

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Govt. Degree College, Shopian

Best Practice #1

Title of the Practice: Project Hadaf-A civil service coaching initiative

The context that required the initiation of the practice: Every year hundreds of students from district Shopian and adjoining districts of Kulgam and Pulwama are forced to move to far off places for coaching and counseling for different state and national level civil service examinations. This puts the civil service aspirants under lot of financial and psychological stress. To overcome this and to help the aspirants in getting the requisite civil service training at their door steps, the college and the district Shopian administration stepped in and launched the first project of its kind for the benefit of the students of the area in the shape of Project Hadaf, aimed at training the civil service aspirants and honing their skills by way of making the services of serving and ex-bureaucrats as trainers.

Objectives of the practice:

1. To provide quality coaching for civil service for the local civil service aspirants.
2. To expose them to the experiences and expertise of the serving and ex-civil servants.
3. To help financially weak students realize their dream of getting coached for civil service exams.
4. To provide a platform for the students in general and girl student civil service aspirants in particular to hone their skills under the guidance of the best in the field.

The practice: The college is the lone college in Jammu and Kashmir to have launched an initiative of imparting free of cost coaching to the civil service aspirants of the valley. The initiative Project Hadaf was launched in collaboration with support of the district administration Shopian headed by the collector Mr. Yaseen Chaudhary. Nearly 150 civil aspirants of the valley were selected for coaching by way of a screening test. The aspirants were taught by the serving bureaucrats from within and outside J&K for more than 6 months. What made this initiative all the more remarkable is that the classes were not called off even during the Covid-19 pandemic. The initiative was lauded by one and all and

received applause from all sections of the society. What made the initiative worth all the effort was that civil service aspirants from different districts of the valley of Kashmir joined it making the experience an enriching one. A sizeable number of students came from ST/SC sections of the society.

Obstacles faced if any: The initiative faced many obstacles which were overcome successfully. However, the main obstacle that could have marred the intent and the objectives of the project was none other than the COVID-19 pandemic which struck just when the initiative was about to start. To overcome this and to run the programme smoothly while taking care of the health of students and the staff, the college in collaboration with the district administration and the health department took every possible step for ensuring safe and secure conduct of the programme for nearly six months. Covid appropriate behavior was enforced throughout the programme. Sanitizers and masks were provided at the entrance of the college as well as at the classroom doors, proper physical distancing in the classrooms and in the college campus was ensured with military discipline. The successful culmination of the programme could not have been ensured had these measures not been taken.

Impact of the practice: The initiative was successful in providing a platform for the civil service aspirants of the area. They had an opportunity to meet some of the well known serving IAS, JKAS and other highly ranked officers of the state. The programme being free, gave an opportunity to the financially weaker section of the society, especially the STs and SCs to improve their chances of making it to the prestigious civil services.

The project also helped in spreading awareness about the civil services as a career choice for the marginalized sections of the society. Since a good number of female aspirants enrolled themselves for the programme, it helped in empowering them with requisite knowledge of the opportunities offered by various civil services at the central as well as state level.

Resources required: The project required both material and human resource to be successful. Resource persons with experience and expertise in civil service exams were hired and payments to them were made from the funding done by the district administration. Classrooms with the state-of-the-art ICT technology were provided by the college free of cost. The Covid related expenditure was borne by the college. Besides this, the support staff and overall coordination was provided by the college.

Best Practice #2

Title of the Practice: Financial Help of the Needy Students

The context that required the initiation of the practice: The College has the noble legacy of helping out the students from financially weak backgrounds. At the start of each academic session the college staff, especially the teaching faculty, assembles to chalk out strategy for helping out the students who are in need of financial help. Details of the deserving students are collected from the admission section and all the necessary financial help with respect to the fees and other dues is provided. This is being done year after year. The practice is purely voluntary. In the year 2019, some 58 students were benefited by this initiative whose fees were either fully or partially funded by the contributions of the staff. The whole process is hassle free as the verification of the potential beneficiaries is done in such a way as would make the whole process confidential.

Objectives:

- a. To help the needy students with their fees for various UG programmes.
- b. To instill and reinforce a sense of duty towards the community.
- c. To help empower the weaker sections by way of making it easy for them to acquire higher education without having to bother about the financial implications of the same.
- d. Reaching out to the deserving meritorious students with financial help so that they realize their potential and to provide immediate need based help.

The Practice: At the start of each academic session the college staff, especially the teaching faculty, assembles to chalk out strategy for helping out the students who are in need of financial help. Details of the deserving students are collected from the admission section and all the necessary financial help with respect to the fees and other dues is provided. This is done year after year. The practice is purely voluntary. In the year 2019, some 58 students were benefited by this initiative whose fees were either fully or partially funded by the contributions of the staff. The whole process is hassle free as the verification of the potential beneficiaries is done in such a way as would make the whole process confidential. This community reach out programme has so far helped hundreds of needy students to get higher education without having to search for required financial resources.

Obstacles faced: The College would want to provide financial help to every single needy student but that is impossible to do given the scarce resources. The government offers hundreds of scholarships to the students but the money is transferred late when the students are well in the middle of their courses. So the financial help provided by the faculty to the students at the time of admissions is of critical significance. Moreover, the students from financially sound backgrounds also try to claim the financial assistance. So a thorough background check is necessitated taking much of manpower time.

Impact of the practice: The practice has helped hundreds of students. Year after year at the time of admissions, students approach the financial assistance committee for financial help. Applications are scrutinized meticulously and in a time bound manner. The Admission fee of the deserving students is deposited right away thus saving the students from mental agony.

Resources required: Since the college has a small community of teaching faculty, who make most of the contributions to the financial assistance fund, the financial assistance committee of the college is often faced with the lack of funds to help all the needy and deserving students. Further, false claims are made by some students to avail the financial assistance requiring a detailed background check of all the claimants which requires manpower.