

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

7.2.1 –Two Institutional Best Practices

I. GENDER AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

II. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

TITLE OF THE BEST PRACTICE: I. GENDER AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

THE CONTEXT THAT REQUIRED THE INITIATION OF THE PRACTICE:

The need was felt to study gender within an interdisciplinary and comparative framework, thereby providing the space for creating a vibrant community of students, activists and artists concerned with the issue of gender, sexuality and the wider issue of power in the society. The college community while fully engaged in empowerment of young women through the established Centre for Women's Studies also felt it essential to further involve the various department students and faculty by organising several specific programmes ranging from academic conferences to outreach programmes and the establishment of a Gender Centre by the Department of Sociology. Other imperative frames that provided a context for this practice included addressing Environmental Issues, Prevention of Drug Abuse and End to Human Trafficking.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE:

The primary aim is to produce an awareness and sensitivity towards gender and women's issues. This would lead further to the empowerment of young women by providing them with strategies to achieve sustainable goals for personal, academic and social growth creating responsible citizens for nation building.

THE PRACTICE:

As a part of the Centre for Women's Studies, its students' wing called The Damini Club, enthusiastically implements its activities. Over the year 2018-19, several workshops were conducted such as in collaboration with the Department of History and Tourism on issues related to women's empowerment at the Rural Institute for Development Education in Kancheepuram. Another workshop on 'What Women Do' was facilitated by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, writer, political analyst and social entrepreneur in August and one by Dr. A Mangai, theatre activist and former Associate professor, Department of English, Stella Maris College, on 'Gender and Theatre in India' which focused on gender equality in the society and women's empowerment. In September, The Damini week was celebrated with competitions and interactive sessions on LGBT rights and Section 377. The Club also launched a new initiative called 'Women in Unusual Professions', at which a woman auto driver named Malar was invited to Stella Maris College for an interactive session. The Damini club along with the Prajnya group screened a documentary film on Shajahan Apa's struggle related to dowry harassment.

To commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, a coalition to End Human Trafficking was launched at Stella Maris titled 'shOUT for Freedom' by the Department of Social Work on 13 August 2018, in collaboration with International Justice Mission and several NGOs. A seminar on 'Coalition to End Human Trafficking' was also organised as part of the event. An awareness programme on "Legal Rights of the Girl Child in India" was conducted by Unnathi, in association with the Society for Community Organisation Trust, Madurai on 12 October 2018. These are some of the programmes conducted which created forums for vibrant discussions and implementation of not just gender awareness but also enhancing the empowerment of young women.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks and review results like What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

The college's vision of creating an inclusive learning community has led to the success of Stella Marians establishing themselves on the global arena in terms of service to society. The following are some indicators of the success of the practice of empowerment that begins with awareness:

- Programmes were held to support the victims of acid attack, rape and domestic violence. A total amount of rupees 16,000 was collected from the art exhibition and donated to the victims.
- The college has Gender Studies and Women's Issues integrated into the curriculum of various departments that creates a robust atmosphere for conducting action based research projects. For instance the PG Department of Social Work has undertaken two research studies titled, 'An Analysis of the Need of Institutional Services for Children Residing in the Child Care Institutions and Possibilities of Restoring them back to the Family System', and 'Vulnerability Mapping of Child Protection Issues in the Districts of Tamil Nadu.' The students and faculty are involved in these studies and these create the basis for further implementation activities for Service Learning Programmes that are mandatory in the college.

Numerous faculty members were conferred awards for meritorious services and their pioneering efforts in empowering young women. A few students' accolades: BSW student Vijayambigai T, won the Bhumi Earth Award 2018 for her exceptional work towards volunteering. Three other BSW students received the Award of Excellence 'IDF SLP Mentor Award', conferred for participation in Resource Mobilisation for Humanitarian Causes.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice in about 150 words.

Though there are problems which are encountered in the effective implementation of a practice such as creating Gender Awareness and Empowering Women, its long-term benefit and impact has been tangible. The challenges include the lack of support from external agencies, vulnerability of young women, and need for better networking amongst institutions to mention a few. The lack of resources to conduct programmes has been circumvented by mobilising our own contributions along with sponsorships for the conduct of many programs.

NOTES (OPTIONAL)

Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution about 150 words.

To empower through a focus on Whole Person Well- Being and Environmental Concerns:

- The Stella Maris Centre for Development of Resources and Inclusion for Vocational Enrichment (SMCDRIVE) and The Banyan conducts Certificate Courses in Basic Counselling and also provides counselling services for the local community
- The PG Department of Social Work undertook socially relevant projects such as Social Action Initiatives for a Clean and Sustainable Environment sponsored by UBCHEA in which the I MSW students are actively involved in environmental activities in rural and urban communities.

TITLE OF THE BEST PRACTICE: II. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CONTEXT THAT REQUIRED THE INITIATION OF THE PRACTICE

To encourage young women to become entrepreneurs and to equip them with the skills required to face the challenges that they needed to overcome in society provided the initial impetus for the practice of Entrepreneurship Development. Entrepreneurial Development initiatives were in place in the institution when an Entrepreneurial Development Cell (EDC) was active between 2006 and 2014. This initiative was taken further and led to the current EDC which was set up in 2017-18 and registered with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), Anna University, as a Spoke Institution.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE

To develop entrepreneurial abilities in order to help students realise their potential for growth as entrepreneurs and to initiate themselves in their chosen paths.

THE PRACTICE

Several Programmes and Courses show the integration of the best practice of Entrepreneurial Development into the Curriculum Design. For instance, the Department of Commerce offers several papers like Business Environment, Entrepreneurial Finance, New Venture Finance, Family Business Management and Entrepreneurship-New Venture Creation to name a few. Other departments offer subject relevant entrepreneurship development courses like the Department of History does on Entrepreneurship in Tourism Industry and the Departments of Sociology and Social Work both offer a paper on Social Entrepreneurship.

Apart from the pedagogical mechanism used to encourage entrepreneurship various events are conducted in college that showcase the role of entrepreneurship. Mentioned below are some:

The Department of Commerce Shift – I conducted several conferences, workshops, guest lectures and cultural events this year such as a One Day State Level Conference on Entrepreneurship – ‘The Entrepreneurial Recipe for Business Success’ – in collaboration with FICCI FLO and TiE, Chennai on 13 December 2018, ‘Workshop on Entrepreneurship - Soap Making and Lip Balm Making’, Workshop ‘Perfecting a Pitch: Tips to win a Social Enterprise Funding’ organised jointly by Stella Maris College and United States Information Services.

The Department of Commerce Shift – II organised a three-day International Conference titled ‘Innovation and Transformation, the Leading Edge in Global Business’ from 13 to 15 February 2019. The Entrepreneurial Development Cell of the Department of Commerce Shift – II organised various programmes in order to improve the knowledge and skills of the students who aspire to pursue entrepreneurship as their career. These provided students not only an exposure to various leaders from the industry through interactive discussions, guest lectures and training workshops but also enhanced the students’ knowledge of the current trends of the industry.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks and review results like What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

The thrust given to entrepreneurship is evident in the design of the curriculum for numerous courses and its success measurable in the number of women who have emerged as successful entrepreneurs. The current EDC working collaboratively with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), Anna University has been well received by the student body.

Listed below are some successful events conducted for students in the last academic year which provide tangible indication of the reach of Entrepreneurial Development as a practice:

EPIC 2019, an annual feature of EDC, took place on 11 and 12 March 2019. Dr. Nalli Kuppaswamy Chetty—Chairman, Nalli Silk Sarees Pvt. Ltd. inaugurated ‘Family Business’; the inaugural was followed by a series of lectures by other family business entrepreneurs. An exhibition and sale of products by students and entrepreneurs was organised on the second day.

Tresalanza - a cultural extravaganza - was organised to motivate the students of the Department of Commerce - Shift I to showcase their talents and develop a healthy competitive spirit in them. Inaugural address on Entrepreneurship Trends was given by Prof. Sridhar Narayanan, Professor, Great Lakes Institute of Management.

A Certificate course in Spreadsheet Modelling & Computerised Financial Accounting was offered by the Department of Commerce Shift - I in collaboration with LIBA. It commenced on 17 December 2018 at LIBA (Loyola Institute of Business Management), Chennai. 32 students of the Department of Commerce, shift I were benefitted through this certificate course.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice in about 150 words.

The establishing of an interdisciplinary think-tank and incubation centre which brings together aspiring entrepreneurs and researchers from the college community is a part of our future plans. The challenges as in any new venture include a need for infrastructure, mobilisation of funds and networking with industry experts and leaders.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of the Principal: Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph fmm

Name of the Institution: Stella Maris College(Autonomous)

City: Chennai

Pin Code: 600086

Accredited Status: CGPA of 3.68 on four point scale

Validity Period: February 20, 2021

Work Phone: 044-28110121

Website: www.stellamariscollege.edu.in

Mobile: 9840690217

E-mail: principal@stellamariscollege.edu.in