

Vidyavardhini's

Annasaheb Vartak College of Arts, K.M. College of Commerce & E.S. Andrades College of Science

Vasai West, Vasai -401202 Dist. Palghar, Maharashtra (India) Estd: 1971, Affiliated to University of Mumbai.

Best Practice -2

Contract of Canteen to Shramik Mahila Sangh, an NGO of women

Objectives of the Practice:

- 1. To extend social responsibility towards poor and socially disadvantaged people.
- 2. To promote women's empowerment for conclusive social growth.
- 3. To create a gender-inclusive environment in the institution.

The Context:

Even in the 21st century, women have been considered the subordinate part of society, male domination is prevalent in every walk of life. The institution decided to give the contract to run the college canteen to Shramik Mahila Sangh (A group of

women) to ensure social responsibility. All the poor women have been associated with this NGO. It is a small step to extend helping hands to all those women by giving a contract to them to run the college canteen.

The Practice:

All the staff of the canteen are poor and needy women. Preferably, they cook Indian dishes to avoid the side effects of fast food. They do not use taste enhancers powders or preservatives in the food. They prepare all the delicious dishes freshly. All the management and accounting have been done by women themselves. It is good practice to incorporate women's human resources into the real workforce. Institution realizes that comprehensive development of society is impossible by keeping half of the population in the lurch. Therefore, by every measure, the institution has initiated efforts to bring gender equity and this is a small step in that direction.

Evidence of Success:

We can surely say that those women are associated in the canteen are the direct beneficiaries. All the college staff and students are also the beneficiaries in form of getting delicious Indian food so they can keep their health fit and fine.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Shramik Mahila Sangh is managing the college canteen very effectively. But they have to face business competition. Many students go outside the college premises for breakfast and lunch because the College Canteen Committee restricts junk food inside the canteen.

Basically, women cook the food as per the order, therefore it is a little bit time-consuming. One who gives an order has to wait for at least 5 to 10 minutes. Therefore some students and staff feel going to the canteen is time-consuming. But at the end, those who are used to having the indigenous taste of food do not complain.

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