

## K.M.AGRAWAL COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE & SCIENCE, KALYAN

### BEST PRACTICE: 01

#### **Title of the Practice ---SAKAV- *The Bridge***

One of the notable best practices of the College has been extension and outreach activities. The College focuses towards education and development of the socially and economically weaker sections of the society.

#### **Objectives:-**

- 1.To arouse social consciousness amongst students
- 2.To transform the youth into socially responsible citizens
- 3.To create a bridge between College and underprivileged group of society
- 4.To inculcate human values.

#### **The Context:-**

This activity is conducted in dumping ground area and Kalyan railway station. A large dumping ground is the residential area for rag pickers. Kalyan railway station being a junction, many children from the different parts of the country are observed as stray residents on railway platforms. It has been observed that these sections of the society are neglected and deprived of education. Vulnerability towards drug addiction and criminal actions is a common phenomenon. The Institution firmly believes that apart from formal education our students should be involved in activities which show *reach the unreached* approach. This is achieved by conducting various activities in association with *Snehanubandh*, a committed Alumni Association of the College. This involves application of informal classroom learning and interaction with these marginalized groups. Efforts are made to bring these children to the formal education system.

#### **The Practice:-**

Sathenagar, at Adharwardi area of Kalyan town is the dumping ground of Kalyan. The Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation had started operating the dumping ground in 1984. Around 650 metric tons of waste is dumped on it every day. Residents of this ground, rag pickers underprivileged sections, live in most unhygienic conditions and rampant poverty.

In such a scenario College has assumed to itself the responsibility to bridge this gap by conducting following activities :-

- Educational and Recreational activities for Rag picker (Students) Children.
- Medical Camps and Health Awareness Programmes for rag picker children and stray children.
- Drug-rehabilitation campaign for dumping ground children and children residing on railway platform.
- Recreational activities for Adivasi children and other unfortunate children deprived of basic necessities.
- Provision of Water Tank in Adivasi Pada.
- Educational programmes at –Sathenagar, Panbudenagar, Kalyan railway station.
- Distribution of educational kit to the children residing at Sathe Nagar, Schools at Waghera pada,
- Panbude nagar, Bapsai, Veluk at Vashala (nearby villages)
- *Snehanubadh* conducts informal classes for the children who are unable to attend school. These students are admitted to Open school for completing their SSC and HSC exams.
- Examination oriented coaching and guidance for students who fail in SSC examination in the subject of Mathematics and English.

**Evidence of success:**

1. Library extension units at Pimplas village and Maitrakul, Bapgaon being run successfully and proving beneficial to students in the vicinity.
2. Water shortage problem at Veluk village was partially resolved by donation of water tank.
3. Visit to drug de-addiction centre, *MUKTANGAN*, at Pune created awareness regarding ill-effects of drugs. A few adult residents of Sathe Nagar were admitted for rehabilitation at the centre.
4. Mukangan co-coordinator Shri Datta Shrikhande regularly interacts with member of the community and counseling them continually.



5. Through informal education and counseling, community people understood the importance of education. This has reduced the dropout rates from schools. More girl students are taking admission in regular schools.

#### **Problems encountered and resources required -**

1. Parents of such children are unable to attend the informal counseling sessions as they are busy with their work of collection of garbage for the entire day.
2. Children are forced to work as rag pickers rather than attending school. Hard work leads them to take to drugs and other undesirable activities and thus be a part of vicious circle.
3. Most of the regular schools show unwillingness to give admission to these students.
4. Need for more informal education to such children and provision for classroom space at Sathe nagar.
5. Need of more efforts for counselling of these children.
6. Society's apathy towards rag pickers and their problems.
7. No proper health care measures for rag pickers.

#### **BEST PRACTICE- 2**

**Title of the Practice: - *GANDHI MOHOTSAV***

##### **Objective: -**

Moral values refer to good virtues such as honesty, integrity, truthfulness, compassion, helpfulness, love, respectfulness and hard work. Moral values reflect an individual's character and spirituality. They help in building good relationships in personal as well as social life. They can help in eradicating problems like dishonesty, violence, cheating, jealousy from one's life. The family, teachers and members of society have important role to play in individual buildup.

As a small contribution to this task, College initiated the concept of *Gandhi Mahotsav* keeping in mind the following objectives-

1. To inculcate the values like non-violence, cooperation.
2. To imbibe the values like equality, dignity of labour.

3. To sensitize the students towards the problems of underprivileged sections of the society.

### **The Context: -**

The face of 21st century has been defined by globalization, free market, privatization and marked by violence, extremism, inequality and disparity. At present, political, social, economic and moral values are deteriorating. Gandhian principles like non-violence, truth, peace etc., can help to make world a peaceful place to live for everyone. We realize the importance of inculcating these values amongst our students. As an initiative towards inculcating human values, we developed the concept of *Gandhi Mahotsav*. We believe that classrooms aren't just a place to study social change, but a place to spark social change in the young minds. The College goes beyond merely displaying photo of Gandhiji. In today's consumerist world, it is the need of the hour to incorporate Gandhian values in day to day life. Keeping this view in mind, we not only aim at making students globally competent but also to make them considerate, responsible and sensitive human beings.

### **The Practice**

Last four years, the College has been celebrating *Gandhi Mahotsav* during the period from 22nd September to 2nd October with the motto 'Reach the Un-reached'.

During the Mahotsav, Students participate in various programmes arranged by College faculties and alumni:

- Lectures from eminent Gandhian thinkers provide an opportunity to students to interact with them eventually driving them to think positively and to act for the interests of the society at large.
- Intercollegiate competitions in essay, rangoli, skit, elocution, poetry recitation, poster presentation are organized based on the following themes: -
  - Me and Gandhiji
  - Gandhian philosophy
  - Is Gandhi possible?
  - *Vaishnav jan to tene kahiye*

- Students participate in *Pad-yatra* with hamals (porters at Kalyan Station) and *safai kamgars* (drainage workers) in Kalyan city
- Visit to Adivasi Padas-Dhenganmal Pada and distribution of water tank, educational material, cloths /stationery and food
- Stalls for sale of khadi products and Gandhian books
- *Miti Char*, the theatre group from Kalyan conducted a positive and common reading presentation of the famous book “Diary of Ann Frank”

Eminent Gandhian followers delivered lectures during the Mahotsav:

- Well known sculptor of international repute Shri Bhau Sathe delivered a lecture on ‘My life is my message- *Mahatma Gandhi*’.
- Editor of Nav Bharat Times, Shri Satish Mishra delivered a lecture on ‘Importance of Values and Ethics in individual life’.
- Senior freedom fighter, founder member of Yusuf Meher Ali Centre, Mumbai, Dr G.G. Parikh gave talk on ‘Gandhi in Contemporary Age’.
- Senior journalist, Shri Niranjana Takle enlightened students on ‘Gandhian thoughts and influence of Gandhi’.
- Students attended seminar on ‘Critics of Gandhi’. Gandhian scholars Dr. Ravindra R.P and Vijay Tambe, were invited as speakers for the seminar.
- Shri Ramesh Ojha, Researcher and advisor at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan delivered a talk on ‘Gandhian Principles and Youth’.
- Indavi Tulpule, a social activist shared her experience of working with the adivasi groups and villagers.
- Dr H. K. S. Swami, Professor of Pharmacy from Karnataka University conducted workshop on
- ‘Relevance of Gandhian Thoughts in Day to Day Life’.



Through all these activities, College attempts to transform the learners into better citizens enriched with self-confidence, perseverance, patriotism and humanity.

### **Evidence of success-**

Owing to active participation in various competitions during the Mahotsav, students learn about the values, principles and the importance of Gandhian views and life. They get the opportunity to interact with various Gandhian researchers and followers. Through this activity, the College has been able to develop a sensitive and responsible youth force having social commitment towards the marginalized sections of the society. Our efforts and social work at various places like Sathe Nagar, Panbude Nagar, Kalyan Railway platform and other areas are the result of the inspiration that students receive during this *Mahotsav*. By participating in Padyatra with Hamals (Porters) and safai workers, they understand the pain of hard work these labourers put in and realise the dignity of labour. Thus, the College encourages the spirit of commitment, compassion, warmth and sense of belonging amongst students.

### **Problems encountered and resources required**

- Very difficult to attract students towards such activities
- The dominant consumer culture in today's generation makes it difficult to inculcate Gandhian
- principles
- No direct rewards in the form of additional marks in curricula
- No monetary rewards




**IQAC Coordinator**

**Co-ordinator**

**Internal Quality Assurance Cell**

**K.M. Agrawal College of Arts, Commerce & Science  
Kalyan.**



  
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