

BEST PRACTICES (16-17)

Cultivation of Different Varieties of Potato by Students on the College Campus

Objectives of the Practice

The aim of this practice is to make students aware of various varieties of potato, one of the staple crops of Himachal Pradesh, cultivated state-wide. Further, to acquaint them with the cultivation method of potato, soil properties required for it and to encourage them to try and cultivate it in a small personal space.

Context

The idea behind this practice is to enable students to have a practical experience of cultivating potato as a crop, going beyond only its theoretical knowledge.

The Practice

Students collectively cleared a patch of land in the college campus, which was earmarked for this very purpose. A scientific preparation of soil was undertaken for planting the crop and a complete study of the growth cycle was recorded, from seed stage to harvest of the crop. Also included in the study was an inquiry into the diseases associated with potato and the optimum conditions promoting a healthy crop. Different economic uses of the crop also formed an intrinsic part of the project.

Evidence of success

A good crop of potato was visible to the students who worked on each stage of this project. They now have a thorough practical training and can apply this scientific cultivation in their own areas.

Problems and resources required

Some pesticides and organic manure were required in order to control the pests and improve the yield.

1. Title of Practice

Encouragement of Individual Academic Excellence through Special Awards

Objectives of the Practice

St. Bede's College has been following a practice of rewarding exceptional students through special awards instituted by teachers of various departments. This practice was first introduced three decades ago and continues to this day as spontaneous efforts by some faculty members to promote excellence in their subject. The idea is to accord deserving students a special

recognition of their individual performance, through the award of a trophy and cash prize announced at the annual prize distribution.

The Context

The practice felicitates the most exceptional students in the disciplines which have instituted the award. It acknowledges their hard work and effort throughout their student careers, especially in the final year.

The Practice

- Awards have already been instituted by individual teachers and ex-Bedeians, in subjects such as English, Botany and Hindi and also for the best all-round students of the outgoing classes. In 2016-17, two new such awards have been instituted. Mr. D.V. Pathania of the Department of Mathematics introduced a running trophy for Excellence in Mathematics, along with a cash prize. Dr. Shonali Sud of the Department of Psychology instituted a prize for the Best Student in Psychology, in memory of her late father, Prof. G.R. Sud. Thus the tradition of recognizing academic excellence continues in the college.
- Award for Best Use of Library is presented every year to the most deserving students.
- The Bedeian Pin and Bedeian Ring are the most coveted annual prizes awarded to exceptional all round students for their contribution to college life in their final year.

Evidence of Success

This practice is distinctly one of the best practices followed in college and plays an important role in promoting standards of study in different disciplines. It is a source of encouragement for students by the concerned faculty members through these memorial trophies. Students aim for these prestigious awards annually and the respective departments take pride in awarding them.

Problems and Resources Required

While this is a noteworthy practice, all faculty members may not be able to afford or wish to institute individual awards.