

7.2 Best Practices

Describe at least two institutional best practices

Best Practice I TITLE: Value Based Education The visionary founders of the DAV movement aimed to blend the best in both the western education and the vedic traditions to help students to develop as active, peaceful and caring citizens fully balanced and harmonious personalities. They realized that only value based education can create positive culture for teaching and learning which is so vital for holistic education. The value based education promotes high academic standards by nurturing ethical qualities among students. The founders of the DAV Movement sought to promote an educational philosophy based on valuing self, others and environment. Context DAV College, Jalandhar is one of the most important institutions in the DAV movement. It understands that the need for the value based education, envisioned by the founding fathers is even more urgently required in the present day conditions of our society. Punjab, along with the other states of India, is undergoing a tremendous transformation from a predominantly agricultural economy to industrial and service economy. The effect of this change is visible in utter consumerism, laxity of moral values and a rat race to accumulate wealth through fair or foul means. This institution consciously tries to sensitize its students for creating a synergy of desire and effort on the one hand and the restraint and values on the other. The college instils in the student's age old saying 'know thyself'. It imparts education which gives supreme knowledge of knowing oneself. It helps them make their life better and purposeful. The students are made to realize that purpose of education is bliss and that ignorance is nothing but unpleasantness in the face of the opportunities that the world has to offer to them. The Practice Knowing that values are imbibed rather than taught, the principal and some faculty members too become living examples to inspire the young students for ethical life. No doubt the values are to be imbibed rather than taught, yet the great personalities do inspire them by their words and deeds. They become the role models of the youth. The college regularly invites social reformers, educationists and holy persons to interact with the students on value crisis and its redressal. The NGO run by Prof. Lakhbir Singh actively involves student volunteers in myriad activities like blood donations, sanitation drives, public-police meets and traffic week celebrations etc. Similarly, NSS and NCC Departments also involve students in leadership camps, medical camps and celebrations of different festivals. Keeping the spirit of the Arya Samaj alive, which promotes physical and social progress of the all human beings, the college has been promoting the activities of Arya Samaj in the best possible manner. The zealous involvement of the faculty and the students in Havan Yajnas, Ved Katha and Arya Sanskriti Sammelans etc. is a testimony to their inclination towards value based education. It is emphasised that students follow the lessons of dharma, artha, karma and moksha. The College has a healthy practice of heralding its new academic session with havan yajna. Though the management propagates ten principles of Arya Samaj yet it accords equal veneration to all religions. The teachers are also coaxed to insert values in teaching methods and inspire the students to imbibe culture and spend time with nature. Apart from this, the thought for the day and the pearls of wisdom are displayed at the prominent places in the campus. Today, when gross materialisation and consumerism have overridden ethical and patriotic values, these efforts and practices add significance and relevance. The college also provides virtually free Sanskrit education to students at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. The success of this lies in the fact that after obtaining post graduate degrees, the students have become the bread winners of their families. Evidence of Success The amount of work done by NCC, NSS and the NGOs in college and in the neighbouring villages and cities is the testimony to the fact that not only the lives of the students have been transformed by their activities but even the common people have been benefited from the humanitarian work done by college NCC, NSS, PAHAL . Besides this, various eminent alumni regularly visit the college and bestow scholarships on the needy and the bright students alike which testify to the success of value based education being provided by the college. Problems Encountered and Resources Required No doubt, due to the

tight teaching schedule, the faculty finds it difficult to spend enough time in the classrooms on motivational lectures and value based activities, yet the lectures, seminars and interactive sessions are separately conducted for students. Philanthropists, social workers, reformers and holy people are regularly invited for this noble practise.

Best Practice II TITLE: Student Centric Administration DAV College Jalandhar is one of the oldest and biggest colleges of this region having more than 4636 students on its rolls. About 42% strength of the students is of girls. To provide healthy environment to the students which enables them to interact with each other in a friendly and fearless manner and develop their potential in the most fruitful manner demands a sensitive and student centric administration. The student centred philosophy places the student at the centre of our focus. Students and their success serve as a driving force behind decisions. The administration creates conducive environment for students. This also enables them to compete responsibly and successfully in a global environment. Context Most of the educational institutions have become money minting, commercial enterprises. Such institutions are insensitive to the physical, mental, psychological and the spiritual needs of the students. Students need words of encouragement and a loving nurturing if they have to blossom into humane, just and self-respecting citizens of our great country. DAV College, Jalandhar takes pains to make the administration sensitized to the needs of the students so that they can not only absorb knowledge but can also develop their personality by indirectly imbibing traits that mark the unique environment of this institution. The Practice The Principal, assisted by the Vice Principals, Registrar and Deputy Registrar, is available to the students all times during the working hours and round the clock during any emergency. He meets the students formally as well as informally to learn the situation at the ground level and know their difficulties. The Dean, Students Welfare is appointed to look after the problems, needs and the welfare of the students. The Grievance Redressal Cells look into the complaints, problems and suggestions of the students. The prompt solutions given by the cells make the students a confident, a happier and a satisfied lot. Suggestion boxes for the students have been placed at a central place of College Hostels and Campus. The students are encouraged to make suggestions/complaints by name or anonymously. Their complaints are looked into objectively and acted upon whenever required. For the all-round development of the girl students, the Mahila Club, looked after by a female faculty member, works assiduously. The staff in the General Office and the Accounts Office is periodically sensitized to solve the problems of the students with sympathy and compassion. Students are nominated as class representatives and they get representation in various administrative bodies, like IQAC, Alumni Association, Academic Council, Subject Societies and Clubs. Evidence of Success Satisfactory level of students as depicted in student feedback form and parent feedback form is in itself a proof of success of the student centric, transparent and democratic administrative policies. This is despite the fact that Jalandhar has many other important colleges and even universities which lure students in different strategic ways. No doubt, students appreciate transparent and participative administration of the college. Problems Encountered and Resources Required No doubt, ours is a student centric administration and the students are actively engaged in curricular and cocurricular activities. But sometimes, the administration finds it difficult to implement new policies of the governing body as it takes time to convince the students, but once the faculty makes them understand, the policies are implemented whole heartedly with full acceptance. Obviously an institution with more than four thousand and six hundred students requires sufficient human and financial resources. We put forward our genuine demands to the government and its honourable agencies to sanction permanent teaching faculty and liberal financial resources to provide effective value and need based education in this part of country The institution along with being a nursery of national sportspersons also promotes and supports research and intellectual temperament aimed at improving teaching, business opportunities and awareness of global issues. It has emerged as a leading college of the region with total strength of more than 4600 students. A realistic student centred educational experience and a credible claim to

educational, academic, co-curricular and extracurricular excellence provide DAV College Jalandhar with an inimitable competitive advantage and thus become the first choice for the parents and the students alike.