

Institutional Best Practices of Barpeta Girls' College, Barpeta during 2019-20

A. Special Library Support for the Poor and Needy Students

Goal

The goal of this best practice is to ensure that all the learners can get access to the books they need. Many of the students who come to study at Barpeta Girls' College are from an economically weak background, and therefore, it is not possible for all of them to arrange all the books they need to study in the academic programme they pursue in the college. It is for this reason that Barpeta Girls' College has adopted the practice of giving the poor and needy students special support in respect of books.

Context

Books are the most essential parts of institutional education. Books are the storehouse of knowledge, and a learner can get access of the stored knowledge only by reading books. The teachers of an educational institution can only guide the students about how to pursue knowledge. But it is with the help of books that knowledge can be attained by learners. Though in the present age there are many technological devices that can give a learner easy access to knowledge, we still haven't come to a situation in which such technological methods can completely replace the books or knowledge can be gathered without going through books. In this respect, it is very important to note that there are many learners at Barpeta Girls' College, who cannot purchase all the books they require to study. They even cannot arrange all the textbooks that are prescribed in their syllabus, not to speak of the reference books which are helpful for them in pursuance of their study. Therefore, the unavailability of textbooks and reference books puts a great hindrance in their study. Barpeta Girls' College takes this point into consideration and decides to give the poor and needy students some special assistance from the central library.

Practice

Barpeta Girls' College has a central library with a number of textbooks, reference books and regularly subscribed journals and periodicals. The central library lends all the bona fide students of the college textbooks and reference books according to its own rules. All the students who study in the college can borrow the required books from the central library. But at one time a student can borrow only a limited number of books, as per the rules of the library. Under the practice of special support to the poor and needy students, the central library has started offering the poor and needy students special help in respect of books apart from its regular lending of books. In this practice, the students who have come from economically very weak families and who are unable to purchase books are identified, and they are provided with books that they require according to the syllabus. In an academic session, such students are given one time

support of this kind, and unlike the books the students borrow at regular basis, the books given as special support can be kept by the students for the whole year till their examinations are over.

Evidences of success

This practice of special library support to the poor and needy students have undoubtedly given positive results. When the poor students are free from the anxiety about how to manage their required books, they can properly concentrate on their study. The college has observed that many students, who couldn't probably have dropped out because of their inability caused by poverty to manage their books, have successfully completed their studies, and that too, with good results. The pass percentage of the college shows that this practice appeared to be quite helpful for some students.

Problems encountered and resources required

Of course, adopting this practice by Barpeta Girls' College was not free from problems. The main problem that the college faced was the lack of fund for the college library. The college doesn't have sufficient fund that is required by the college library to purchase as many books as required to cater to the need of all the needy students. The college has to depend solely on the library fee that is collected from the students at the time of admission, and that fee is just a meager amount. Another problem is the insufficiency of staff in the library, which creates difficulty in going through the process of selecting the deserving students for this practice.

B. Blood Donation Unit

Goal

The college feels the need to inculcate a sense of social responsibility in the minds of the students so that they can be prepared for their future role as good citizen. With this idea in mind, the college constituted a 'blood donation unit' that includes both the students and teachers. The main goal of this unit is to donate blood to the needy patients when the unit is approached for this purpose.

Context

Inculcating a sense of social responsibility in the minds of the students is an integral part of education. The main purpose of higher education is not simply giving knowledge of some subjects; making the students learn about the social role they have to perform in future is also an important objective of higher education. The students should know that in a civilized society every citizen should be ready to help another citizen voluntarily. Blood donation is an important means by which one can show one's social responsibility to the utmost. In our society there are a large number of people who need blood because of suffering from various ailments. Sometimes, it also happens that many patients die because they cannot be given

blood in time. The college is well aware that it can play a significant social role by providing blood to the needy patients and thus, saving their lives.

Practice

The blood donation unit of Barpeta Girls' College consists of both teachers and students. It is a voluntary organization and its membership is also voluntary, i.e. only those who are willing to donate blood to people who approach us for that are given membership of this organization. The management of this unit is done by two members of the teaching staff of the college. The blood groups of all the members of the unit are checked and then recorded. The management of the unit also maintains a record of the mobile phone numbers of all the members. When someone is in need of blood of any group for any patient, they contact the unit in the numbers made available for all. Then, the unit management contacts the members who are ready for donation of blood at that time. The record of the blood donation acts is also maintained.

Evidences of success

Though in a limited way, the blood donation unit of Barpeta Girls' College has achieved some success. It is seen that many students now come forward voluntarily to be members of this unit, because they understand that blood donation is a humanitarian act, and with this act, they can offer great service to the society. It is also seen that already several members have donated blood to some needy patients, whose ailments demanded immediate blood transfusion.

Problems encountered and resources required

The main problem in pursuing this practice is the general misconception among people about blood donation. It is because of some misconceptions that even the highly educated people don't come forward to donate blood, not to speak of the young students. So, it is of utmost necessity that there are more and more awareness programmes about blood donations which can drive away the common misconceptions and fears in the minds of the students about blood donation.