

Best Practice I

1. Title: Annapoorna Free Midday Meal Scheme for SC/ST/OBC and other poor students

2. Goal: To help the economically backward students by providing working lunch
To provide working lunch for students who commute on a daily basis from long distances and remote areas
To offer this facility to physically challenged students
To offer moral support to students whose family background is of the labour class
To encourage and provide support from the college to those students who work and earn during holidays and spare hours
To see to it that no student sits in class on a hungry stomach

3. The Context: This college was established with the noble intention of providing quality and affordable education to students of rural areas in Puttur and neighbouring taluks. The majority of students in our college come from family backgrounds that earn money through farm labour and other forms of manual labour. Therefore, the money earned is through daily wages, which has no promise of pension and bonus and therefore no long-term security. In 1975, the then Principal, Prof. M Sooryanarayanappa understood the need of encouragement to students in addition to providing education within the classroom. So, this scheme was introduced with the noble cause of providing a working lunch to all those who could not afford to bring lunch. Since the inception of this practice in 1975, we follow the policy of uniformity in the sense that we provide the same lunch as provided to those who pay for lunch, to students benefitting from this scheme.

4.The Practice: Step 1: Inviting applications Soon after the first week of commencement of classes in the academic year, the Annapoorna Free Midday Meal Committee which comprises the college staff of various streams begins its work by sending out notices to all classes inviting handwritten applications from interested students, and around a week's time is given for the same. The applications contain the details of their native place or place of stay, economic conditions, number of family members, etc.

Step 2: Classification After the Committee receives application forms, the forms are arranged in different steps, streamwise, then class wise and later section wise. Depending on the number of application forms in each section, interview dates are fixed and displayed on the notice board.

Step 3: Interview: Interviews are conducted after the class hours so that students do not have the grievance of losing classes in their effort to benefit from this scheme. The staff who is part of the Committee conducts structured interviews. In the interview, their performance in studies, previous examination results, family background and present conditions, financial status etc. are asked and evaluated. However, for physically challenged students none of the above criteria is considered, the scheme is extended to them without question.

Step 4: Shortlisting: The interview process is followed up by a meeting of a committee to shortlist the beneficiaries.

Step 5: List display: This shortlisting process generates three lists as said above, and the lists are put up on the notice board with a certain gap between the display of each list. Soon after the display of each list, a meeting is convened to inform them of their benefit and to provide them with a form to be signed by their parents.

Step 6: Briefing to students and registration in canteen: Each meeting is addressed by the Convenor of the Midday Meal Committee and the students are informed about the initiative of the college for this scheme, therefore making them realise the importance and the efforts behind this scheme. They are also informed about the registration in the canteen, so that they affix their signatures every day before lunch in the canteen.

5: Evidence of Success: This scheme has been benefitting several students over the years, and has been running without a hitch since 1975. In addition, the number of application forms is at a rise year after year. The gratification that we have is that the beneficiaries turn into sponsors after they become professionals. The above is backed by the PTA stepping forward to financially support 80 students per year in the recent years. The Alumni Association also join hands with this noble cause.