

Institutional Best Practices and Distinctiveness

Best Practices

1) Vachan Katta (वाचन कट्टा)

2) Vivek Vahini (विवेक वाहिनी)

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Introduction:

It is observed that students don't read books other than curricular study material. Hardly any student is found who has read five extra-curricular books. In short the present generation of students lacks in literacy competencies. In view of this fact it was decided to initiate 'Vachan Katta' activity in order to inculcate and develop basic language skills among the students. Taking in confidence the librarian of Mahatma Gandhi Vachanalaya in Kagal City, the librarian of the Shahu Nagar Parishad, the reader in Kagal city and the authors in the vicinity, the Dept of Marathi took initiate on Vachan Katta.

1. Title: Vachan Katta :

The practice of Vachan Katta aims at inculcating the habit of reading amongst the students. The term 'Vachan' means reading with understanding (appreciation). The term 'Katta' stands for a common place for regular and periodic meetings for some activity with a specific aim or objectives.

2. Objectives:

- I. To inculcate and develop reading habit among the students in and around the college.
- II. To acquaint the students with methodic reading skills
- III. To develop creative faculty among the students
- IV. To create a common platform for the art & expression and presentation
- V. To provide the students with an opportunity to interact with the readers and literacy personalities from the neighbourhood.

The aim behind this innovative practice/activity is to stimulate habit of reading different materials such as short stories, letter, novels etc. Along with developing reading skills the participant were expected to experience free exchange of thoughts with writers and critics from the neighbouring area. The participants were expected to develop an urge for writing also. Among other intended outcomes we included developing Stage-daring, self-confidence and creativity.

The Practice:

- A. It was decided that “Vachan Katta’ would be held normally on every First Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. This activity is conducted for about ten months from June to March every year. During remaining two months it was held at the library, of Shahu Nagar Parishad and over at some times at a member’s home also. Many general public readers and some local authors also participate in the activity. Every month students from a particular class are chosen for Vachan Katta. In addition, other students who want to join or attend it are invited. Also some senior citizen readers regularly attend it. Five to Six such citizens are present every time.

B. Table of Session held

Sr. No.	Subject	Participants / Expert	Date
1	Inauguration / Importance of Reading Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. B. M. Hirdekar (Expert)Dr. Praveen Chougale (Chairperson)	07/01/2017
2	Open Poem-Recital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sou. Manik Mali (Mayor of Kagal)Smt. Ashakaki Mane (Chairperson)	04/02/2017
3	Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smt. Alka ThoratSmt. Mugdha Deshpande (Chairperson)	04/03/2017
4	My favorite Book ('Mazha Krudayrog') Sakshatkari	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shri. V. M. BoteShri. Appasaheb Jakate (Chairperson)	01/04/2017
5	My favorite Book – ('Aamcha Baap ani Amhi' – Narendra Jadhav)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shri. Krantikumar Kamble (Alumni Student)Shri. Janardan Pakhare (Chairperson)	03/06/2017
6	Discussion 'Ek Hota Karvar' – Veena Gavankar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rushikesh SasaneJitendra RudaniShubham SankpalSuresh Done	01/07/2017
7	Discussion 'Man Main Hain Vishwas'- Vishwas Nangare-Patil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">StudentsDr. Smt. Neela Joshi	05/08/2017
8	Book Discussion 'Who Moved My Chees' – David Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Miss. Sonam KatkarMiss. Ravina ManeMiss. Snehal PatilMiss. Joti KambleMiss. Pournima BhakareMiss. Shilpa Powar	09/09/2017
9	Reading of three best essays from essay competition on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">StudentsDr. Smt. Neela Joshi	07/10/2017
10	'Shyamchi Aai' by Sane Guruji	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Sangeeta EksambekarProf. Jayashri JagatapMiss. Sonam Katkar	25/11/2017

11	'Anna Is Deshmain' – by Krushna Agnihotri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students • Prof. Smt. H. A. Maldar 	09/12/2017
12	Speech on – 'The Process of Writing Poetry'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Eknath Patil 	08/01/2018
13	Book Discussion 'Strugglers' by Mukta Chaitan ya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Sandeep Wadekar 	04/03/2018
14	Speech on V. S. Khandekar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri. Laxman Pangam 	04/04/2018
15	'Mazha Lekhan Pravas'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri. Anand Puranik 	05/05/2018
16	Chh. Shahu Maharaj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Swardha Sankpal 	06/06/2018
17	Writer at your Door- 'Mazi Sahitya Nirmitee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri. Navnath Gore 	18/07/2018
18	Book Discussion – 'Fesati' (Yuva Sahitya Academy Award Winner – Athmakathan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss. Sayali Desai • Miss. Pournima Bhakare • Miss. Ravina Mane • Prof. Shraddha Patil 	01/01/2018
19	Interview of The journalist – Shri. Sachin Jagadale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and Faculty 	10/09/2018
20	Book Reading (Abhivachan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and Faculty 	15/10/2018
21	Discussion on Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Smt. Neela Joshi • Prof. Rajesh Patil 	03/11/2018
22	Poetry Recital 'Sahitya Vichar Manch ani Vachan Katta' Jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smt. Mugdha Deshpande • Smt. Mujumdar Madam • 17 other participants 	13/12/2018
23	A lecture and a documentary on P. L. Deshpande	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Sandeep Wadekar 	02/01/2019
24	Language Skills and Personality Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Rajesh Patil 	06/02/2019
25	Book Reading 'Kharedi' by Nishikant Gurav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss. Manisha Patil • Miss. Shweta Magadum • Miss. Priyanka Patil • Miss. Vishakha Bhosale • Miss. Vaishnavi Patil • Shri. Chetan Hegaje 	02/04/21019
26	Writing based on Sayings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri. Appasaheb Jakate 	30/05/2019
27	The social status of Womens – Girls Education – a sign of progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss Samruddhi Nikam • Miss. Pooja Patil 	22/06/2019

Evidence of Success:

The participants in Vachan Katta voluntarily expressed their satisfaction over the development of reading habit in them. In addition they were satisfied to learn methodology and benefits of reading aloud. Also they develop liking for reading more and more feedback from some students speaks a lot about this.

Challenge faced and Resources :

1. Sometimes conducting Vachan Katta was difficult due to overlaps of different activities and programme
2. During vacation from April and May it becomes difficult to continue the activity, however the participants are advised to continue it at home. A stock is taken about their vacation work in the opening of the next academic year.
3. There is limited financial provision, Nevertheless the faculty members conducting the activity contribute towards it in cash or in kind. It may be noted that books are given as prizes or rewards.
4. Sufficient number of copies of the books selected for Vachan Katta may not be available in the library.
5. There are limitations in reading and to the readers or stations outside the college.
6. The students coming to Senior College do not have much prior reading experience. Therefore we need to reach out to the neighboring Junior College in order to popularize this activity.
7. It is wrongly believed that reading newspapers is reading habit and inclination.

2) Vivek Vahini (विवेक वाहिनी)

1. Title of Best Practice : Vivek Vahini

2. Objectives of the Practice

The major objectives of the Vivek Vahini are as follow:

1. To create and promote a scientific attitude among the students.
2. To assist students for self-development through various activities.
3. To create a scientific rational approach in society and brought positive changes in social lives of rural people.
4. To create social awareness and develop rational view regarding superstitions as well as other social hurdles.
5. To connect the students with society and develop social responsibilities among them to fill the gap between theory and practice.

3. The Context

In a developing country like India, the problem of illiteracy, ignorance and lack of scientific attitude becomes hurdles in the socio-economic development. Unless and until we overcome from these issues we cannot realize our socio-economic goals. Under this backdrop, it is a responsibility of the educated people to be against the awful customs and traditions in society. It is also a duty of each and every educated people to contribute in social development. College is well aware of these social hurdles which are obstacles in the socio-economic development of the rural area. Hence, the college has decided to create social awareness regarding the superstitions and scientific attitude among the students in particular and in society in general, as one of the important goals. Teachers provide guidance to the pupils regarding how to address these social issues and brought positive changes in their lives and the society.

4. The Practice

Students who desire to participate in the Vivek Vahini activities are admitted through a selection procedure. During the academic year, different activities are organized which includes regular meeting twice in a month and specific programs in the college and nearby villages.

The following major activities were undertaken under the Vivek Vahini in last five years.

1. Felicitated the couples who had inter-caste and intra-religion marriage
2. Celebrated Savitribai Phule birth Anniversary in 3rd January
3. Women campaigning against superstition
4. Interaction of students with successful personalities.
5. Organized seminar on “we and our constitutional responsibilities”
6. Organized seminar on “Constitutional Fundamental Duties and Rights”
7. Organized group discussion on “Environmental Degradation”
8. Organized guest lecture on “Shiv Jaynti”
9. Celebration of 8th March world women day in villages and interacted with self help group.
10. Celebration of 23rd March as a “Shahid Din”
11. Organized guest lecture on Babasheb Ambedkar Jaynti 14th April
12. Celebrated 5th June world environment day

13. Organized lecture 6th August Hiroshima day
14. Celebrated 9th August Revolution Day
15. Presentation on miracles on the occasion of scientific miracle day 21st September

In addition, to these activities following major activities are also undertaken at villages by the students during the last five years.

1. Village level meeting on fundamental rights
2. Village level meeting on the fundamental constitutional duties
3. Village level lecture on scientific approach
4. Village level meeting on humanities non-violence
5. Meeting on gram sabha and significance of people participation in village development
6. Introduction of government schemes and policies to the villagers
7. Precaution of health: women and child
8. Lecture on agriculture development
9. Introduction of agriculture schemes to the farmers
10. Village technology
11. Programme on insurance scheme to the unskilled labours and agricultural labours
12. Significance of micro finance and SHGs in rural development
13. Issues of livelihood sources
14. Family planning
15. Human rights
16. Animal husbandry
17. Environmental protection and conservation
18. Holi Lahan Poli Dan

5. Evidence of Success

2016-17

- ❖ Prof. Kurshnath Kore has inaugural Vivek Vahini on dated 12th August 2016.
- ❖ Prof. Babasaheb Nadaf has delivered guest lecture on Bhagatshing Birth Anniversary on 30th September 2016.
- ❖ The long march was carried out from college to Gaibi Chowk on Narendhra Dabholkar death Anniversary on 20th August.
- ❖ Vivek Vahini has published wall articles on the ozone depletion on 24th 2016.
- ❖ Collaborative one day workshop was organized by college on “Lesan Azadi : Significance in Universal Educational Principals” with Bahai Academy Panchgani on dated 6th January 2017.
- ❖ On the occasion of youth day, vahini has arranged lecture on the significance of constitution on dated 12th January.
- ❖ Vahini has organized Mahila Melava in Sakhe and Lingnur Village on dated 8th March 2017 on the occasion world women day.
- ❖ Vahini has also organized “Holi Lahan Poli Dan” programme and Polis are distributed in Devchand Chatralay in 13th March 2017.
- ❖ Prof. Dr. S.A.Jadhav has delivered lecture on Bhagat Singh on 23th March 2017.

Special Programmes

- A) Regular meeting twice in a month.

B) Celebration of student's birthday and offering book to the students.

2017-18

- ❖ Inaugural of Vivek Vahini on dated 5th July 2017.
- ❖ Organized guest lecture on 11th July World Population Day.
- ❖ The long march was carried out from college to Gaibichock on Narendhra Dabholkar death Anniversary on 20th August.
- ❖ Celebration of Abdul Kalam Literature
- ❖ Collected Ganesh idol and solid waste at Dhudhganga river Kagal
- ❖ Promoted students for environmental celebration of Devali
- ❖ Organized lecture on Swami Vivekanand and youth
- ❖ Organized lecture on organic farming and sustainable development
- ❖ Vahini has also organized "Holi Lahan Poli Dan" programme and Polis are distributed in Devchand Chatralay in 3th March 2018.
- ❖ Vahini has organized lecture on women empowerment in Vanali on dated 8th March 2018 on the occasion world women day.
- ❖ Organized SHGs Women meeting in Lingnur on 11th March 2018

2018-19

- ❖ Inaugural of Vivek Vahini on dated 11th August 2018.
- ❖ Organized guest lecture on scientific attitude and youth on 11th August 2018.
- ❖ The long march was carried out from college to Gaibichock on Narendhra Dabholkar death Anniversary on 20th August.
- ❖ Babasheb Nadaf has delivered lecture on Sawmi Vivekanand and Youth.
- ❖ Vahini has organized Mahila Melava in Shendur Village on dated 8th March 2019 on the occasion world women day.
- ❖ Vahini has also organized "Holi Lahan Poli Dan" programme and Polis are distributed in Devchand Chatralay in 21th March 2019.\
- ❖ Prof. Babasheb Nadaf has delivered lecture on "Bhagat Singh Shahid Ka Jala" on 23th March 2019 in Moje Sangav.

6. Problem Encountered and Required Resource

The major hurdles in the smooth working of Vivek Vahini are as below.

1. Lack of adequate time due to semester exam system
2. Student faces difficulty in attending the activities due to the different time schedule of the faculties.

Required Resources

1. For strengthening the activities more financial resources are needed.
2. Need of a separate room for Vivek Vahini activities.

Intuitional Distinctiveness

Weekly Prayer (इतनी शक्ती हमें देना दाता...)

1. Introduction

The College ensures that the Vision and Mission of the Institution is periodically revised in order to make it in tune with the needs of the changing times which are reflected in the higher education policies of the nation.

The Vision: The Vision statement of the College is 'Duritache Timir Jawo' which means: 'May the darkness of ignorance, corruption and wickedness be eradicated from the society'. The term 'Timir' implies every undesirable forces such as vices and evils. The College can play a vital role in eradicating this 'Timir' from the community in general and the student in particular.

The Mission: The second statement of the mission of the College is 'To inculcate introspective, scientific and democratic attitude among the student through value education and social as well as environmental awareness. Accordingly, thrust is laid on molding the students into good human beings. All efforts are made to enlighten them with all such desirable qualities which are significant from a nation's point of view.

2. The Title: Weekly Prayer:

All religions involve prayers. God is invoked by a person for mental, social, moral or material prosperity. This is true regarding every religion and individual. But a higher education institution is social organization so its working should be secular in nature and spirit. The Indian Constitution advocates secularism, i.e. equality of religions. A general prayer, not pertaining to any particular religion, can serve the purpose in every higher education institution.

3. Objectives of Weekly Prayer-

- i) To inculcate a desirable value system among the students.
- ii) To facilitate quick and timely felicitation of the staff holders before a common congregation in order to encourage the winners to improve and progress and to promote the rest to become winners.
- iii) To provide a regular and periodic occasion for giving common instruction.
- iv) To encourage the use of music (Harmonium and Tabala) and to promote singers and musical instrument players by giving them regular and periodic opportunities.

4. The Context:

Due to some inevitable reasons sometimes the College can't organize the Prize Distribution ceremony. At such time the successful students or other staff holder can't be duly felicitated for their achievements. On such occasion a weekly prayer comes to our rescue. Every week on Monday all inmates of the College including students, faculty, administrative staff and other support staff along with the Principal gather together on the three sides of the big central banyan tree in the premises in order to offer the prayer. The successful sports students, winners in other competitions and faculty members achieving some tasks of winning some awards or doing some research are aptly felicitated on this occasion. The purpose of this felicitation is not only to congratulate the winners but to motivate and encourage others to do the same. This common platform is also used to pay homage to the renowned personalities on their death.

5. Value Education:

'Inculcating a Value System among students' is one of the core values of the Institution. The College consistently tries to impart skill Education through add on courses (AOCs) and value added courses (VACs) this skill development is crucial for the student in the job market. Skills, however, are of less value in the absence of appropriate value system. Therefore the College shoulders this responsibility of inculcating desirable value systems among the students. In our country there is cultural plurality and diversity. It is necessary to integrate this variety into a homogenous society. Also it is essential that students absorb and imbibe appropriate values in accordance with our social, economic, cultural and environmental realities.

The values such as co-operation and mutual understanding, equality, justice, secularism, scientific approach, equal opportunity, fraternity and dignity of labor are reiterated and emphasized in our national policies documents like the Constitution of India and Education Commission. However, in a higher education institution these values need to be focused through appropriate learning experiences throughout the academic year

6. The Distinctiveness of the Weekly Prayer:

A) The Text of the Prayer:

The College has adopted the lyric 'Itni Shakti Hamein Dena Data' (इतनी शक्ति हमें देना दाता) written by Abhilash for the film 'Ankush' as the weekly prayer. The text of the prayer consists of all secular words. Hence the prayer is applicable to all religions. The term 'Data' represents the concept of 'God' present in every religion. There are four stanzas in prayer along with a refrain.

1) The refrain:

The refrain of prayer says "Give us so much strength O Lord, the Giver, that the faith in our hearts never wavers. May we walk the path of goodness and we don't commit any mistake even by accident."

2) The First Stanza:

The first line of the first stanza-'Door agyaan ke ho andhere'- is analogous with the Vision of the Institution- 'Duritache Timir Jawo' the next line- 'Tu hamein gyaan ki roshni de' sounds like the motto - 'The light of knowledge.' There should be no enmity with anybody and no vengeance for anyone. The next line asks for security from bad things and life of goodness. Be there no ill will, nor the feeling of vengeance.

3) The Second Stanza:

The second stanza upholds 'The selfless-service attitude' it is not 'what we get' but 'what we contribute' that matters much for us. Here a sense of 'benevolence' is highlighted. By giving 'flowers of happiness' we make everyone's life 'a garden of sweetness'. Finally the prayer says 'by the water of compassion we can make every corner of the heart pious.'

B) Looking closely at the text of the prayer one may find that it is a reservoir of human values as mentioned below.

1) The prayer underlines 'faith in God and goodness', 'life without mistakes', 'light of knowledge', 'goodness with no ill will nor vengeance', 'contribution to society', 'sharing happiness and sweetness', 'compassion' and 'piety'. All these values are reiterated periodically that is weekly in order to engrave them on the students' heart.

2) The text of the prayer, even though it is religious in nature, does not employ any word associated with any particular religion. Words, for instance, God, Bhagwan, Malik or Allah which stand for the Almighty are implicit and not explicit. This imparts secular nature to the prayer even though it is in keeping with the Indian tradition.

C) Significance of the prayer:

Only one sided scholastic development of the students doesn't make them good human beings. Hence, along with the core curricular program the College endeavors to train them in some skills that would mold them on par with the global demands. In addition, the moral and spirituals upbringing of the students has been a matter of priority and trust area for the College.

7. Short Speeches on Values:

In order to give an additional thrust to value education, the IQAC initiated a supplementary practice of short speeches on various values given by the faculty members at the time of the weekly prayer. On every Monday, following the prayer a speech by some faculty member on some universal human values is arranged. Different values are allotted to different teachers. In a very short time of five to ten minutes the teachers explain and discuss the given value before the heterogeneous congregation. Important values such as Righteousness, Gender equality, Dignity of labor, Cleanliness, Equality and fraternity and the like are discussed.

8. A platform for general instructions:

A large number of students are present for the weekly prayer. Therefore, taking this opportunity some important instructions of general interest are given to the students and if necessary their discussed at length by the concerned authority. This creates a good impact on the students. In addition, some important notices about urgent matters such as scholarship-applications, essay and elocution competition, sports tournaments etc. are given at the time of the weekly prayer. Also instruction about some special drives like Mahaswachhata Abhiyanan Voter-registration drive are given in detail. This practice as yielded good response and satisfactory impact.