

# RAMANANDA COLLEGE

BISHNUPUR \* BANKURA

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Estd. 1945

UGC Recognized & State Government Aided Constituent College

Under the Bankura University (dt.-01.01.2017)

(Re-Accredited by NAAC 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle at B ++ Level)

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Date.....

From : Principal  
Secretary, G.B.

## 7.2 Best Practices

7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

### Response:

Ramananda College, being located in an economically backward region of the state, has always been proactive to innovate and develop best practices for social assistance programmes. Such innovation and best practices aim at inspiring students and other stakeholders to undertake activities that will help the society around them and provide students a scope to learn life skills while completing their education. Amongst a number of different practices, two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution are:

#### 1. Title of the Practice

##### **The Annasatra Prakaalpa (provision of mid-day meal to college students)**

This flagship feeding scheme of Ramananda College is designed for improving the nutritional standing of poor students belonging to economically backward and underprivileged sections to increase enrolment and retention for literacy improvement in higher education in the vicinity of the Institute as most of them are first generation learners. This Scheme follows a set of principles such as the meal should only be a supplement to the home diet, recurrent change in the menu to avoid monotony, use of regionally available foods and implementation of the standard cooking practices to skip loss of nutrients during the course of cooking. Ramananda College is situated in a backward socio-economic belt where many students coming from low socio-economic background are forced to discontinue higher studies as they fail to bear the expenses of their basic needs. The students, coming from families with many siblings, often have to work for fulfilling basic family needs. Insufficient transport facilities again result in nutritional challenges for students residing in remote areas as they spend long hours to attend college. The girl students often fall sick in the college campus due to lack of food and nutrition as providing nutritional food and education to girl child is yet to be considered as priority in many of the local families. Considering such issues, the Institute has taken up this initiative for regularising students' attendance, retaining and helping them concentrate on their curriculum by showing a little humane treatment and understanding about the family backgrounds of the students.

#### **The Practice**

Neither a student who is hungry, nor a student who is ill can be expected to learn. On this premise this holistic initiative to augment the nutritional and educational status of the needy students willing to continue higher studies was taken up by the Institute four years back in 2016. This practice involves a cooked noon meal programme for providing nutritional support that can be availed free of cost on all working days by any of the presently enrolled college students belonging to economically backward class or underprivileged background. The cooks in the hostels are responsible for preparing these meals maintaining standard cooking practices to avoid loss of nutrients during the course of cooking. Funding for this scheme fully comes from voluntary contributions by the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college, alumni and some philanthropists. The Annasatra Committee consisting of teaching and non-teaching staff members, approved by GB and headed by the principal, manages the initiative. This committee is in the charge of closely monitoring and coordinating day-to-day chores involved in running this scheme. The students availing this opportunity need to enrol their



names within 11 a.m. each day. In spite of having a provision of providing food to 100 students approximately the scheme has managed to provide food to 50-60 students per day during each academic session. The meal supplements to the home diet. The *Annasatra Prakalpa* tries to supply at least one-third of the total energy requirement, and half of the protein need by providing cereals, pulses, oils and fats, leafy vegetables, non-leafy vegetables, soya chunks etc. The initiative follows a routine of serving soyabeans at least thrice a week and mixed vegetables on the other days. During special occasions meal with fish or egg is also served. Any two of our teachers taste the cooked food every day before serving it to the students. The scheme has a dedicated bank account for itself and all transactions thereof are regularly audited in Annual Financial Audit. The scheme has played a critical role in a subtle way in eliminating 'classroom hunger' and facilitating the universalisation of higher education, reflected in marginally increased enrolment in courses, increased attendance in classes, improved performance of students in classes in terms of better attention span and academic progress. A clear chain of responsibility and accountability among teachers and the community has made the transformative potential of the scheme visible.

### **Evidence of Success**

*Annasatra Prakalpa* has been proved to be a big achievement as food assistance programme in the Institute as the students availing this scheme have done remarkably well in 2019-2020 University Examination as well as average percentage of pass-outs has comparatively shoot up. Health and education are two aspects that the country has been working on consistently through various efforts. This scheme, a significant initiative through private efforts, has consistently improved the position of students in higher education in this socio-economically underdeveloped segment in terms of health, education and nutrition resulting in increased enrolment, retention and attendance in the Institute and simultaneously impacting on nutrition of students in regular classes as well as parental aspiration of acquiring education for their children. The students, considering it difficult to continue higher studies without having proper food, now attend college more regularly and can aptly concentrate on their curriculum and classroom activities. Moreover, it's a matter of pride and honour that not even a single case of unwellness related to *Annasatra Prakalpa* has been reported during the last four years since its inception. This speaks volumes about the keen eye for quality & hygiene that has been meticulously maintained, despite severe budgetary deficits.

### **Problems Encountered and Resource Required**

Four years have passed since *Annasatra Prakalpa* became a part of the daily routine in the Institute. In this passage of time, procedures have stabilised but still we face crumbling challenges to provide food to more students as the initiative has not yet received any financial assistance from none of the Government agencies. The voluntary contributions are not enough given the number of students the scheme should cover, as well as inflation causing the price of food items to skyrocket. More assistance from the stakeholders in the college, along with aid from the state/central governments would be a welcome step. Needless to mention, more volunteers (from the student body and the faculty) are required to constantly monitor the kitchens to ensure the quality and hygiene of the ingredients used along with the cooked food and supervise the cooking process to avoid loss of nutrients during the course of cooking. The Institutes specifically being located in the socio-economically backward regions of the state can adopt this best practice of serving Mid-Day Meal to economically backward and deprived students in higher education to improve enrolment, attendance and retention. Objectives and provisions of the scheme, modes of continuous financing, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are to be set aptly before implementing to avoid sudden fund deficit, fake enrolments and maintain quality and hygiene of the ingredients and the cooked meal. The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers involve a huge funding. On this premise, we suggest a steering cum monitoring committee to be formed at least at the university level to approve and monitor the programme, conduct impact assessments, coordinate with central/state governments to provide policy advice as the possibilities of this programme far outweigh the problems involved in its operation.

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

##### **7.2.2 Remedial Coaching**

Remedial Coaching is organized in an institution with a view to improve academic skills among the students in various subjects and raising their level of comprehension of basic subjects to provide a stronger foundation for further academic work. It also helps to strengthen their knowledge, skills and attitudes in such subjects where quantitative and qualitative techniques are involved so that proper guidance and training provided under the program may enable the students to come up to the level necessary for pursuing higher studies efficiently and effectively. Each and every department has taken qualitative steps to identify slow learners so that it can facilitate better handling of students according to their academic needs. Remedial



classes are planned on a weekly basis for the slow learners to facilitate them in their learning process and their progression is tracked.

### Objectives:

- To identify slow learners so that it can facilitate better handling of students according to their academic needs.
- To make the students assess their academic score and to revise the subject knowledge.
- To improve academic skills
- To strengthen the students to pursue higher education
- To provide a strong foundation in their academics

### Outcome:

Through this effort of the faculty, the slow learners are highly benefitted and are able to understand their lessons in a better way. Remedial teaching is a kind of follow up and it is done after an initial phase of teaching and evaluation. Remedial teaching as a part of curriculum is being done for the sake of slow learners with the aim of improving their understanding ability through easy and simple language exercises. Study materials are specially prepared for them for easier understanding. There was marked improvement in the level of achievement after the rigorous remedial teaching at regular intervals.



*Shyam*  
3/6/2020

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