

RENUKA DATTI- Best Practices 1

Title: Student Welfare Fund

Goal: Following are the aims of **Renuka Datti**:

- To instil the quality of charity in students and staff.
- To meet the primary requirements of economically weaker students of the college.
- To financially assist students as a part of social responsibility of the institution.
- To provide food coupons to the needy students.
- **Principles and Concepts:**
- Philanthropy is an integral part of the growing society. So, it becomes important to each individual to inculcate this quality. Charity done even in a small way goes on to make a greater impact in the lives of people who really need it. Thus, a small step is taken by the institution towards Philanthropy.

- **The Context:**

It has been observed that the institution has students who are financially very weak. These students find it very difficult to even pay their examination fees. The institution supports students with scholarships who are academically good. The students who are economically weak can avail the benefits of scholarships given by various organisations. Renuka Datti makes a small effort by paying their examination fees.

- **The Practice:**

The Student Welfare Committee-‘Samhitha’ takes the responsibility of ‘Renuka Datti’. The committee sends a circular to students and staff to voluntarily contribute to ‘Renuka Datti’. The respective class representatives collect the money and hand it over to their class teachers. Thereafter, the class teachers give the collected amount to the Student Welfare Committee. The collected amount is deposited in to the account maintained for ‘Renuka Datti’. Later, the committee members identify the needy students and help them in paying their examination fees. Needy students are provided with food coupons. The names of the beneficiaries are kept confidential.

- **Evidence of Success:**

A record of amount collected and disbursed is maintained by Student Welfare Committee. Since the inception of ‘Renuka Datti’ maximum students are financially benefitted.

- **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

The fund that comes to ‘Renuka Datti’ is a voluntary contribution by students and staffs. There is no specification or limitation to the amount donated. Therefore, the fund is not sufficient to cater to all the financial needs of the students. With the collected fund, ‘Renuka Datti’ can assist students by paying their examination fees only.

Best Practices-2

Title: MENTORING - ENABLING & EMPOWERING WOMEN STUDENTS

Goal:

To provide academic, social, moral and psychological support to women students throughout their stay in the college by being their empathetic, caring and nurturing mentors so that they become enabled & empowered women.

Context:

Ever since its inception, SJRCW has been concerned about creating self-awareness, self-worth and self-reliance, among its young women students. Fully aware of the fact that education liberates women; the college follows a policy which ensures their holistic development. Young women are made to realize and act accordingly to overcome the societal prejudices against women and socio-psychological pressures. Through mentoring the college ensures curricular development along with spiritual, cultural and emotional progression. Women Education being the sole tool for national development, the potential of the students is harnessed and impetus is provided to not just enhance IQ (Intelligent Quotient) but EQ (Emotional Quotient) and SQ (Social Quotient) through activities conducted under various fora of the college.

Following are the purposes of Mentoring:

- To review and enhance the individual's performance in tests and exams.
- To encourage students to actively participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- To redress their academic & personal problems through ensuring absolute confidentiality.
- To facilitate their physical well being.
- To help them connect with family, peers, teachers and society at large.

The Context:

The young women students especially are sensitive to the changing socio-cultural atmosphere. There is a greater need to address their problems of teenage and help them transform into better human beings and responsible citizens. In the new found freedom at college there are possibilities of them going astray or feeling lost. Hence it becomes important for the teaching fraternity to guide them in a friendly manner and comfort them when in distress. In this direction Mentoring is the best possible way of holding, moulding and creating the best in students.

The Practice:

- The student mentoring process has been a time-tested practice of the college which has met with enduring success and has proven to be beneficial to the students from the point of view of their all-round development.
- Through mentoring system every faculty member is assigned a group of 25 students. The teacher becomes the mentor for this group throughout their stay in the college. The teacher-mentor takes the responsibility of guiding these students through their academic life by caring for their intellectual, emotional and physical well-being.
- The faculty are trained in mentoring skills by eminent academicians, psychologists and behavioural therapists through Faculty Development Programmes.
- The trained mentors of the college then work under the guidance of the co-ordinator of the mentoring system, who is the Head of the Department of Psychology and is a trained counsellor herself. The Department of Psychology is entirely involved in this practice. Suggestions and advice are also sought from the professional in-house counsellor in these matters.
- Periodic meetings are conducted and the methodology adopted is revised and implemented to benefit the students.
- The format to collect Student data is planned and prepared thoroughly after discussion with the Principal, Counsellor and the faculty.
- The mentoring Booklet contains all the details of students including counseling issues, academic performance etc. Semester wise results are also recorded to monitor the progress of the students. All details of the students recorded by the mentor throughout the mentorship are kept strictly confidential. Any reference to the student during mentors meeting is made without naming the student.

- The mentor calls her students for an initial meeting where he/she will introduce themselves as mentors, brief the students about the mentoring process. From then on, the mentor has the responsibility of establishing a relationship with the students where there is mutual trust, respect, sensitivity and an empathetic understanding. The mentor provides a support system to the student which is conducive to academic growth of the student as well as her holistic development.
- The mentor tracks the student's progress or lack of it through the record of her attendance, performance in tests/exams and participation in co-curricular as well as extracurricular activities. Any shortcoming noticed is immediately attended to by the mentor who tries to resolve the issue in a number of ways.
- If the student has problems related to learning, then mentor helps her by dealing with the specific issue. Counselling issues involve learning issues, memory issues, emotional issues, financial hardships, family related anxiety, absenteeism, etc. Students are appropriately provided help through counselling.
- The mentor inspires bright students to excel, tries to motivate slow learners to perform better and encourage those interested in sports and other extracurricular activities and guides them in the right direction. The students are facilitated to discover their latent talents, encouraged to find their aptitudes for various subjects. They are also offered career guidance and those about to drop-out are retained by timely action.

Evidence of Success:

- The mentoring process has stood the test of time and has evolved in to a successful system of student support. It has become a classical way of making students to learn better, deal confidentially with obstacles, progress and achieve overall excellence.
- Mentors have been able to deal with students 'absenteeism very well with this system. There are many instances where the students have started attending classes regularly.
- Students with emotional problems have been identified and successfully treated by this system. Such students have gone on to develop a positive self-image, overcome their anxieties, handle their feelings better and improve their academic performances.
- Students who face psycho-social problems like eve teasing, sexual harassment, etc have been immensely helped by mentoring system. Students become confident, bold and excellent academically.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Mentoring requires a high level of commitment to the cause of student support. It makes a demand on the time and energy of the mentor, which sometimes the mentor may not be in a position to provide. Semester system also has imposed certain limitations.
- Certain family issues seem beyond redressal through counselling.
- The question of financial resources does not apply at all for mentoring as it is a completely low-cost, high-benefit system which only demands the time and involvement of the mentor.