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## **Best Practice-1**

- **Title of the practice**

Circular Bus Service for Female students - *Vidya Vahini*

- **The context that required the initiation of the practice**

Being a co-educational institute with majority of students coming from surrounding villages, transport for daily commuting has been one of the persistent worries of the parents. The College Principal took up the issue of safe transportation as a major concern of the parents for rural as well as urban female students. The idea was further strengthened by the overall social awareness created by *Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao* campaign and institutional participation in the drive through various Cells/Committees and activities.

Kaithal city is having four colleges. At present 4900 girl students are studying and the number is increasing. Around 50 percent of these students are availing bus pass facility to commute daily. As roadways buses unboard at the bus stand, three to five kilometers away from the institutions, it was hazardous for girls to reach their respective colleges and back. To address the problem, college prepared a project to start circular bus service and it was planned that District Administration, Kaithal, should also be approached for needful support. Principal with members of the special committee presented the proposal to D.C. Kaithal who is also Chairperson of District Red Cross Society. However, the initiative on the Bus Service came from the inclusive vision and sincere concern of the Principal, Dr. S.K. Goyal, who discussed this issue with the parents in Annual Meeting of Parents' Association and decided to explore alternative possibilities to ensure safety and security of the needy section.

- **Objectives of the practice**

- To provide safe and subsidized transportation service to female students.
- To promote Higher Education among girls under the aegis of *Beti Bacho –Beti Padhao* Campaign.
- To curb 'Eve teasing', 'Groping' and 'Stalking' on roads and in public transport.
- To inculcate confidence among the female students
- To relieve the parents of the insecurity, responsibility and financial liabilities
- To initiate an 'Anti-Pollution Drive' thereby minimizing traffic congestion and number of road accidents.
- To make the college campus eco-friendly.

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## • The practice

The proposal prepared by college with inputs and guidance of district administration was given the shape of a town-wide action plan of resources and time bound implementation. The practice evolved as a Public-Private Partnership, Indraprastha Gas Ltd. as the main sponsor of recurring expenditure on buses provided by the district administration. The project was named ‘*Vidya Vahini*’ as suggested by Deputy Commissioner. The external designing, slogans, colour etc. were done by the College. The funding from IGL was procured under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In implementation of the project, a subsidised monthly bus-pass service covering all the colleges of Kaithal was started on 6 September 2019. On the day of inauguration, main function was organized at College where a large no. of girl students cheered the President, State Red Cross Society, Deputy Commissioner, Kaithal, College Principal, IGL representatives and members of the committee. These dignitaries escorted the first batch of commuting girls, and interacted with them. In routine practice, more than 1200 female students travel safely in *Vidya Vahini* to their respective institutions daily. In this facility, 3 fifty-seater buses, 2 clockwise, 1 anti-clockwise run with frequency at interval of 30 minutes during the working hours of all the institutions. The contract made for 3 buses on monthly basis amounts to a gross expenditure of Rs. 4.30 lacs, having Rs. 1.5 per bus. IGL provides the necessary funds.

## • Obstacles faced, if any, and strategies adopted to overcome

Initially, the parents and students were sceptic about the regularity of the service proposed. It was also observed that girls were apprehensive of restrictions on their independent mobility in case the frequency of the bus service was limited and with long gaps. Given the fact that the facility was a new one and initiated for the first time by a higher educational institution, help of the local administration was quite crucial for a long-term and sustainable action plan. As the financial resources required were quite high and the beneficiaries among the target groups belonged to all the colleges in the City, the district administration was visualized as a key source of support.

## • Impact of the Practice

- The practice has proved very beneficial for the girl students who otherwise have to face problems like eve-teasing, groping or stalking.
- The project got recognition at national level as one of twenty five innovative initiatives out of entries from 640 Districts across the country where *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* is being implemented. The project got published in *Chronicles of Change Champions* published by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, March 2020.

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- The project had the potential to be scaled up to the state level under the fold of the recently launched ‘Chhatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana’.
  - Institutional distinction towards social responsibility recognized in district level policy making.
  - This has also helped in reducing traffic congestion and number of road accidents while reducing the financial burden of parents.
  - An envisioned impact is reduction in the carbon emission in the town which, otherwise, has significantly increased.

- **Resources Required**

No. of Hired buses	:	3 buses /day
Seating Capacity	:	50 Students

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## Best Practice II

- **Title of the Practice**

Need based Financial support to students and employees

- **The context that required the initiation of practice**

The academic excellence of an educational institution depends upon several factors. Financial assistance to needy and deserving students is one of them as it encourages students for studies and perform better in their academic pursuits. Despite many ongoing schemes of the Central and State Govt., a large number of needy students having potential and determination to pursue further studies are left out of the required financial help. A section of College employees with economic restraints also require special consideration for supportive measures including refundable and non-refundable financial aid.

- **Objectives of the Practice**

- To provide financial assistance to needy and deserving students to continue their studies up to higher levels.
- To tap drop outs due to economic and social disadvantages
- To promote competitive performance among students in academics, sports and extracurricular activities.
- To ensure congenial and supportive work environment to employees.

- **The practice**

Comparative fee structure of the College is liberally maintained at the bottom line among the Govt. Aided Private Colleges in Haryana. As and when the state govt. and affiliating University enhance fee structure, keeping in view the financial hurdles faced by students, the College administration ensures only a nominal increase. The institutional system of financial support to the needy and reasonably good performers in academics, sports, cultural activities is quite robust ranging from 50% to 100% tuition fee waivers, along with special awards and recognition. In routine admission process, it is ensured that in case of SC/ST category students, govt. norms regarding without cash payment are strictly followed. In practice, the College accommodates a large number of students, approximately 30 percent of total enrollments under flexible system of fee payment, half and full fee concession, installments, scholarships/bursaries sponsored by in-service and retired faculty. To identify genuine and deserving students, different committees are formed at UG and PG level to scrutinize academic credentials/performance and extent of economic hazards of the applicants. In the academic year 2019-20 an amount of Rs.

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303720 was utilized for waiving of fees of 161 students from Students Aid Fund (SAF). In addition to this, 42 sports persons were given aid amounting to Rs. 254505. Various government sponsored schemes namely National Merit Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarships for SC, Post Metric Scholarships for BC, BPL Students, POSE Scholarships are transparently and efficiently delivered to 1425 beneficiaries amounting to Rs. 12188360. Further annual scholarships worth Rs.239013 to 252 students is given by current and retired faculty.

In addition to the above, the institution has a strong tradition and practice of supporting the employees as and when genuine requirement is presented to the Chair. Need-based advance against salary, interest free Loan for marriage/education of children, advance for wheat, fee waiver for wards and special drives for financial and institutional community support in conditions of health or other emergency are the hallmarks of overall support to the employees. This amounts to monthly circulation of Rs. 3-5 Lakh in the annual budget.

- **Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome**

At appropriate levels efforts are made to allocate and procure funds for uninterrupted implementation.

- **Impact of the Practice**

The practice of financial assistance to needy students with adjoining clause of 'good performance' has helped in giving a feeling of earning the benefit. Retention of students from disadvantaged sections and backgrounds is ensured and drop outs minimized. Despite differential pay scales, nature of job and qualifications, the employees of the College work under the same system of assurance and practical support in hour of need.

- **Resources Required:**

Resources required are provided by all concerned without delay or dilemma.