

**Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's**  
**Arts and Commerce College, Yeola**

**Best Practices**

**Title of the practice**

**Mentoring Farmers for the Agriculture Supplementary Business**

**Objectives**

The practice aims at mentoring the farmers to undertake agricultural supplementary business to make them financially strong. It has been observed that Indian farming is by and large based on the rain water. But the rain is unpredictable and the crop is not assured. The farmers have to work hard and in return they get very less. As a result their conditions are essentially static for the generations together. Through this practice we wish to encourage our farmers to undertake Agriculture Supplementary Businesses so that they can support their economy. We aim to guide them about the Agriculture Supplementary Business.

**The context:**

Yeola region is basically a dry region and has been affected by drought since many years. Due to the dry soil only two crops can be cultivated. One is onion and the other is corn. As compared to the other crops both onion and corn are the cheap crops. They are not the mainstream crops like wheat or pulses. They bring in very less income to the farmers. Though the adjoining town Lasalgaon has the State level market of onion yet the prices are very unstable. Onion comes in the category of vegetable and all over India we don't have fixed prices for the vegetable crops. It has been observed that the farmers throw away the vegetables in depression as they don't bring in desired profit. It leads to mental stress, anxiety and occasionally suicides. To overcome these issues and to strengthen farmers financially the institute has undertaken this practice.

**The practice**

The Department of Commerce in association with the Departments of Political Science and Economics have executed the above mentioned practice in the village Vadgaon-ballehe, . They

have visited the neighboring villages and made the survey of the situation. On the basis of the survey they have selected certain agricultural supplementary businesses. They have searched guidelines for these businesses. They have also found out the Govt. Schemes and loan facility for the proposed agriculture supplementary businesses. Now the next step was the orientation of the farmers. They are made aware of the basic conditions of the farming especially in Yeola region. At the same time they are made aware of the profit and security of the proposed supplementary businesses. Thus their visions are broadened due to the promises of the future. They are also guided of the necessary infrastructure for these supplementary businesses. The Govt. schemes and loan facilities are explained in detail to them. Once the farmers were convinced about their new jobs they were extended all the necessary help from our team.

Basically the farmers are illiterate or not literate enough to understand the Govt. schemes. In most of the times the farmers are unaware of these schemes that are exclusively for them. Sometimes they are even reluctant to take the advantage of these schemes. As far as loan is concerned the farmers take it as a risk or something very complicated as it required certain documents. Their mindset is prepared in such a way that they don't want to take loan which is availed for them. The team has changed their mindset by counseling them by some live examples. The team has not only made them aware of different schemes but also helped in availing loans. It obviously included the preparation of the necessary documentation for the loans, visiting the bank and the loan agencies, taking regular follow-up till the loan facility is available to them. Thus the team has created confidence in the farmers.

The team has also found out the possible threats or hurdles that may arise during or after the installation of the business. They are prepared to resolve these issues by their personal involvement in the whole process. Thus the practice involves mentoring of the farmers by all means. Initially the practice is limited to a small group of the farmers. Once it is successful it will be extended at the larger scale.

### **Evidences of Success**

Initially as mentioned above the farmers were reluctant to adopt the new vocations suggested to them. It was like waste of time for them. Some of them were convinced but hesitant to do new ventures. Our team through a lecture series prepared their mindset. Expertise in the field was

directly taken to the rural landscape and the evidences of the success stories in this field are displayed through online mode. Now the farmers are mentally prepared to do the new vocations suggested to them.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

The basic problem was of the time. The target group is the farmer class who are busy all the day long in the farming activities. So it becomes difficult for the faculty to be able to reach out to them. Secondly the group is reluctant and very slow to respond. It seems difficult to win over the trust of them and to convince them. They are already so much occupied by their own issues that this new venture is almost out of context to them. So to get the time from this group is almost a challenge.

Certain resources are required on the field. The information of Govt. schemes for the agricultural supplementary businesses, the facilities and grants available for them, expertise in the field and IT resources to communicate all the details visually certainly posed many problems. Many a time coordination of all the elements becomes a challenge.

### **Title of the Practice**

#### **Administrating Psychological Tests to Assess the Attitudes and Aptitudes of the students**

#### **Objective**

The Department of Psychology administers different Psychological tests to the students. The tests are basically to find out the Attitude and Aptitude of the students. These tests help the institution to identify the meritorious students as well the weaker ones or the slow learners. The tests also help to locate students with special talents. Accordingly the institute arranges special coaching for the students so that the meritorious should excel while the slow learners should be able to cope up with the studies. The students with special talents are groomed in such a way that may excel in the respective fields

#### **The Practice**

The psychological tests followed by the counseling have really proved to be a boon to the students of the institute. Yeola is basically a remote and rural region. Therefore, the students

coming to the higher education are always confused. They are unaware of their abilities. Some of them have high aspirations but fewer abilities. While some have more abilities but due to the lack of the proper guidance cannot excel in the studies. In both of the cases the students are disillusioned that leads to the issues like students' unrest, failures, unemployment and many other social evils. In this context the psychological tests are specifically effective in the selection of the career as students come to know their attitude and aptitude.

Many a times the students have a number of psychological disorders that occur due to the ignorance, superstitions or taboo. These students have many misconception based on partial knowledge or blind belief. The childhood experiences of punishment and rewards, guilt consciousness, low self esteem, shyness make them withdraw from many things. These disorders directly affect to their confidence level and they become introvert. The psychological testing reveal the problems faced by these youth and create confidence in them.

The students of this age group seem to have a number of phobias. The phobia of studies and examinations are common. Similarly the pressure of peer group, of the teachers and of the expectations crushes down the students. The result is that they cannot focus on the studies. Lack of concentration is commonly detected issue faced by the students' community. The counseling followed by the psychological tests suggests many techniques of the meditation and concentration.

The institute has more number of the girl-students admitted every year. These girls are shy and though have many issues they don't speak out freely. The psychological tests can reach to the core of their mind and bring out their aspirations clearly. They can be guided afterwards for the better opportunities. Many a time issues like ragging or other menace can be traced out through the psychological test followed by counseling.

The psychological tests are found most effective in identifying the meritorious students and weak students. These tests also locate the students with leadership qualities or any other co-curricular or extracurricular talents. Once the abilities of the students are identified they can be groomed accordingly and in turn they can enhance the reputation of the institute.

### **Evidences of Success**

The institutes on the basis of the psychological tests identify the abilities of the students. Accordingly appropriate measures are taken to cater their needs. Special guidance is arranged for the meritorious students through Career Guidance Cell. The Bridge courses and the Remedial coaching are initiated for the weaker students so that they can cope up with the studies. The students with leadership qualities are selected as the class representatives and are given preference in the extension activities like National Service Scheme. The students with good communication skills are encouraged to participate in various debating and elocution competitions. The students interested in cultural activities are trained and availed participation in many intercollegiate competitions. Similarly many issues faced by the students are resolved. Their misconceptions about many things are removed. It is observed that many silent students started expressing their views, thoughts and ideas confidently. Their phobia especially about the examination is removed and they can appear for the exams confidently. The student –teacher rapport is substantially increased. After counseling the girl-students appeared to be secured and confident. They were found enthusiastic in the campus and in the studies. The cases of ragging and other evils like addictions are seen considerably reduced.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

The basic problem encountered in the initiation of the practice is that the students do not come forward for the psychological tests. They have the misconception that the psychological test are for the mentally retarded and not for the normal students. Psychological tests are unacceptable to them and they are seen to be reluctant to face the tests. This problem aggravated with the girl-students who are basically shy and unconvinced about the tests. Initially a peer group of ten to fifteen students was made who would appear for the test and be the evidence of success to the other students. Thus students became confident about the tests rather slowly but steadily. The availability of the tests, trained teacher and separate spacious room for the counseling after the test are the resources required for the test. A committee of experienced teachers with women's representative is also a required resource of the practice.