

BEST PRACTICES

Swabodhini Campus:

1. Title of the Practice

Swabodhini School for special children and vocational center in Guru Nanak College campus – imparts education for students with special needs.

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To encourage self-confidence in children with autism, intellectual disabilities and associated challenges in the age group of 4 to 30.
- Providing special education, occupational therapy, speech therapy, yoga and vocational training to the students depending on their functional ability and age.
- Training in vocational skills preparing students to be mainstreamed into society or to be trained for supported employment.

3. The Context

A new center of Swabodhini was started within our college campus which has brought remarkable progress in the students with special needs. The students were given various activities such as gardening, sports, annual day, run for fun, parent counselling, science lab, group communication, life skill training, experiential learning and vocational products to fine tune their skills and nurture their fine motor skills.

4. The Practice

A yearlong vocational skill training courses, in the domains of Computer/ Admin skills, Retail Skills and Culinary Skills, have been accredited by Guru Nanak College (Autonomous) and the students receive certification from the college. The students of Swabodhini campus are encouraged to make small gift items such as Tulsi balcony, Diyas, small lamps, handicraft items on their own out of mud and placed for sale along with the other products offered for sale by GNC N Devour through stalls, a mock company run by the students of the Department of B.com. Honours. It is identified that the parents of children with special needs have a significant

impact on their children and with the help of parent counselling, a healthy parent-child interactive environment could be accomplished which will help them to get positively involved in the education of their child and further help them to contribute more to the child's development. Using this method, parents are taught to learn how to adapt themselves to the environment around their child, the different teaching materials used to help their child and also be in tune with the curriculum of the school. The latter being an individualized program for each child and depend on the child's needs. This further helps in creating a familiar pattern for the child, which also helps the parents to stay abreast of their child's development. The Learning life skills provides students with mental disabilities help in developing social/personal, life, and self-concept skills to help them achieve greater self-sufficiency.

5. Evidence of Success

Two students are employed in the college office for a life of dignity. GNC students have also been benefitted by gaining human values such as equality, empathy and care by interacting with them. This Inclusion, the first of its kind, has brought about remarkable progress, in the students with special needs. Swabodhini adopts experiential learning into the curriculum for relating the classroom knowledge acquired into real life experience. Every class has a structured timetable for these sessions every month and the teacher along with students & caregivers make visits to the places/ labs/ locations etc where they are shown the real life demonstrations. The visits are made at least twice or thrice based on the needs until the child becomes independent. The concepts taught through experiential learning include – travel through public transport, social behaviour in public places like malls, temples, theme parks, theatres etc., shopping skills through visit to departmental stores, historic facts through museum visits etc.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources

There is no problem as the management is keen on providing support services to the special children at college campus.

Covid 19 Pandemic Migrant workers Relief camp:

1. Title of the Practice

Migrant workers Relief Camp for the Covid 19 Pandemic – Guru Nanak Educational Society in association with the Tamil Nadu Home guards offered to conduct a relief camp in the college campus.

2. Objectives of the Practice

To extend help to the migrant workers during the lock down period.

3. The Context

As part of the Institution Social Responsibility, the Guru Nanak Educational Society in association with the Tamil Nadu Home guards readily offered to conduct a relief camp, in the College campus, for guest workers during the lockdown period to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Manjit Singh Nayar, the college General Secretary and Correspondent is the Assistant Commandant General TN Home Guards initiated the migrant workers relief camp and was extending guidance ensuring high standards throughout the camp by his presence.

4. The Practice

Around 2600 migrant workers (mainly from Odisha, Assam and other part of North east) and 100 volunteers were provided accommodation with basic needs such as nutritious food, bed sheets, toiletries and health needs such as health screening, yoga and exercise sessions adhering to social distancing and all hygiene norms laid down by the authorities.

5. Evidence of Success

The camp was supported and visited by several service organizations and individual donors in terms of service, food materials, essentials and monetary assistance. High ranking officials including the DGP, Commissioner of Police, ADGP (Home guards), Commissioner (Corporation of Madras), IAS and IPS officers and other senior officials visited the camp regularly. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri. Edappadi K.

Palaniswami visited the camp in person and participated in the distribution of food. He addressed the camp volunteers and the guest workers. He also held a press meet at the College Campus on the management of COVID relief camps, at the conclusion of his visit. The Leader of the Opposition also visited the camp and provided large quantities of relief materials, including masks, bread, groceries and vegetables to the camp. At the conclusion of the Camp, elaborate arrangements were also made for their smooth return by train to their home states. This was a model camp and the great service rendered by the College was accorded wide appreciation from various quarters. The local, national and international Press and Media chronicled this initiative extensively

6. Problems Encountered and Resources

No problems were faced as meticulous planning and execution was ensured.