

## Best Practice I

### Title of the Practice: SERVICE to SOLACE the SOCIETY (3S)

#### Objectives:

1. To engage the demographic bonus of the campus for productive practices through outreach programmes
2. To inculcate societal concern in young minds and facilitate lifelong learning.

#### The Context:

Annamalai University is set in a rural environ, amidst three most disadvantaged districts of Tamil Nadu where the people are deprived of many livelihood advantages due to marginalized socio-economic and geographic resources. These factors led to increased dependency on Government welfare schemes or Corporate Social Responsibility activities that solace social problems. Being a multifaceted unitary campus with massive student strength, enormous pool of scientific expertise and technocrats the University fulfils the societal needs by providing technical expertise based outreach services in various sectors including health, environment, agriculture and fisheries. Mammoth physical infra make the University a connecting point for district administration and NGOs for successful societal outreach. Annamalai University through such outreach programmes proved that universities need to reach out of lofty ideals of education to serving humanity.

#### Health

- RMMC Hospital with 1400 beds, 17 Operation Theatres and all diagnostic facilities serve the patients with free treatment and free diet and provides rest rooms for the relatives of in-patients at a nominal rate of Re.1/- for night stay. The rural health centre in Porto-novo serves the villages near seashore.
- The community medical practices like, dental camp, eye check-up, illness identification camps and special camps during flood in rural households and schools organised by medical students saved many lives in this district.

- The Yoga Centre is offering many yoga programmes and Yoga Therapy
- The University offers free access to children, parents and elders to a spacious and well-maintained pollution-free Children's Park, walking corridors and University Pavilion
- The sports complex offers sports/games coaching camps during summer holidays
- The Centre for Speech and Language Disorder Studies provide rehabilitation services to children with disorders

### **Rural Development**

- The students of B.Sc. Ag. Programmes undergo experiential learning courses in rural areas to transfer new technologies through demonstration, and dissemination of information among farmers and they bring in Government line department officials to derive attention on needs and lacunas in farmers' field.
- In Centre for Rural Development, the concept of "Farmers Club" for extending professional assistance to agriculturalists through its 59 clubs
- Department of Geology serves to identify the groundwater potential zones in nearby villages and has installed a deflouridation plant.
- The Faculty of Agriculture introduced Integrated Rice + Fish + Poultry farming system model
- The flood tolerant rice variety 'SIGAPPI' introduced by Annamalai University and "Annamalai Brinjal" variety are of great help to farmers.

### **Fisheries**

- The Centre for Marine Biology has set weather data and fish resource information display board, ornamental fish hatcheries and fish drying facilities

- Involved in restoration of mangroves/seagrass/seaweeds

#### **Disaster Management:**

- University takes part in mitigation measures by allowing its students, and staff to take part in the flood/cyclone relief activities
- During COVID19 pandemic the University has offered its entire Hospital and Medical college facilities along with three big hostels. Mobile van fabricated by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology is now moving around the district to collect swab samples

#### **Education:**

#### **Environment**

- The University conducts camps, awareness programmes, Swach Bharath programmes, tree plantation programmes, eradication of invasive alien weeds, pollution control programmes, etc.

#### **Evidence of Success:**

- The hospital daily treats 3000 outpatients, and 1000 inpatients. Annually around 15,000 surgeries, 6000 emergency surgeries and 5,500 deliveries are conducted.
- The services of University in treating COVID 19 patients during this pandemic are of great help to the society
- Impact created by IFS model in villages derived nationwide attention through “Hunnarbaaz episodes” in Doordarshan.
- The SIGAPPI variety has gained attention of farmers at Kerala and Nepal.
- 200 children have been benefited from the Centre for Speech and Language Disorder Studies
- Training conducted on Electrical Wiring helped many unemployed youth from the service villages, (Killai and Parangipettai) in getting employment in the Gulf countries.

- Under MHRD's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme, five villages from Parangipettai Block are benefitted.
- There are about 10 NSDC approved programmes are being conducted and currently, there are about 300 students enrolled.

### **Problems Encountered**

- Activities get disturbed due to climate vagaries
- Time constraint to involve entire student & teacher community

### **Resources Required**

- Funding for sustained implementation of programmes every year
- Want of more vehicles for mobility of students to rural community

## Best Practice II

### Title of the Practice: Annamalai University's Extra Education to Empower and Develop Students – AUEXEEDS

#### Objectives of the Practice:

**AUEXEEDS** is aimed at enhancing its on campus students with the following objectives:

- To improve the ability of students to think, analyse, synthesize, evaluate and apply the acquired knowledge in different allied concepts
- To empower the students with extra knowledge, skills and ability in line with their core study programme
- To facilitate the students become job ready with extra skills, technical knowhow and additional qualification of a diploma/certificate title
- To augment the ability of demographic population in university's reach to achieve relevant SDG targets related to Skills and Employability

#### The Context:

The University education, as it is being an end in itself, is also a means to get a decent job, while lifelong learning is indispensable in order to keep pace with the changing skill requirement in job market. Hence, skill development is an essential prerequisite for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In the changing scenario, there is an impetus to acquire additional knowledge from extra learning outside the conventional learning programmes. Those who acquired additional qualifications and the skill sets only attract employers. In rural outfit, where the University is located (Cuddalore District is one among the most disadvantaged districts in India) the opportunity for students to access concurrent learning programmes is less. In this context, **AUEXEEDS** was introduced to all on campus students to effectively utilize their time in the campus and make them Job-Ready while ending their curricular programme with extra knowledge and skills.

#### Practice:

The wide array of Certificate, Diploma and PG Diploma programmes offered by the Directorate of Distance Education Centre at Annamalai University enables to undergo a wide range of extra concurrent learning opportunity. However, due to constraints such as guidance to choose an extra learning component, want of time to attend personal contact classes and practical sessions, and cost factor, very few students reap the benefit out of it. Hence, the University

brought an arrangement with the DDE and introduced the following practices under **AUEXEEDS**.

- Counselling and guidance to on campus students regarding concurrent extra learning opportunity
- Special waiver of tuition fee to the tune of 50 % in all programmes offered by DDE for on campus students
- Personal Contact Classes and Practicals of the DDE programmes are scheduled in such a way that they do not clash with schedule of their regular programmes
- Synchronising on campus programme activities to cope up with concurrent extra learning programme schedule (PCB, Practical schedule and Theory examinations)

#### **Evidence of Success:**

- AUEXEEDS has so far attracted and benefitted 12541 on campus students to 70 diverse programmes offered by the DDE and awarded certificate/diploma/PG diploma titles during the last five years
- Improved the knowledge and skill of on campus students in the field of Nursery Management, Landscaping, Dairy technology, Safety Engineering, Hospital Management, Hotel management, Marketing, Fertilizer Technology, etc.
- Offered great scope for interaction between on campus students and outside participants currently working in market which gives insight for students to decide their next step in career

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

##### **Problems**

- Synchronising regular on campus programme activities to cope up with concurrent extra learning programme schedule

##### **Resources Required**

- Facilities to offer these concurrent learning programmes through MOOC mode
- Learning Management System(LMS) is required to offer e-content for the courses of various programmes