

Best Practice – 1

Title of the Practice:

Education based on “Earn and Learn” Concept

Objectives of the Practice:

Established in the year 2014, Anand Vishwa Gurukul Senior Night College is the first night degree college offering professional courses such as BBI, BAF, B.Sc.(IT) and BMS for working youth in Thane city and its surrounding areas. The College was founded with the following objectives:

- (a) To provide educational opportunities for individuals who may not be able to attend day time classes due to work or other commitments, thereby increasing access to higher education.
- (b) To offer career-oriented and job-oriented programmes to working students so that they may be able to upgrade their job positions over a period of time along with their educational upgradation.
- (c) To make contribution of the national objectives of increasing Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) at the higher education level by providing higher educational opportunities to working individuals.

The Context:

The College was founded in the year 2014 with an objective of providing higher education to working youth with only 3 UG programmes. Anand Vishwa Gurukul Senior Night College is the first night degree college in Thane city to offer professional development programmes to working students. Later in the year 2016, the College sought approval for 2 more professional development programmes for the working youth as per



their demand. The College plans to start post graduate programmes leading to M.Com. degree in accountancy and Business Management post-NAAC.

In addition to various university affiliated programmes, the College also offers number of certificate programmes, many of which are job-oriented to give better job prospects to aspiring students.

The Practice:

Realizing that most of the youth from Thane city prefer to join remunerative work after completing higher secondary education and there is no higher education institution in the city of Thane, Sharda Education Society submitted a proposal for starting a night degree college in the city.

- (a) The proposal received an approval from the Government of Maharashtra and the College saw light of the day in the year 2014 with 3 UG programmes affiliated to the University of Mumbai.
- (b) Considering the high demand for various self-financed programmes, the College started 2 more UG programmes in the year 2016.
- (c) The College starts its lectures at 4.30 p.m., which end at 9.00 p.m. Considering the work schedule of students, all internals and college level examinations are conducted post 5 p.m.
- (d) As most of the students from poor economic background, the average attendance in the class is much higher than the other colleges in the city. The average attendance in the class ranges from 60% to 70% during each semester.
- (e) In addition to various undergraduate programmes affiliated to the University of Mumbai, the College also provides UG programmes affiliated to Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU).
- (f) The College provides several job-oriented certificate and diploma courses such as for developing employability skills of students and provide them with better job opportunities.



Evidence of Success:

The concept of night Degree College offering professional development programme affiliated to the University of Mumbai was a grand success as evident from the following facts:

- (1) The enrollment ratio for all programme taken together during the last five years is 76.76%, which is satisfactory.
- (2) The success ratio of the College students during the last five years stands at 91.52%, which is much higher than the average results of the University.
- (3) The average attendance in class for all programmes ranges between 60% to 70%, which indicates the desire of students to learn and progress.
- (4) The Society provides scholarships/freeships to needy students on the basis of request received from them.
- (5) The College offers a number of job-oriented certificate and diploma programmes which have good response from the students.

Problems Encountered:

Starting a new college in growing urban areas like Thane was a challenge. But it was the determination of the Society to establish a college for the welfare of working youth in the city. The Society sought help from experts from education field and professionals from local areas and their collective efforts and hard work bore fruits, when the College received approval from the Government for the establishment of the first night degree college offering professional development programmes in Thane city.

Resources Required:

Various resources required for the practice includes – Physical infrastructure, furniture and fixtures, teaching and non-teaching staff.
