

BEST PRACTICE- I

1. Title of the Practice: **Student Achievement Gold Medal Awards**

2. Goal

To promote the academic excellence of the students and to encourage them in their future academic pursuits, Munagala Kondal Rao Government Degree College has been awarding 21 Gold Medals in various subjects ranging from languages to computers since 1999. There is also an exclusive medal for the topper among girls. And, in 2013, in order to elevate the significance of the medals, the college has introduced an exclusive ceremony, 'Graduation Day' for awarding medals to the recipients. 'Graduation Day' is a first of its kind in an era of Government Degree Colleges in the state in giving the Student Achievement Awards.

3. The Context

Devarakonda is educationally backward and most of the children of the region stop their education after schooling and a very few of them go on to study the Intermediate (+2) at the most. The number of students who pursue under graduation is lower still. Since most of the MKRians are the first generation learners in this region, their motivation levels are very poor. In this context the institution realized that there is an immense need of motivation to boost the confidence levels of the students and thus enable them to excel in studies. In order to achieve this, in 1999, the institution introduced as many as 20 gold medals covering almost all the subjects sponsored by several philanthropists. Till 2012 these medals were presented to the winners either on the annual day. As mentioned earlier, we introduced a ceremony known as Graduation Day in 2013 and started the practice of presenting the medals to the winners in this exclusive ceremony.

4. The Practice

Students Achievement Gold Medal Award: Initially it started with 18 Gold Medals in 1999 but the number increased to 21 in successive years. The Medals are presented to the toppers in various subjects covering languages and optional subjects. There are medals for the college topper and for the college topper among girls as well. The Gold Medal Award Committee monitors the entire process right from the selection of students to the actual presentation of medals to the winners.

The Gold Medal Committee is constituted with the Principal as the Chairperson, a secretary nominated amongst the donors, a senior faculty as the Convener and another eminent person from the town as a Member.

Details of the committee at present are as follows:

Gold Medal Award Committee:

Chairperson:	Dr. Ch. Rama Raju, Principal
Secretary:	Ln. S. Dhananjaiah
Convener:	Dr. M .Alivelu, Asst. Prof. of Chemistry
Member:	Sri. K .Mallikarjun

The institution remains ever grateful to the philanthropists who had come forward to sponsor Gold Medals in the interest of the educational advancement of the region in general and to the enrichment of the students of the institution in particular. Fixed deposits are collected from the Donors for awarding the Student Achievement Gold Medal Awards and the interest accrued from the deposits is being utilized for the awarding the medal to the toppers in the subjects.

Eligibility Criteria for winning a medal:

The following are the criteria stipulated for considering a student for the award of a gold medal:

1. She/he should pass all the subjects in a single attempt only.
2. Marks secured in improvement are not considered

Utmost care is taken in the process of selection a student for a particular medal. After the list is prepared, it is displayed in all the notice boards in the college with an instruction that if anyone has an objection to the list, he/she should represent it to the Principal for necessary corrections/modifications before the date specified. The Gold Medal Committee and Grievance Redressal Cell after a thorough examination of the objection, makes appropriate changes in the list, if required.

As has been mentioned earlier, Gold Medals are awarded to the winners on the 'Graduation Day'/Annual day. MLA of Devarakonda, Eminent Academicians and Officials from Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda are invited as guests to the ceremony. Generally, in other colleges, the passing out students are obliged to run from pillar to post to obtain their Study & Conduct Certificate, Transfer Certificate and Memorandum of Marks. Relieving them

from this burden, all the passing out students are handed over their respective certificates in a file on the Graduation Day itself.

5. Evidence of Success

The pass percentage of the college has recorded a huge rise of 26% i.e., from 26% in 2016 to 56% in 2021. The institution believes that the practice of Gold Medals has been one of the key factors for securing good number of passes in the End Semester Examinations of the Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda. It is noteworthy in this context that a student Mr. G. Ragavendhar of BSC MPCs received 06 gold medals in the year 2019 and Ms. P. Samskruthi of BSc BZC stood at the top of receiving 06 Gold Medals in various subjects in 2021, now she is pursuing her MA Telugu from HCU, Hyderabad with 6th Rank.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

As the expenditure involved in the practice of awarding Gold Medals is met from the interest, accrued from the deposits, as such but more amounts are required with regard to the Gold Medals. In implementing this practice, which is due to grading system instead of marks it is difficult to identify the toppers, as the same grade may be secured by many students.

7. Notes

The practice of awarding the Student achievement Gold Medal awards is worth emulating by every institution since it provides a platform to encourage the students who perform well in studies. Especially the presentation of Student Achievement Gold Medal awards instills in the newly enrolled students a competitive spirit exhorts them that they too have the potential of winning the medals with hard work and consistence. It also gives an opportunity to brief the new entrants about the college.

BEST PRACTICES – 2

1. Title of the Best Practice: BOTANICAL GARDEN

The College has a well-maintained Botanical Garden. It has hundreds of different varieties of plants tagged with their biological nomenclature. The garden is unique in that almost every one of the species of plants and herb with a long history of use in folk tradition. Rare species like Ashwaganda, Machipatri, Vasa, and Dumparastrum are a few distinguished plants and medicinal plants are available in the Botanical Garden.

2. Objectives of the Practice

The main objectives to establish the medicinal plant herbal garden are

- To acquire the intimate knowledge of plants and their uses.
- To popularize the usefulness of commonly available and frequently used herbal plants and to conserve the associated traditional knowledge.
- To understand the economical and medicinal uses of the plants.
- To educate students in identifying different types of herbal plants.
- To achieve a cleaner and Greener Environment in and around the college campus.

3. Context

India has a rich diversity of more than 10,000 medicinal plants. Over the centuries, people in India have a fascination and respect for the natural heritage, traditional plant ethics and herbal medicine and ethno botany. This wealth of traditional herbal knowledge is diminishing with the advancement of modern medicine. A significant part of knowledge and tradition is currently being eroded due to modernization, urbanization, shrinking of forest resource and availability of alternatives. In view of the above reason, the Department of Botany established a Botanical Garden with medicinal plants; popularize the usefulness of commonly available plants in the region. The Department takes the responsibility for maintenance of the Garden with the active involvement of the students by proving each plant in looking after the allotted plant.

4. The Practice

We brought the students to remote tribal areas nearby tribal hamlets (thandas), which are a little far away from Devarakonda. B Sc. Life sciences students along with ECO club members actively involved in the development of Botanical garden. Student took very care of plants. Students are trained to involve and maintain the cleanliness in removing the weeds. It is one of unique departments of the college having its well

organized medicinal / botanical gardens conservation, study and propagation of rare plants collection, documentation, and maintenance and field evaluation of indigenous from various agro climatic regions. Provide recreation facilities to the public through students while exhibiting the plant samples in general and exposing the students to different mode of learning.

5. Evidence of success

The students who studies Biology are measured in terms of their attainment particularly regarding identifying the species of plants in and around their residences as well as the College. The frame work for the integrated missions of botanical garden includes conservation and plant resource utilization, promoting awareness study and conservation of plant species is diversity, accelerating global access to information above plant diversity, increasing capacity building and training activities.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Botanical garden is dedicated to the Collection, cultivation, preservation and display of a wide range of plants, labeled with their botanical names with QR Codes. There may be green house and special collection such as tropical plants and other exotic plants. In modern times most of the horticulture exhibitions are concerned primarily with exhibiting ornamental plants in a scheme that emphasizes natural relationships. The main constraint is finance well trained gardener.