity calendar. The responsibilities are distributed and the students organize the events under the supervision of the teacher members. For the NSS unit, the guidelines laid by the UGC and the affiliating university, is followed. The other three committees focus their activities in other possible

areas.

The activities of these committees include Special Camps in Children's Homes; distribution of stationery, woollengarments, books, new clothes etc. in old age homes, slums, children's homes; organization of cultural activities; health and hygiene awareness camps; blood donation camps; contributions in various relief funds during natural disasters; spreading environmental and social awareness and many more.

5. Obstacles faced

The highly urban location of the institution was an initial hurdle in locating the focus groups, along with the fact that being an all girls' college there were other issues like security of the students that needed to be addressed.

6. Impact of the practice

The practice of being attached to social causes as a part of their academic training is carried forward when the students continue to do the same later in life. The satisfaction and sense of fulfillment that they get through the lovely smiles of those who they associate with cannot be quantified. The students take away a life lesson from their own activities that help to enrich them as human being. We have many social entrepreneurs and social workers among our alumni. We also share a very long association with renowned organizations working for various social issues, who eagerly collaborate with us in various ways.

Adapting to the new normal:

Even during the hard times of the pandemic when the institution space became inaccessible and physical meetings were not possible the social outreach units adapted to the need of the hour and continued their services

towards the society in all possible ways. Contributions and donations were forwarded to various social welfare organizations. Student members were also encouraged to participate in various activities and webinars that included relevant topics like yoga, mental wellbeing, health awareness, legal issues, social causes, gender stereotypes, waste management, career opportunities and such others. Volunteers are taking online classes, many of them have used the college NSS platform to help people in pandemic times by posting information about availability of blood, oxygen supply, hospital beds etc. They have also collected money and other useable articles from doorsteps of donors through collaboration to help people affected by the pandemic and Amphan, the cyclone.

7. Resources required

A dedicated group of teachers and students as well as administrative and financial help from institution as and when required.

8. About the Institution

i. Name of the Institution :Shri Shikshayatan College

ii. Year of Accreditation: 2016.

iii. Address: 11, Lord Sinha Road, Kolkata-700071.

iv. Grade awarded by NAAC :A (CGPA: 3.24)

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