

## **GREEN ENTREPRENEURS: Training and Mentoring Students in Entrepreneurship skills**

### **Objectives: The programme is intended to**

provide a platform where students can enhance their employability skills as part of earn while you learn program.

develop confidence regarding diverse financial opportunities among the students

make them entrepreneurs in future whilst they can provide employment to others

impart sewing skills, learning skills, employability skills and life skills

adopt a biodegradable material i.e., Jute as an alternative to plastic

ignite a sensitivity towards the environment among the students

help students participate in non-academic activities and develop new hobbies whereby their stress is reduced

### **Context/ Introduction:**

In the current scenario, students have become entirely engaged with academic activities only, owing to the semester system that has less duration and large syllabus. Hence, they lack time to learn skills that could support them in future. Moreover, each student does not have the same abilities in curricular aspects. There is a possibility that the students with a fewer academic abilities and interests could go jobless and face financial hardships in life. Keeping this in mind, the college has taken up this initiative of helping students acquire employability skills by training them in Jute Bag making that can demonstrate to them the available diverse financial opportunities while still keeping in sync with the utilization of environmental friendly material.

### **Practice:**

The college has an Alumni Association that collaborated with Neha Textiles and Handicrafts and started training in Jute Bag Making to the students in college. The duration of the training is 40 hours and was conducted from 29-09-2019 to 17-11-2019 for four hours daily from 8 AM to 10 AM and from 4 PM to 6PM. A trainer by name Smt. Kalyani trained the students in Jute Bag Making. Various designs of stitching the bags like sling bag, pooja bag, boat bag, pouches, files, wall hangings, wallets were taught to the students. Material for stitching the bags was provided by Neha Textiles and Handicrafts. Sewing tools were bought by the students and the expenditure for repairing the sewing machines and purchasing the material has been met from the college CPDC funds. The running of the course was monitored by a team of alumni staff of the college by allotting duties to each member daily from 4 PM to 6 PM and the morning sessions being monitored by the students.



The training for the first batch was completed on 17-11-2019 and the certificates to the trainees were given. An exhibition cum sale programme was organized in the college where all the products to the tune of 30 were sold out and the amount earned is 1000/-

Training for the second batch of students has been started on 12-12-2019 with forty hour duration. The first batch of students who had taken training was the trainers for the second batch of students. The alumni association of the college decided to continue the training for several batches of students successively with the trained students as trainers.

**Evidence of success:**

The products were exhibited and the staff and students in the college showed enthusiasm in buying the products. The fact that all the products were sold out in just a couple of hours is a great evidence of success. The students who earned money by selling their products experienced a confidence that can get them ready for the future. The biggest testimony of success is that even more number of students came forward to join the second batch and learn Jute Bag Making. The first batch of students who took training from professionals became the trainers for the second batch that shows how well trained they are.



**Outcomes:**

The students have acquired sewing skills, learning skills, employability skills and life skills.

The students have realized the importance of substituting plastic with a biodegradable material i.e., Jute.

The students developed confidence regarding financial opportunities they could avail in future.

They acquired creative skills

They acquired basic entrepreneur skills

The students successfully learnt how to prepare a Jute Bag.

**Problems encountered and resources required:**

The students had to spend an amount of 4 hours on a daily basis. The girls had to come as early as 8AM in the morning and stay back till 6PM in the evening. The day scholar girls who commute by public transport found this challenging. The students had to purchase their own sewing tools with their money. The students who took training in the first batch became the trainers and taught the skill to the new trainees. Since the students are not professional trainers, there is a chance of low quality skill being passed on.

**Resources required:**

Human Resources: Professional Trainers for every new batch

Nonhuman Resources: Sewing tools, jute bag material, sewing machines

**Suggestions:** The number of hours per day could be decreased to 2

**Becoming Agents of Change in Building the abilities of Adolescent Girls:** Investigating, improving the self and reflecting on the mirror image in adolescent girls by training them in social and life skills

**Objectives:** The following are the objectives that are aimed to be realized in the student community

Making students' cognitive abilities result in productivity, efficiency and impact.

Equipping students with knowledge regarding hygiene, gender, nutrition etc.

Engagement with social service.

Inculcation of leadership qualities.

Becoming change makers by empowering adolescent girls to resolve their confusions about courses, career, relationships etc.,

Realization of the efficacy of social skills and life skills.

**Context:**

Adolescent girls face incidents such as sexual abuse, child trafficking, bride burning, child marriages, murder, rape etc., and these odd elements build a wall against the growth and development of adolescent girls. The adolescents also face many health problems such as anaemia, hyper and hypothyroidism, nutrient deficiencies etc. To make students involve in extending social service and as responsible citizens of India the college has stepped in to incept "Kishori Vikasam" scheme to UG

level students. Kishori Vikasam is a motivational training given to adolescent girls in the areas of health, child rights, acts, career guidance, life skills etc by the Peer Group Trainers who are the students of this college. The students are trained on several aspects such as Gender awareness and equity, Peer pressure, Nutrition, Beauty consciousness, Relations, values and customs, Changes in adolescence, Menstruation, menstrual health and hygiene, Impact of child marriages, Sexual abuse and harassments, Child trafficking and related acts, Differences between love and attraction, Life skills and career guidance



### **Practice:**

The training was given to the adolescent girls in a phased manner. In the first phase during 2018-2019, 100 undergraduate students from the college, representing all programmes of study, were trained in the respective modules for 2 days. The students were instructed to choose topics of their choice. In the first phase, 50 students went to all government schools in Nellore locality. They created awareness among students of both boys and girls. Adolescent girls and boys shared the problems they are experiencing. They identified the following problems. Health anaemia, nutrient deficiencies, thyroid problems, Hygiene, menstrual problems, no proper water facilities in hostels, Gender discrimination at home, Confusion about their career, Lack of knowledge on child rights and acts, Child marriages, Many are in love, Adjustment problems in the family etc. The students made efforts in changing the mindset of the adolescent girls. The wiser responses from the Peer Group Trainers, the students of our college, to these sensitive issues are that they understood the motivating factors, Gave sensitive and sensible moral rehabilitation, Made them realize their ability to disconnect from the rotten segments of society. In the second phase total 50 students took part in this program. They went to various government and non governmental residential schools covering SPSR Nellore district and had given motivational training nearly to 5,000 adolescent boys and girls which is a tumultuous achievement. The areas they visited include Kovur, Podalakur, S.R Puram, Atmakur, Udayagiri, Marripadu, Nandipadu, A.S. Peta, Kondapuram, Kaligiri, Sangam, SC Puram, Buchi, Golagamudi, Alluru, Vidavaluru, Kodavaluru, Seetharamapuram.



In the third phase, during 2019-2020 , One hundred and thirty students from our college, who are having passion for social work were selected as Peer Group Trainers (PGTs). The training programme for PGTs was conducted for three days from 10.02.2020 to 12.02.2020 at assembly hall D. K College for women (A), Nellore. The placement of PGTs took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2020. The PGTs conducted awareness programs in schools for students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class in 20 government schools in Nellore. 5852 boys and girls participated in these awareness programs and got benefitted.

**Evidence of success:**

The students of DKW College lashed at the ugly negative societal norms which are hindering the development of adolescent girls. The success evidenced in the Adolescent Girls promises to pursue higher studies, saying no to child marriages, adopt hygienic and safety measures by using sanitary napkins, set goals, choose best career options according to their strengths, learn and fight for their rights by knowing child rights and acts promulgated by the government etc., The success is attained through proclaimed credentials like communication skills, better cognition, intra and interpersonal skills on the part of PGTs in helping the AGs overcome the problems in all facets of life.

**Outcomes:**

The students developed a good understanding of several social issues.

A concern for the society and a wish to serve is ignited in them.

Adolescent students realized the importance of health, nutrition and personal hygiene and Gender equity

PGTs by participating in all these programs experienced an improvement in communication skills, interpersonal skills, leadership skills and cognitive skills.



**Problems encountered and resources required:**

Woes spring up while implementing any program which are admissible and should be corrected as and when they arise. The main problem was students' missing their regular class work in the busy schedule of semester system. However all the faculty supported the students by giving them additional classes. Counselling was given by faculty to the students on the following aspects; Potential integration of human resources, Abilities to transform the situations accordingly, Realising their responsibilities that help PGTs in accomplishing tasks easily, Sustaining motivation even in hard times.