

1. Title of the Practice:

Empowering Women through Self-Employment to Self-dependence

Objectives of the Practice:

1. To make our girls a competent part of the society.
2. To develop creativity, art and environment-friendliness in them.
3. To make the college youth self-dependent and self-confident.
4. To train women from the local community to become self-dependent

The Context:

It is important to cultivate the values of self-dependence and self-confidence in young women and also make them financially independent. This should happen at an early age. Education does not guarantee employment at present and hence self-employment has become very important. There are glaring problems of divorcees, widows and other deprived women in the society. These problems create a pressing need for the women to be self-dependent through self-employment. With this aim, the Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development Cell works in our college for the benefit of our female students and other women from the local community. The cell promotes creativity among the students and other women keeping in view, the growing demand for handicraft in the society.

The Practice:

Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development Cell is working in the institution since 2002. It was formally recognized in 2005. A self-employment training center works under this cell. The cell organizes trainings for our girls as well as other women from the local community. The highlights of the work of this cell are as follows:

➤ **Linkage with NisargSanstha:**

We have a linkage with NiasargaSanstha run by MrsNitaitaiBobdey who creates all sorts of artistic and useful things from the plant waste. She creates beautiful things likejewelleryand showpieces from seeds, twigs, fruits, stems and leaves. Through this linkage, we take the benefit of the expertise of our mentor Mrs. Bobdey to the students and women in the society through our trainings. These programmes are being conducted since 2002. Some of them are conducted in collaboration with other NGOs also.

➤ **Nature of the Training:**

- Art from Waste and Enterprise through Art:

We provide training to create artefacts from waste with minimum investment. There is a good demand for these things. Along with income, the trainees also harbor a love for Nature.

- Attractive Bouquets from Plastic Waste:

From 2016, we have been giving training to create bouquets from plastic waste. These bouquets are used in various functions in the college and thus, the students get a chance to earn in the college itself.

- Earning through Nutritious Cooking:

We train our girls and other women in the society to cook nutritious food items and sell them in the market. Thus, they get a chance to earn while nutritious food is served in the market. We also give training for creating the various things needed for festivals and special occasions.

➤ **Evidence of Success:**

The details of various programmes we organized and the number of beneficiaries speak for our success. The events organized in the last five years can be listed as follows:

- Short Term Course-Entrepreneurship Training and Guidance (September 2012 to February 2013 on every Saturday)
- Handicraft and Cookery Workshop- (Best from the Waste, Gift of Nature, Feather Wool artefacts) 50 beneficiaries. Certificates distributed on the occasion of International Women's Day – 08.03.2013
- 03.04.2014- Portable Rangoli Workshop.
- Gift of Nature – Show-Pieces and Artificial Jewelry Preparation Training 03-04 January, 2015.
- 14.09.2015 Training on Cooking Nutritious Food – Organized jointly with the Department of Home Economics.
- 24.09.2016- Workshop on Making Bouquet from plastic waste.
- 03 October, 2016- Inauguration of bouquet making business of the students at the hands of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 27-29 September, 2016- Microwave Oven Cooking and Baking
- 06.08.2017 Training for making Plastic Carry Bag Bouquet.
- 22.09.2017 Training for making festival artefacts.

- 12-18 September 2017 Bag exhibition and training workshop organized jointly with the Department of Home Economics.
- **22.09.2018 Workshop on Self employment**
- **07.01.2019 Entrepreneurship program on home decoration, Handicraft Items.**
- **11.03.2019 Training Programme: Making Eco friendly colours.**
- **06.01.2020 Workshop/ Training: Best from Waste**
- **25.09.2020 International level online training and Exhibition on Best out of Waste(<https://youtu.be/kXP7yCUNgcs>)**
 - **05.01.2022 Training programme : Sculpture from waste**
 - **<https://youtu.be/-1-cIhuVoDM>**

- Apart from this, we regularly conduct such workshops in our annual NSS camp.
- Our girl Students Puja Kapate, AnuradhaBharambe,HemaThakre, RajashreeBorade, PrajaktaChopde sell nutritious snacks prepared by them through the college canteen.
- Our girl students Nikita Ghule, MadhuriPawar, Puja Kapate, AnuradhaBharambe ,KiranArwade make bouquets from waste material. They earn through the Bouquets. College buys from them as per need.
- Our ex-studentsShilpaRathod and Dhanvantari Rathod also earned while learning through Bouquets.
- Special report about the work by our mentor MrsBobdey was broadcasted by NEWS 18 LOKMAT television channel (<https://youtu.be/qD-LiQ9SHL0>) and our student Madhuri Pawar is speaking about her experience (stream time from 2 min and 12 sec onwards).
- Over the last few years, our cell succeeded in making some of the girls' students and women from local community to become self employable. We have felicitated them in the recently organized Entrepreneurship fair on our campus. Theyshared their journey to become self-employable during the fair. Some of the links are provided in additional information file.

➤ **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

- Efforts had to be taken to counter the male domination in the society which sometimes does not allow women to undertake self-development courses or programmes.
- Counseling of students and other women had to be done to encourage them to join these programmes.
- We had to orient our beneficiaries for being quality conscious so that they can face market competition.
- As most of our projects were aimed at utilizing plastic and other waste, we had to mobilize very few resources. The expertise of Mrs Nitaitai Bobdey was the main resource for us. It is always available to us.
- To overcome the shortage of funds, we collaborated with NGOs like Inner wheel Club and Tilak Smarak Mahila Mandal.

2. Title of the Practice:

Student empowerment through Financial Aid

Objectives of the Practice:

1. To provide financial assistance to the needy and promising students for meeting various expenses to continue their education by raising funds from the faculty and staff.
2. To identify and help the students bereft of any assistance from the government.

The Context:

We noticed that there is a significant number of the needy students who get little or no financial assistance from the government for their education. Hence, we decided to setup a fund called Needy Students' Aid Fund in our institution in order to provide financial assistance to such students.

The Practice:

We made an appeal to our faculty and staff members to give voluntary financial contribution every year to the Needy Students' Aid Fund to which, all of them responded positively. The College Employees' Credit Cooperative Society donates Rs. 10,000/- every year from its surplus dividend. The management also contributes Rs. 10,000/ every year. Thus, the fund was setup in

2011 and a committee for inviting and scrutinizing applications from the needy students was setup. The committee selects the beneficiaries and they are given Rs. 1000/- each as financial assistance. This limit is sometimes waved depending on the case.

Evidence of Success:

So far, 173+28+24(225) students have been given a financial assistance of Rs. 1,75,000+ 22,000 +20000 (2,17,000) since 2011. During the session 2020-21, 36 students were given the benefit of the scheme worth Rs. 31,000. **During the the session 2021-22 , 38 students were given benefit of the scheme worth Rs. 37,000** This has helped them meet the rising expenses of their education. Most of the students from among the beneficiaries of this scheme have progressed to jobs or higher education.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- It was a challenge to identify the really needy students for which we setup a committee with the Chairman of our trust Dr. S. S. Bobdey as its president.
- Raising funds to help the students was a challenge which we met by appealing to our staff members and our co-operative society.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawar".

Dr. D. S. Talwankar

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