

7.2 Best Practices

1. Title of practice - Community Outreach

Objectives of the practice:

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”. Effectuating the principle, community outreach programs of St. Bede’s College sensitize the students about societal issues and problems by involving them in different activities organized by NCC, NSS, Community Outreach Cell, Red Ribbon Club, and various departments of the college with the following objectives-

- Making students understand the social issues and problems.
- Strengthening communities by addressing their societal needs
- Developing a sense of social and civic responsibility in the students.
- Promoting the participation of students in extension activities integrating academic learning with real-life situations.
- Providing a judicious environment for the overall development of students.

Context:

Following the College motto ‘Non-Nobis Solum’ which means not for ourselves alone, various clubs and cells of the college invariably work for the greater good of society.

- The NSS Unit of the College gives an opportunity to the students to participate in different activities conducted from time to time on a voluntary basis, with the sole agenda of social service.
- NCC is a tri-service Organisation comprising the Army, Navy and Air force that provides opportunity to the youth for their all-round development with a sense of duty, discipline, commitment, dedication and social service. The NCC Unit of the college started in 2016 under 1 HP Naval Unit NCC Bilaspur with 12 cadets. Then another unit 7 HP (I) Coy NCC Shimla started in July 2020 with 29 cadets.
- Community Outreach Cell is another initiative of the College sincerely dedicated to reach out to the needy people and addressing their societal requirements.
- Red Ribbon Club is a movement started by the Government of India and it became functional in St. Bede’s College in 2011, since then the cell has been organising various activities to spread awareness related to HIV and AIDS.

The Practice:

The College remains at the forefront to vigorously organize and train the young students to become social assets by providing community services, social welfare and awareness programs to promote

harmony and integrity. The NCC, NSS, Community Outreach Cell and Red Ribbon Cell untiringly take initiative to reach out to the people and spread awareness.

Voluntarily, students actively participate in several initiatives, campaigns, programs which lead to overall character building and positive growth. These activities include

Social Responsibility:

St. Bede's College has always been at the forefront when it comes to fulfill social responsibilities. During the pandemic phase, the NCC Unit joined Young Warriors movement of UNICEF and spread awareness among people by educating them about covid protocols. To promote the noble cause of blood donation, the NSS Unit of the college organizes blood donation camps every year to promote an ideal of 'every life matters'. A Nukkad natak on the theme 'Blood Donation- Do's and Don'ts' was performed by the students of the college in GDC Kotshera on 8th March, 2022 and the students of Community Outreach Cell also performed a Nukkad Natak on 'Disaster Management' on November 12, 2021, in the adopted Government Model Girls Senior Secondary School, Portmore. Recently the Zoology department in collaboration with the NCC unit of the College initiated to bring voluntary blood donors to a common platform through an innovative concept in which a donor database has been created to donate blood as when requested by hospitals in and around the locality, with the goal of providing a humanitarian service to society. The college has also adopted a village at Mashobhra and Dhanan with the objective to promote new ideas of development in the village which would improve their living conditions. Celebrating the joy of giving the NSS Unit donated blankets and ration packets to BPL families of Dhanan village during Christmas. For the upliftment and empowerment of women, the College faculty hosted a live show on Doordarshan TV to emphasise on the role of women in Science and Technology and observed "International Day of Women and girls in Science". Students of St. Bede's College also participated in National Parliament for Women and expressed their views on the role of Women in society on International Women's Day. Further taking a step forward, the Department of Computer Science reached out to the students of Government schools to spread I.T awareness amongst them and various career counselling sessions were also conducted.

Health Awareness Program

NCC, NSS, Community Outreach Cell, Red Ribbon Club and various departments of the college made a significant contribution in spreading awareness related to health and thus organized a rally on 'Drug Abuse' and a Marathon on the theme 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' to aware people about side effects of Drug Abuse. A session on 'Approaches to Lifestyle Management of PCOS', a declamation contest on 'Mental Health in an Unequal World' were also conducted along with the promotion of indigenous sports for fitness. The NCC Unit joined young Warriors movement of UNICEF to spread awareness related to COVID- 19. Further, important National and International health related days such as International Day of Yoga, International Day of Girl Child, and Fit India Campaign etc were observed throughout the year. Awareness programmes related to

Tuberculosis, personal hygiene and potion mah were also enthusiastically campaigned by the college. The Red Ribbon Club of the College organized a seminar on World AIDS Day to spread awareness about HIV and AIDS. Students of the club also performed a Nukkad Natak on health issues and Drug Abuse in GDC Kotshera.

Environmental Concerns

The NCC Unit of the college celebrated Environment Day on the theme 'Khaki and Prakriti' in which competitions such as poster making, and video making were organized to sensitize people about environmental issues. Rally on 'Anti Pollution Drive' and rally, virtual nukkad natak on themes such as 'Say no to single-use plastic' were organized to make the community aware of environmental issues. Webinars on the theme 'Be a part of solution, not part of Pollution' and 'Ban on Single Use Plastic', Foot Policing activities such as statue cleaning, conservation and cleansing of water bodies, Clean India Campaign and many other activities were organised under Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. Cleaning of public statues, schools, colleges and campaigning to make villages open defecation free, tree plantation drive at Sacred Grove, Bagaghat Theog, a campaign on waste collection and waste material utilization, a rally on 'The importance of Shimla's rivers and water reservoirs and sustainable development' helped in spreading the message of understanding the environment's vulnerability and importance of its protection. The college regularly organizes environmental awareness activities and progress to educate the students about environment protection and conservation.

Success of Evidence:

Numerous activities which are successfully carried out by St. Bede's College are insignia of the constant and untiring efforts of the faculty and students. Various extension activities, community outreach programs, awareness programs significantly help in the overall development of leadership skills, boosting the confidence of students and thus enhancing their efforts to serve people and become assets to the society.

<https://www.stbedescollege.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/7.2.1-a-Supporting-Document.pdf>

Problems and resources required:

Motivating students to balance academics and extracurricular activities, understanding the needs of the society and hesitation among students to stay back beyond class hours poses a great challenge. Creating awareness in rural areas and involving the public in activities proposed by the college is a stumbling block because of reluctance to accept new ideas due to a lack of interest and time. Limited financial resources from governmental agencies are also an impediment to carry out extension activities. Villages with difficult terrain are a deterrent as far as transportation, boarding and lodging are concerned.

2. Title of the practice: Memorandum of Understanding

Objectives of the practice:

The College plays a significant role in stimulating all round development of the students and ignite young minds. To promote academic cooperation and provide a conducive environment for innovative thinking and learning, the college has initiated a number of agreements with the following objectives-

- To promote skill-based learning and entrepreneurial skills among the students.
- To provide a competitive edge and enhance the employable skills of the students.
- To facilitate the exchange of information and learning material.
- To enable learning through academic interaction and educational programmes.
- To empower students to face the challenges by providing hands-on training.

Context:

For the holistic development of the students the college has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with various institutions and organizations thereby helping students to explore new opportunities to realize their full potential.

- Tally Institute of Learning, SDPI Shimla- To enhance Tally skills and impart computer-based technical knowledge to the students for core Java and web designing. The main objective of this agreement is to empower students with additional skills and knowledge through short-term certificate courses.
- National Small Industries Corporation, Government of India, SDPI, Shimla- To teach the fundamentals of accounting, finance and computer application, develop entrepreneurial skills, to teach how to manage a small business through add-on courses, internships, placement drives, webinars, workshops, etc.
- Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board- To teach students about flora and fauna of the state, the role of species in sustaining ecosystems by understanding threats and concepts of conservation of biodiversity to maintain the balance of the earth.
- Skill Labs- To impart workforce skills and experimental learning through a financial lab cum incubation centre which has been set up with financial aid from SIDBI.
- Badrika Ashram cum Charitable and Social Welfare Society- To serve the community through an agreement with Badrika Ashram to help needy and bright students by providing scholarships benefits to continue higher education in a premiere institution of Himachal Pradesh, thereby increasing the percentage of rural students especially girls graduating in Himachal Pradesh who are financially constrained.

The Practice:

To give students a distinct advantage, additional knowledge and skills training, St. Bede's College has always remained at the forefront. For the growth of the institution and its stakeholders, the following five agreements were entered into by the college to facilitate the exchange of information and learning-

- **Tally Institute of Learning, SDPI Shimla**

The Department of Computer Science, St. Bede's College, and Tally Institute of Learning, SDPI Shimla has entered into an agreement through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021. The main objective of the agreement is to enhance and impart tally skills to undergraduate students for which an Add-on course on Tally Essentials has been introduced in the college. Fundamentals of accounting, introduction to Tally Prime, maintaining charts of Accounts, management of business data, Goods and Service Tax and many other accounting skills are imparted to the students, and at the completion of the course, certificates are issued to the students. The course helps students to develop skills to deal with the corporate world.

- **National Small Industries Corporation, Government of India, SDPI, Shimla**

To impart industry-specific training and to bridge the gap between academic curriculum and industry interface, technology has become a great engine of change. Thus, St. Bede's College has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Small Industries Corporation, Government of India, SDPI, Shimla. Training on the basics of Web Designing, introduction to HTML, introduction to cascading style sheets, JavaScript and many other computer applications is imparted to the students through a certified Add on course, which has been introduced by this linkage. These skill-based courses help in giving multiple career options thus enhancing employment opportunities.

- **Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between St. Bede's College and Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Shimla. Under this initiative, an Add-on course on Biodiversity has been introduced for the students to give them a competitive edge and enhance their earning potential. This agreement aims to produce 'The Pioneers in Conservation of Biodiversity' by establishing a Biodiversity Conservation Cell. The agreement seeks to encourage summer/ winter training programs, collaborative research projects and exchange of academic information on analysis and evolution of the biological processes on conservation of biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem.

- **SkillLabs**

St. Bede's College signed an MoU with SkillLabs to set up a 'Financial Lab cum Incubation Centre' to promote women entrepreneurship, provide job-oriented skills and training for self-employment, internships and placement support to the students of the College. For setting up the Incubation centre, financial assistance has been provided by the funding agency- SIDBI. SkillLabs

in collaboration with the placement cell of the college has successfully organised several Faculty Awareness Programs which include, “Activities at and benefits of Financial Lab cum Incubation at Campus”, “Sustainability and Ethics: How academic curriculum has been aligned to meet skills of the twenty-first century” and many more. It also successfully organized campus placement drives for the position of graduate trainers with HDB Financial Services. Providing hands-on experience in innovation and skill development, the centre would facilitate rehabilitating local women whose livelihood has been affected due to Covid-19. The main aim behind this endeavour is to make women self-sufficient by imparting digital and technological knowledge to set up their own business and learn marketing tactics to compete and succeed in the competitive global economy.

- To make quality education accessible to the underprivileged meritorious rural students **Badrika Ashram cum Charitable and social welfare society** has launched Sri Badrika ashram Emerging Youth Scholarship Scheme ‘Padho aur Badho’. St. Bede’s College has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sirmaur-based non-profit organization – Sri Badrika Ashram to facilitate scholarship benefits to the meritorious students, not letting financial constraints hamper their studies.

Evidence in Support:

<https://www.stbedescollege.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/7.2.1-b-.pdf>

Problems and Resources Required:

St. Bede’s College consistently strives to empower the students with skills and knowledge by providing opportunities through agreements with various institutions and organizations to explore new ideas along with regular learning in the classroom environment.

The College MoU with the industry minimizes the gap between learning and job opportunities but the development of large industries has less scope in Shimla due to the difficult terrain of the region, thereby impeding industry-centred interaction.