



SADHU VASWANI MISSION'S
St. Mira's College For Girls, Pune
Autonomous (Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Reaccredited by NAAC- A Grade, cycle 4
[ARTS, COMMERCE, SCIENCE ,BSc(Computer Science), BBA, BBA(CA)]
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PU/PN/AC/015/(1962)
College Code:- 013

7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

BEST PRACTICE 1

1. Title of the Practice

Student Aid Program: Empowering Women through Financial Support for Higher Education

2. Objectives of the Practice

The Student Aid Program at St. Mira's College for Girls, Pune, seeks to ensure equitable access to higher education for all deserving students, irrespective of their financial background. The primary objectives include:

- To enhance access to financial support, ensuring that students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds can pursue their education without financial barriers.
- Assessing students' financial need and academic merit.
- Offering partial or full tuition waivers based on available funds.
- Empowering young women to complete their education at the Junior College, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels.
- It strives to foster a sense of empowerment and security among students, enabling them to focus on academic and personal growth without undue financial stress.



3. The Context

Since the inception of the College, the aspect of Student Aid has been entrenched in its ethos. In keeping with Sadhu Vaswani's vision and Dada J.P. Vaswani's tutelage of 'Giving', generous patrons and donors have instituted free-ships and scholarships, which are well utilized to aid students on a need-cum-merit basis. The College takes pride in producing, several graduates who are first-generation learners every year. The free-ships and concessions available to them are fully utilized by these students, contributing to their academic enrichment

The implementation of student aid at St. Mira's was shaped by the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, which deeply affected many students and their families. A significant issue was the financial instability resulting from the loss of parents, breadwinners, or primary financial supporters due to the pandemic. Many families also faced job losses, leading to a sudden inability to afford tuition, living expenses, and other education-related costs.

Additionally, students struggled to navigate the complex financial aid systems and were often unaware of the scholarships and resources available to them. This, combined with the emotional toll of losing loved ones and the stress of financial uncertainty, created an urgent need for a more responsive and supportive aid system. The practice aimed to address these challenges by simplifying application processes, providing timely financial assistance, and ensuring transparent communication to help students cope with the economic hardships caused by the pandemic.

4. The Practice:

In 2023-24, St. Mira's student aid practice continues to address the evolving financial challenges faced by students, particularly those from economically vulnerable backgrounds. The practice was designed to provide comprehensive financial support to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lasting economic instability that followed. The focus is on those who lost parents or breadwinners, or whose families faced job losses, leaving them unable to afford educational expenses.

The Student Aid Program is a unique initiative within the Indian higher education landscape. It emphasizes transparency, inclusion, and a non-discriminatory approach to financial aid, aligned with the core values of the institution, which includes:

- Need-Cum-Merit Evaluation: Applications for aid are assessed based on both financial need and academic performance, ensuring that deserving students receive support.
- Formalized Committee Structure: A dedicated Student Aid Committee oversees the entire process, including the Principal, Vice Principal, Student Aid Coordinator, and faculty members, ensuring fair and impartial distribution of funds.
- Donor Engagement: The College reaches out to patrons from the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Faculty members, alumni, NGO's, Donors and other well-wishers for sponsorship. This



practice not only funds student aid but also strengthens ties between the institution and the broader community.

- Fundraising Activities: Organized by the College's Alumni Association, fundraisers are held to increase the availability of funds based on needs assessed annually.

- Accessibility: Aid is available to students from any stream of study, including Arts, Commerce, Science, and Sports, at both the Junior College and Degree College levels.

Despite its success, the practice faces several limitations. One major constraint is the availability of funds. While St. Mira's has partnered with NGOs, corporate donors, faculties and alumni to increase funding, the demand for financial aid continues to grow. Many students still struggle with rising tuition fees, living expenses, and worsened by inflation. The institution faces challenges in meeting the needs of all students, especially as more families experience long-term economic difficulties.

5. Evidence of Success

The student aid practice at St. Mira's has demonstrated notable success during the 2023-24 academic year. Financial aid was provided to a total of 104 students.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The implementation of the student aid practice at St. Mira's encountered several challenges that impacted its effectiveness. A significant issue was the lack of sufficient funds to meet the rising demand for financial assistance, particularly as many students faced ongoing economic difficulties post-pandemic. This funding shortfall often led to delays in aid disbursement, hindering students' ability to cover immediate educational and living expenses.

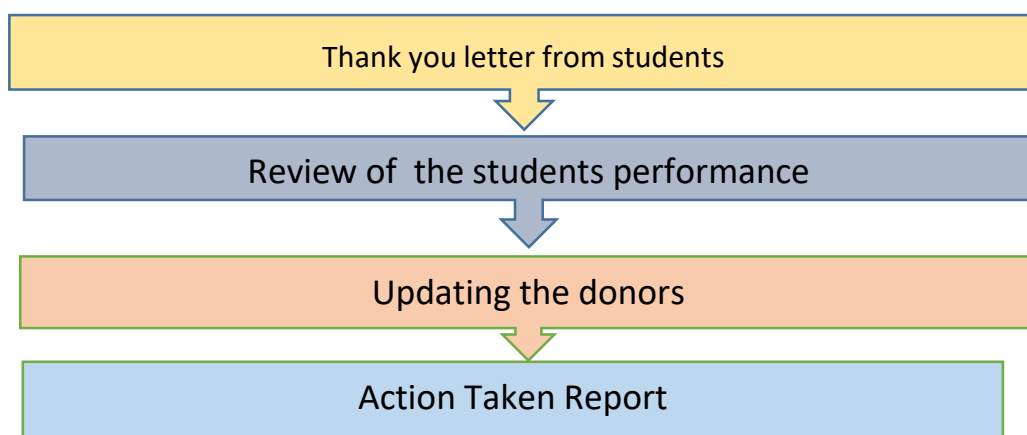
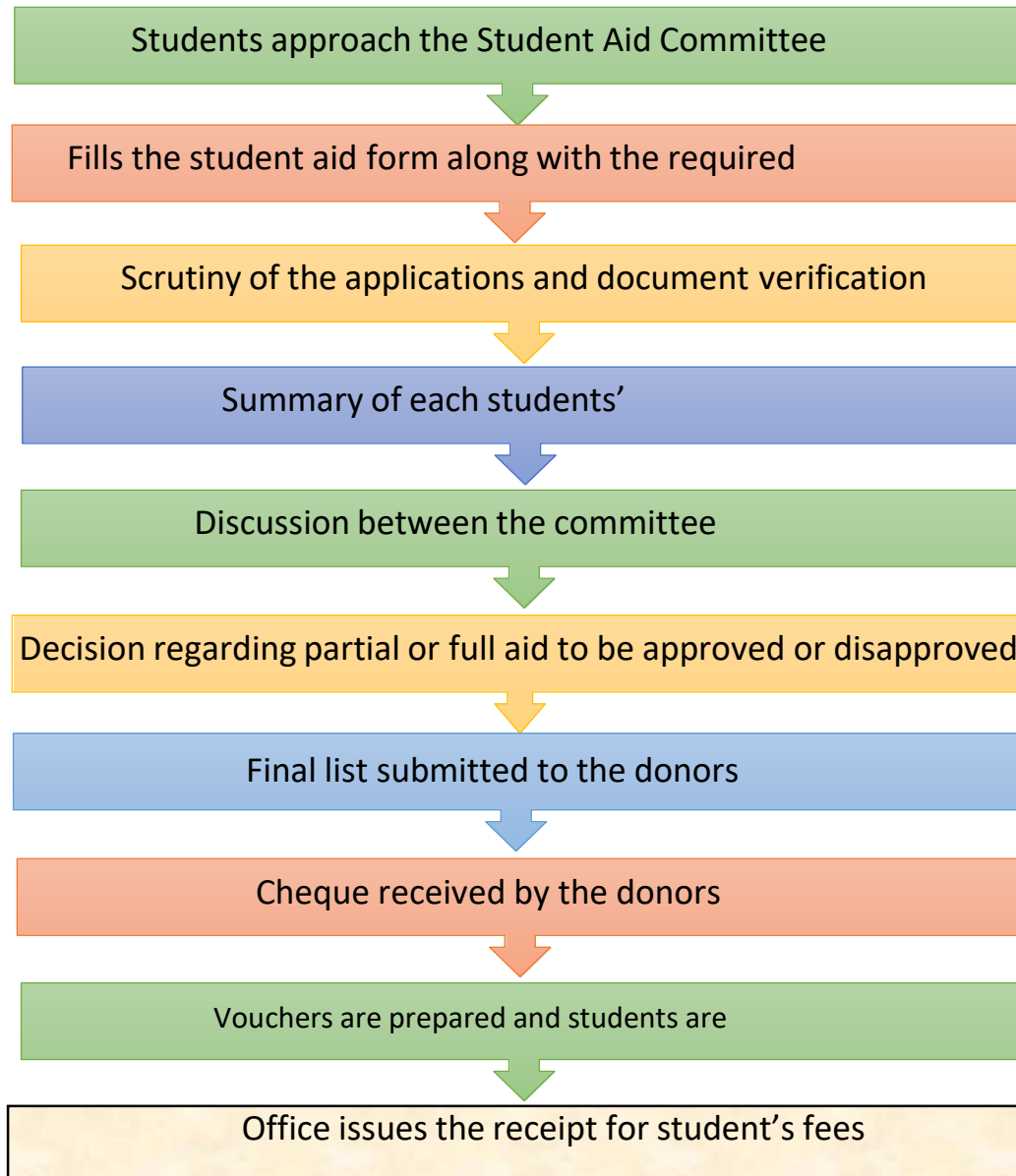
Moreover, securing consistent donations from external partners proved difficult, as potential donors were also facing with financial uncertainties. The administrative workload associated with processing applications and managing funds further strained resources, resulting in inefficiencies.

To effectively implement this practice, St. Mira's needed additional resources, including dedicated staff for financial aid management, improved fundraising strategies to attract more donors, and stronger partnerships with organizations to expand the funding base. Enhanced communication and outreach efforts were also necessary to raise awareness about available support among students in need.



7. Notes (Optional)

PROCESS OF STUDENT AID FUND



BEST PRACTICES 2

1. Title:

Centre for Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE): Educate, Empower, Elevate

2. Objectives:

Vision Statement: CWE aims to create an environment that promotes and stimulates the spirit of entrepreneurship among the students of the College

3. The Context:

- To achieve the spirit of entrepreneurship through educational programs, events, and research. Keeping the students motivated and encouraging them to explore career opportunities in entrepreneurship is the need of the hour.

4. The Practice:

- Establishment of IIC and conducting activities as laid down by MoE.
- Ensuring sessions by practitioners on contemporary topics such as Design Thinking, Social Entrepreneurship, and organizing competitions on Ideation, Business Plan Preparation.
- Conducting activities on par with technical institutes and fulfilling the guidelines for uploading events on the IIC portal.

In 2023-24, 12 activities focusing on Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and IPR were organized. These activities emphasized skill development, better understanding of venture creation, IP management, and providing hands-on experience, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. 1003 students participated in all across the events.

In all 51 student's entrepreneur have featured in 2022-23 & 2023-24.

Some notable events include:

-Guest Lecture on Incubation for Entrepreneurs (27th July 2023) by Dr. Sabiha Fazalbhoy, providing students with deep insights into incubation processes.

Interactive Session with Indraneel Chitale (8th August 2023), where Mr. Chitale shared his entrepreneurial journey.

World Entrepreneur's Day Celebration (21st August 2023), organized by CWE Campus Ambassadors, with a unique Taylor Swift theme.

Ombre Exhibition Management by CWE Interns (21st October 2023) at JW Marriott, where interns gained practical event management experience.



Workshop on Entrepreneurship and Innovation as a Career Option (25th January 2024), featuring Mrs. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy Datla.

Guest Lecture by Sapna Bang founder of Chatak Tokree, on Entrepreneurship Skill, Attitude, and Behaviour Development (2nd February 2024).

5. Evidence of Success:

Entrepreneurship Fest : Students displayed their talents through various stalls featuring edibles, accessories, and artefacts.

Incubation Cell: Provided support for business plans, modeling, and legal/IP issues.

Entrepreneur magazine with ISBN number in process.

Intercollegiate Competitions: Students participated in business idea competitions and received prizes for their innovative concepts.

- These activities have created a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, helping students transition to self-employment with stable incomes.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Challenges:

- Difficulty raising sponsorship for initiatives such as visits and exchange programs.
- Lack of support from the Alumni Network in fundraising.
- The ongoing challenge of keeping students motivated in pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities.
- The Coordinator and Co-coordinator face constraints in attending training sessions due to college commitments.

Resources Required:

- Expansion of networking efforts with entrepreneurial ecosystem enablers.
- Establish collaborations with domain-specific experts.
- Explore innovative fundraising methods to sustain the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

7. Notes:

Dedicated Staff: Employ personnel for documentation, report writing, and portal uploads to ensure efficient management.

Impact Assessment: Conduct a research study to assess the impact of CWE and share findings through presentations and publications.



Promotion: Increase visibility by promoting CWE on various platforms to expand its reach.

Credit Course: Implement a course on Entrepreneurship and IPR, aligning with NAAC recommendations.

Open Membership: Extend CWE's membership to individuals outside the institute to foster collaboration and community-building.

