

Andhra Loyola College (Autonomous), Vijayawada - 8

7.2 BEST PRACTICES

Practice - 1

1. Title of the Practice

Andhra Loyola Assistance for Neighbourhood Advancement (ALANA)

2. Objectives of the Practice

The main aim of ALANA is to encourage and engage the students to teach as well as learn while teaching. The first-year undergraduates assist the students of classes VI to VIII of **Government Schools, Zilla Parishad Schools, Social Welfare Hostels, Municipal Schools and Churches** to complete their assigned home tasks and to critically analyse and correlate the learned concepts. The senior faculty members organize Refresher Courses and training sessions to the teachers to keep them at pace with the updated technology and teaching methodologies. The management provides laboratory, computer labs, and library facilities to all the students. It also has a Feeding Programme called **Manna**, through which it takes care of the destitute, migrant labourers and pavement dwellers.

3. The Context

One of the goals of the college is to form a society filled with contentment and cheerfulness, free from agony and anguish

The College has a vision of supporting and supplementing the basic amenities to every individual in need. With this vision, this extension service began in the academic year 2012-2013 spreading its branches helping the deprived people in various domains. It didn't stop with just teaching the students at schools, but also extended its service to feed the hungry. Vijayawada is home to migrant workers who come from various parts of the country for their survival. As many of them cannot afford even the basic needs, these are supplied by the college. It always has a lending hand to support the people, so it continued its services during the pandemic by distributing food, medicine and clothes to the destitutes.

4. Practice

Social service is not simply helping the needy. ALANA programme inculcates the leadership qualities, team work, a sense of responsibility and compassion in the students. They naturally develop the three C's in course of their service. Commitment, Cooperation and Collaboration help them to finetune their social skills. When they visit schools, they are exposed to an environment which empowers them to learn more than they teach. They become more sophisticated and refined while teaching others because they can understand the simple logic that before they teach others, they have to groom themselves. When they feed or distribute mosquito coils or blankets, they experience the real happiness of giving and sharing. They also develop empathy and sympathy towards the destitute and deprived. Apart from education, students should be exposed to social activities that naturally mould them and educate them to be responsible citizens.

5. Evidence of Success:

To foster scientific temper and empower real learning, more emphasis was laid on practical learning. The following programmes were organized

- The Municipal Corporation High School and Care and Share Municipal Corporation High School students from 7th to 9th standards attended the programme OPEN LAB-OPEN HOUSE organized by ALANA in association with the Department of Physics on 14.12.2018. Along with the students, the teachers also participated in the programme, exploring experiments
- This programme was continued for the next academic year and students of 8th and 9th standards from Zilla Parishad High School, T.M.R.C Municipal High School, Bishop Azariah Girls High School and G.D.E.T Municipal High School attended and enjoyed the real fun of learning by doing experiments
- Under the programme of ALANA-MANNA, a philanthropic activity, the poor and the destitute received food. Old clothes, blankets and mosquito coils were distributed to the migrant workers and footpath dwellers.
- Girl students nursed, fed and cared for the old and sick women catering to their needs
- Old clothes were distributed to Rag Pickers at Penamaluru, Poranki and Tadepalli rural areas and new clothes were distributed on the eve of Semi-christmas
- Packed food materials, medicines and other essentials were distributed to the people on roadsides during Pandemic.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Despite the meticulous planning, well-designed structure and good man power, there are some obstacles to reach to a good number of people. Some of the following problems are hindrances to run the programme smoothly.

- ✓ Students have to miss their instruction classes
- ✓ More social organizations should collaborate to expand the programme

Practice - 2

1. Title of the Practice

Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs [HEPSN]

2. Objectives of the Practice

HEPSN is to help the students with disabilities by creating a suitable environment. It assists the visually, orthopedically challenged and hearing-impaired students with the support from the NGOs like Help the Blind Foundation, Hong Kong, Enable India-Bangalore, Department of Disabled Welfare and Senior Citizens, Government of Andhra Pradesh and AP State Skill Development Corporation [APSSDC]. The students receive not only physical help but are also emotionally strengthened that they are on a par in excellence. They are also financially supported through scholarships.

3. The Context

The main objective behind the programme is to transform the disabled students to differently abled. Apart from the resources, they need moral support, which is provided to the students by inspiring them through a series of interactive sessions with their seniors who are settled securely and steadily. HEPSN strengthens and supports them to face the challenges and issues they encounter in their personal as well as professional life. It enables them to explore a new world beyond their narrow confines and prove their ability.

4. The Practice

Actions speak more than words, motivating and supporting them alone would not help them a lot. HEPSN involves the peer group members to assist and aid them in grooming their personality. The role of volunteers is crucial and appreciable as they act as scribes, support as readers, train them in computers and organize various activities. Being with the disabled students, the volunteers and the peer group members are sensitized towards the hardships and they are more concerned and compassionate towards them. The coordinator of HEPSN attends various meetings and workshops to provide more facilities to them by exploring the opportunities they have. Resource rooms, access ramps, movement free corridors, lift facility, washrooms for students and wheel chairs are provided for the students.

5. Evidence of Success

It is not as easy as we say, but it was proved, it was done.

- ✓ Mr Moses Chowdary is working as a Master Trainer at Enable India, Bangalore, Dr P Nagaraju is a Post-Doctoral Fellow, HCU and a Writer in Telugu, Mr Chiranjeevi and Mr K Nagaraju are Probationary Officers in State Bank of India and Allahabad Bank, Mr N. Siva Kumar is working as a Clerk in Andhra Bank, Mr Mehraj and Mr Naresh were appointed in Government services as Junior Assistants and all are visually challenged alumni while Mr Durga Rao an acclaimed football player is orthopedically challenged
- ✓ Dr G Sahaya Baskaran, Coordinator, HEPSN was honoured for his invaluable services by Mrs Paritala Sunita, Honourable Minister, Welfare of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Government of Andhra Pradesh on the 209th Birth anniversary celebrations of Louis Braille, on 4th January 2017 in Vijayawada and he also attended a meeting organized by the Help the Blind Foundation and made a presentation on the ground realities in Higher Education for the Visually Challenged in Colleges and the need for Career Development through Resource Centres held at Loyola College, Chennai on 10th December 2018
- ✓ Mr Srikanth Reddy, a visually challenged student interacted with Mr N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon. Chief Minister during the Jnanabheri meeting held on 20th September 2018 and the Staff, Students and Volunteers visited Amaravathi to express their gratitude for the GO issued to provide Laptops to all the Degree students with disabilities on 21nd September 2018
- ✓ The students were trained in computers by Enable India in June and July, 2016, 2017 and 2018 consecutively and a one-month long Workshop on **Computer Skills** was organized by Enable India, Bangalore in collaboration with HEPSN from 25.06.2018 to 20.07.2018 to ALC and other students. Two visually challenged trainers Mr Siva Sankar and Mr Lakshmi Narayana trained the students. An MOU was signed with **Enable India** and Digital Literacy Lab for visually impaired was inaugurated at Fr Gordon Library.
- ✓ Help the Blind Foundation, Chennai gave scholarships worth Rs. 7.25 Lakhs, to 56 visually challenged students of ALC, and other Colleges in Guntur on 20.11.2018.

- ✓ At a State Level Sports Meet organized by the Department of Disabled Welfare and Senior Citizens of AP at the IGM Stadium, ALC visually challenged Team won 4 prizes in partially blind and totally blind categories in Chess and Shot put.
- ✓ Mr P Sai Vinay of B.A Literature received Pratibha Award from the Government of AP for scoring 886 marks in Intermediate and also for being the topper among the visually challenged students in the State.
- ✓ HEPSN in collaboration with Madonna Comprehensive Resource Centre organized a Certificate Course on ICT Tools for the hearing-impaired students of Madonna College for the Deaf from 30th October to 2nd November, 2018 at Madonna Center

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- To cater to the needs of the increasing number of students, additional manpower and resources are required
- The scribes miss their class works