



**Smt. Maniben M.P. Shah Women's College of Arts and Commerce**

**(Autonomous)**

## **7.2 Best Practices**

### **1. Title of the Practice:**

**Creating Intergenerational Bonding among Students to maintain the Fabric of Society**

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

- 1) Sensitising students towards issues and problems of elders and equip them with knowledge and techniques to take care of elders.
- 2) Supporting elders to visualise the common issues related to aging and be defensive and protect themselves by taking all precautions related to diet, exercise, financial planning etc.

### **3. The Context**

The world has more older people than children, and more people of extreme old age than ever before. India is also undergoing unprecedented demographic changes. Increasing longevity and falling fertility have resulted in a dramatic increase in the population of adults aged 60 and above, in both absolute and relative terms. This change presents wide-ranging and complex health, social and economic challenges, both current and future, to which this diverse and heterogeneous country must rapidly adapt. Average Indian life expectancy increased significantly, in the year 2005 it was 63.5 years, 2015 it was 67.7, which has become 69.27 years in 2020.

### **4. The Practice**

College planned to shoulder the social responsibility by educating and sensitizing our young girls towards elders. Students are to be developed with skills as future citizens to take care of the elderly and maintain the ethos of our culture of compassion and care towards elders. Our college in association with HelpAge India, an NGO working with elderly have conducted number of activities since the last 12 years such as students visiting the Nana-Nani Parks (located at various places in Mumbai), and spending time with seniors; celebrating Valentine's Day with senior citizens and arranging various games and fun activities for them. 10 students have celebrated Deepotsav with senior citizens at Nana Nani School, Charni Road on 11<sup>th</sup> November,

2019. ‘World Elderly Abuse Awareness Day’ was observed at Vidyalkar Institute of Technology on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 which was attended by 20 students including teachers by participating in a silent campaign at various railway stations Ghatkopar, Metro Station, Andheri, Sakinaka, Dadar, displaying banners and posters. Eight students of the Department of Sociology volunteered to be a part of the Protest (Dharna) organised for the Rights of Senior Citizens at Azad Maidan, Mumbai organised by Help Age India on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. The Department of Sociology undertook the IGI – Inter Generational Interaction project along with the NGO THRED to make students aware of the issues of the elderly in 2016 and in 2019 (<https://mmpshahcollege.in/images/pdf/IGI-Final-Report-23rd-Jan-2020.pdf>). To further sensitise the students and providing professional touch to the process of elderly care, Department of Psychology has designed course namely ‘Geriatric Counselling Training Programme’ in collaboration with Aaji Care Sevak Foundation and Graceful Living (Tulsi Trust) to be launched for the students from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021, which will surely help continue our efforts and contribute towards noble cause of better culture and better society.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

To further sensitise the students and providing professional touch to the process of elderly care, Department of Psychology has designed course namely ‘Geriatric Counselling Training Programme’ in collaboration with Aaji Care Sevak Foundation and Graceful Living (Tulsi Trust) to be launched for the students from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021, which will surely help continue our efforts and contribute towards noble cause of better culture and better society.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required;**

Few and minor problems related to logistics of planning and executing the activities are encountered. Overall students and teachers have participated enthusiastically in the activities conducted for the elderly. Students working with the elderly in the IGI project gave a positive feedback. Interacting with the senior citizens enabled the students to develop social networks, communication skills, problem solving abilities and above all a positive attitude to ageing

**Practice 2:****1. Title of the Practice :**

**Continued strong support to students for availing Freeships and Scholarships towards completion of their education**

**2. Objectives:**

- To further strengthen Freeship and Scholarship Committee to reach out to the maximum number of students.
- To organize orientation sessions and provide one to one mentoring to needy students to avail the facility provided through Government schemes and/or private donors and thereby continue their studies.
- To support students in procuring the required documents and upload the applications.
- To provide support during pandemic period by procuring additional funds.

**3. The Context**

Teaching and non-teaching faculty members come across a lot of financially weak students who despite their aspirations cannot continue their education or choose courses as per their liking and aptitude. Many of them are first generation children going for higher education. Adequate funds at the Government level are available but due to non-compliance of fulfilment of pre-requisites many of the students are not able to apply and qualify for it. This year, during pandemic situation, it was worse. Acute need was felt for high financial support.

**4. The Practice**

Tenure of Freeship and Scholarship Committee was extended again to reach out to the maximum number of students. Special room with ICT infrastructure created for the purpose was used to its best, where students meet the teachers and process their online applications. Committee members have conducted multiple orientation sessions for all classes. Students were oriented in advance about the probable requirement of various documents to avail the facility. Number of online sessions were organised to learn the difficulties faced by the students. The committee focused its efforts on ensuring that it had multiple levels of verification to ensure compliance. The committee continued their efforts to overcome these issues such as interactions with Government officials to solve pending cases of documentation and follow up with the Tahsildar Offices which resulted in resolving pending cases; requesting nearby bank to set up their counter in the college to enable students open their own

zero balance account; helping students to create their profiles on the Government website due to absence of active mobile number on their Aadhar card by installing of a bio-metric machine in the committee cell for authentication of student profile on Mahadbt portal. More student representatives were trained in profile creation, registration, form filling and uploading of documents and declaration. This team of students provided assistance to individual student applicants under the supervision of a committee member.

Need for the financial support was acute for the academic year falling in pandemic period. A small survey was conducted to analyse various problems of students during these periods. Out of many socio-economic issues, financial crunches were identified being the major problem faced by families of our students. Students were allowed to pay their fees in small instalments. A number of teachers have sponsored the fees of students during the lockdown. Also, the need was felt to tap more avenues so all the students can continue with their studies.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

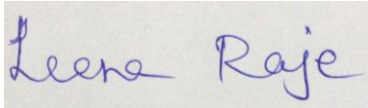
In the academic year 2019-20, Rs. 14,07,500/- was obtained as donations which was utilised to provide free ship to **233 students**. Besides 81 students were helped to avail Government scholarship from various schemes namely- Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship, Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Shikshan Shulkh Shishyavrutti Scheme and Post Matric Scholarship to OBC Students, total fund obtained by students amounted to Rs. 9,55,627.5/- The efforts are on to tap funds through CSR from various corporate houses for the scholarships and freeships for our students.

Systematic efforts in this direction have made the institution to participate in Best Educational Quality Enhancement Team (BEQET) competition organised by National Centre for Quality Management (NCQM). Team presented the process in the form of project, titled 'Catalyst in Fulfilling Student Aspirations: An Empowered Free ship and Scholarship Cell'. The efforts were duly recognised and rewarded by the Judges. The team bagged first Prize in in the BEQET awards for the academic year 2019-20.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

The committee is ever willing to help each and every student who requires the scholarship or free ship to complete her education. The main problems encountered are lack of enough and correct documentation with the students,

student's bank account and mind set of students. However persistent efforts of the committee to help students with their documentation, opening of bank accounts, talking to their parents, home visits have helped in overcoming the problems. A better system of recording of students' profile which will help in easy identification and selection of needy students is being planned.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leena Raje".

Dr. Leena Rajan Raje

Principal