

1. Title of the Practice: Experiential Learning through Community Engagement

2. Objective of the Practice: (in about 100 words)

The Government College for Men (A), Kadapa believes that learning by doing can be best experimented by involving the students in community-based activities.

The main objectives of Experiential Learning through Community Engagement (ELCE) include:

- Involving all students in community useful productive work as part of the effort to develop them into well-rounded and socially responsive individuals.
- Utilizing the community service opportunities as avenues for developing the skills of students.
- Focusing on developing qualitative skills like empathy, leadership, service-mindedness, group dynamics, and organization skills, thus preparing them to face the challenges of life and career.
- Making students participate in the nation building process through community service-based learning.

3. The Context: (in about 150 words)

Many students are unable to focus and manage on life skills such as empathy, leadership, and group dynamics with measurable outcomes. To days competitive world, students should learn life skills like leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, communication skills, team work skills and presentation skills by involving in community engagement activities. There is lack of integration of academic curriculum with the community service, for example, we have a curriculum on environmental studies, environmental education, hence, the students' needs to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world contexts.

4. The Practice: (in about 400 words)

As an institution with a proven track record of community commitment, the students and staff of Government College for Men (A), Kadapa have been in the forefront of several social missions in the neighbourhood and adopted villages for the past several years. The above objectives are met by streamlining the activities of the Extension wings of the college such as NSS (3 Units), NCC (2 Units), Youth Red Cross, a Red Ribbon Club, Scouts wing (4 Units), Eco Club, Women Empowerment Cell, and various departments (21). In all these activities, students of the college participate as volunteers.

1. As community engagement is included as one of the **extension activities** in the curriculum for which 5 marks are to be secured, the college has identified it as an avenue for experiential learning. Every student is made to join one of the extension clubs, and it is mandatory for them to participate in some form of social service.
2. In addition to that, as per NEP-2020, **Community Service Project (CSP)** is implemented based on the motto of learning through the community engagement. 100 marks are awarded at the end of second semester as it is made mandatory. Each student has to submit the report after completion of CSP. With this physically went to the villages conducted surveys on various aspects and submitted their reports to the concerned mentors. As of now 3000 students completed their CSP, as this has given lot of new experiences to all the students.

3. **Sharing Knowledge to School Students:** As a part of community service initiatives, the NSS wings of our college visited Niranjan Colony, Kadapa Locality and assisted the weaker students by sharing of knowledge.
4. **NSS Special Camps in Adopted Villages:** The college adopted seven villages in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh and conducted 15 special camps involving service activities like Socio-economic surveys, Medical camps, Cleaning the streets, Plantation of saplings, Health & Hygiene Campaigns, Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Special awareness sessions are conducted in villages on disease prevention, hygiene, and protection of the environment.
5. **Training the Villagers to become microentrepreneurs:** The college has provided substantial help to the self-help groups in villages by training them in such activities as phenol making and candle making to become microentrepreneurs.
6. **Collaborative Community Engagement Activities (CEA) with NGOs:** The college used the services of ISHA Foundation, Manavata, Jana Vignana Vedika and Sir C.V. Raman Science Club, Kadapa in carrying out various community awareness programmes and competitions such as awareness programmes on Cancer, Diabetics, Save Soil campaign etc.
7. **Blood Donation:** Our College main Blood Donating Source for Government Medical College, Kadapa, Blood 2 Live, Bruhada Blood Bank, Red Cross and kinuku etc., Over the last year the college engaged the students for donating 1000 units of blood through 10 blood donation camps, which resulted in saving many lives.
8. **Medical Camps:** Obesity checking, grouping of blood, testing of Haemoglobin in the blood and checking of Blood Pressure conducted as part of the initiative served more than 200 beneficiaries.
9. **Plantation in the Community:** During the last year, the social service initiatives resulted in planting more than 150 saplings in the neighbourhood and adopted villages.
10. **Cleaning of Monuments & Canals:** Regular cleaning of monuments in the museum through NCC wing enabled the Museum Clean.
11. **Helping the Orphans:** The Faculty and students of Zoology & Sanskrit Departments donated cloths, food and make the clean by hair cutting.
12. **Corona Vaccination Camps:** NSS of our college conducted vaccination programs for our college student, staff and neighbourhood community.

5. Evidence of Success: (in about 200words)

1. We have established MOUs with GMC, Kadapa, Red Cross, Kadapa Subbarayudu founded Blood2Live NGO organisation, Ashok is the pillar of swayam NGO. Students who were actively involved in social service excelled in their academics, and their attachment to the society and their practical learning enhanced their maturity. **Example:** Subbarayudu founded Blood2Live NGO organisation, Ashok is the pillar of swayam NGO
2. The NCC, NSS students who are actively involved are sincere to the college. Another significant outcome of the programme was that the community service initiatives in general and the activity-oriented learning involved in community service, in **particular improved the attendance of students** and the overall examination results of the college.

3. The **college won the Best NSS Award** for community service activities for the year 2022-2023 by Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa.
4. All the students who participated in the NCC activities **developed proficiency in Hindi language** by interacting with their north Indian counterparts during camps and community service activities.
5. Participation in trekking, paragliding, parasailing, mountaineering, and Thal Sainik Camps, Republic Day Camps, Army Attachment Camp, and training in Indian Military Academy, Officer's Training Academy, and Combined Annual Training camps which also included community service activities, **enhanced the endurance and other life skills of the NCC cadets.**

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: (in about 150 words)

- Primarily, the number restrictions in the clubs (NSS, NCC, YRC, etc) available in the college was the main obstacle to accommodate all the students. The problem was resolved by establishing one Girls NSS Unit in 2022, 3 Scouts units in 2023.
- Secondly, the interventions in the adopted villages were most often limited to the days of the annual special camps. This has resulted in fewer follow up activities.
- Thirdly, the scarce financial support from government agencies for developmental activities is overcome by the Affiliated University and NCC battalion, Kadapa. YVU supported the 3 NSS units spent 8 lakh rupees for conduction of special camps and other activities. 30AN supported the NCC wing spent 10 lakh rupees in last five year for refreshments & conduct of various activities.

7. Notes: (in about 150 words)

- Experiential Learning through Community Engagement was beneficial in two ways: students became socially sensitive, and they learned certain key skills while doing their mandatory social service.
- Social engagement, particularly in rural areas, enhanced their empathy, and consciousness of the living conditions of such groups like people from remote villages and the urban poor.
- The problems encountered by the children of neighbouring government schools and aided schools were recognized during field works conducted by certain clubs, and many departments in the college came forward to help them by involving their students in teaching the basics to the school children.

Best Practice Document Evidence



A Botanical garden is maintained to protect rare wild and endangered Medicinal Saplings as an Extension activity



Department of Botany conducted Awareness on “Role of Moringa Tree in addressing Climate Change and Food Security” on **24-02-2022** and conducted field visit to Krishi Vignana Kendram, Ootukuru, Kadapa, on **26-02-2022**



As a part of College activity the NSS students participated in clean and green programme on **26-02-2022**.



The Department of English conducted Social Service Activity at Commerce Block on 23.03.2022.



The Department of Botany has organized an awareness programme on the occasion of World Forest Day on 21.03.2022.



In View World Environment day the NSS unit organized the program to bring awareness to the students about the importance of Environment.



The NSS unit of the college involved in the program Save the Soil in collaboration with ISHA Foundation and picked up Waste Material on the ground to keep the place clean and Tidy.



The department of Botany conducted a Field Trip to Eastern Ghats of Sasahachalam Biosphere reserve



Conducted Punit Nagar Abhayam by NCC cadets of Government College for Men (A), Kadapa, at Devuni Kadapa Pond.



Department of Botany conducted a field trip to Palakonda hills for PG Students



As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mohastav our college initiated Tree Plantation programme in college campus.



Campus Cleaning by NSS units of the college as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mohastav.