



Best Practice – II Outreach Program through “VICAS” - Villa Marie Initiatives towards Community Awareness and Services

1. Title of the Practice: Outreach Program through VICAS - Villa Marie Initiatives towards Community Awareness and Services: Empowering Students for Social Responsibility

2. Objectives of the Practice:

Giving back to the people is indeed what fetches the students, glory and empathy. By being a part of social activities, the students are also opening doors for more and more global opportunities and benefits.

Villa Marie Degree College promotes ethical behaviour and raises awareness about key issues faced by the society. The outreach program initiated through the VICAS Committee aims to achieve multifaceted goals:

1. To raise awareness among students about the pressing social issues.
2. To instil a sense of social responsibility in students, encouraging active participation in community welfare.
3. To foster a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the broader societal context.

3. The Context:

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success”

“A little bit of humility can always change the world”

Going to college isn't all about academics. Rather, the college experience helps shape a student's perspective about the community, strengthens the sense of social responsibility and enables them to become well educated social beings.

In today's rapidly evolving world, the significance of community involvement and social responsibility cannot be understated. The Institution has recognized the need to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. By harnessing the potential of the VICAS committee, each department is actively engaging in

outreach initiatives. This proactive approach not only enriches the academic experience but also moulds students to be well-rounded individuals, cognizant of their societal obligations.

4. The Practice

It's great not only talking about community service in theory but actually doing it. The college aims to connect students and community to promote community engagement. The Convener of the VICAS Committee along with the members identifies areas and organizations that require service for their needs. The Committee deliberates on the needs of the organizations and embarks on taking initiatives by collaborating with them. To nurture compassionate and responsible citizens, each department plans outreach programs to sensitize students and also encourage a paradigm shift in their attitudes and perceptions towards society, fostering empathy and understanding.

5. Evidence of Success

The Chronicles of Villa Philanthropy over the years reflect the evidence of success at VMDCW. Social service committed to the pursuit of social justice and quality of life, reflects the potential of each individual. The impact of the outreach program is visible, with students showcasing a renewed sense of purpose and commitment. The evidence of its success includes:

- Enhanced awareness among students regarding the intricacies of social issues.
- A marked improvement in students' understanding of their roles as change agents within society.
- Increased participation in community-centric activities, reflecting a heightened sense of social responsibility.
- Positive feedback from community stakeholders, acknowledging the tangible difference made by the students.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

While the outreach program has garnered significant momentum, it has also encountered certain challenges:

- **Lack of Student Engagement:** A segment of students' remain disengaged, failing to recognize the importance of social responsibility.

- **Resource Constraints:** Adequate resources, both financial and logistical, are essential for the seamless execution of outreach initiatives.
- **Community Resistance:** In some instances, resistance from community members poses challenges to the implementation of certain programs.

Resources Required

- **Enhance Awareness:** Launch awareness campaigns highlighting the significance of social responsibility.
- **Allocate Resources:** Mobilize additional resources to boost outreach efforts, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.
- **Strengthen Community Partnerships:** Foster stronger ties with community stakeholders, in collaboration and mutual understanding.

There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed. And the journey towards community service continues forever....