

Caring Campus Program

The sole purpose of setting up SVR NSS College in a rural area was to promote education among the families of poor farmers and daily wage workers. This institution has maintained its focus on social support throughout the decades of its growth. We believe in reaching out to our fellow beings more than in individual prosperity.

Goal

1. Identifying students who are financially weak and underprivileged.
2. Creating a culture of caring and sharing among our students and faculty.
3. Uplifting financially weak students to the mainstream of education.

Context

Majority of the students in SVR NSS college are from rural and agricultural backgrounds. Except for a minority, most of the parents depend on agriculture, daily wage jobs and low income businesses to make a living. Higher education is not something that most of the families find to be a requirement. The cost of education and the requirement of more earning members in the families used to cause dropouts after schooling. Our institution was founded on the purpose of supporting such students and even now, we organise programs to support those who are not able to afford quality education.

Practice

Economic Survey: The college conducts extensive economy surveys among students over fixed intervals. A detailed questionnaire which includes questions based on family income, income sources, assets, liabilities, type of houses, facilities etc is prepared. The collected data is analysed and students who are in need of support are identified. Apart from this central process, departments also organise various programs to support students.

Snehapoorvam Project: One successful project in this area is the Snehapoorvam program by the Department of Economics. There is a piggy bank in every classroom and students and teachers put at least one rupee each day. Educational equipments like books and pens are bought using this money and handed over to students who are worthy of support.

Hands Together: Another example for intra departmental support program is the Hands Together project in the

Department of Mathematics. Students and teachers donate as they can to the money pouch and this amount is later used to support economically weaker students in the department.

Department fund: Apart from the college support projects and departmental projects, departments also maintain a department fund raised from the contribution of the faculties. Money drained through this fund is later handed over as money or in kind to the students depending on their requirements.

NSS Activities: NSS volunteers support the college's socially committed activities by constructing houses, toilets, building roads etc for the students as well as for those in the community who require social support.

Evidence of success

Through the economic survey, one of our students was found to have no electricity on her house. Steps were taken to raise this issue in front of the authorities in the Panchayat and KSEB. One of our student became benefactors when NSS volunteers came forward to help in completing the construction of house build houses. Many students were provided with learning materials, books and other educational equipments.

Problems encountered and Resources required

1. As most of our students are from lower class background, the money raised for student support is mainly from our faculties. At times, we are not able to raise enough money.
2. Collection of data through survey is a tedious task. Some students are reluctant to share their monetary troubles and therefore avoid questions or give false response.
3. Often, we end up requesting the support of local authorities and well wishers to support worthy students from unprivileged families.