

**RAM NIRIKSHAN ATMA RAM COLLEGE, SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR
LALIT NARAYAN MITHILA UNIVERSITY, DARBHANGA**

Best Practices

2021-22

Best Practice 1

1. Title of the Practice

Participation of women from the local community in clearing grass and foliage in the college campus.

2. Objective of the practice

Dual objective: To involve the unprivileged and poor women from the local community with the college and maintain the campus ground and other areas.

3. The context

The college has an expansive field. Other than this ground, there are patches of open vacant spaces around building structures in the college campus. Every year after rains, grasses and other foliage grow heavily in these areas because their consistent use is not possible during the rains. The college, instead of giving contract to any individual or firm for clearing the ground, allows unprivileged and poor women from the local community to cut it and clear the ground. For last two years, there have been torrential rains in this part of the state leading to vehement floods. The college was also affected by it as the campus is located in a low-lying area. This makes the campus a catchment area where water is collected and the ground is submerged deeply under water. When water dries up slowly after the rains, these women get into the muddy ground and clear it of grasses and foliage.

4. The Practice

These women from the local community come into a group of four to five individuals and cut the grass regularly throughout the year.

5. Evidence of Success

This practice of involving these women with the college serves dual purpose. They are benefitted as they, by the way of cutting and collecting grass from the college campus, generate a free resource in the form of fodder for their livestock. They also cut the *kans* grass and use it as a thatching material on roofs of their houses and other structures. On the other hand, the college, by allowing them, helps them and the ground is also cleared and maintained. This practice also saves some money of the institution which would have been otherwise spent on the maintenance of the college ground and open spaces. Sometimes on the request of college administration they happily cut some overgrown shrubs. This is one of the several ways in which the college may connect with the local community socially and benefit unprivileged sections at no special effort or cost.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Currently a few women are engaged in it. The college would like more such women from the local community to engage in it.



2021-22

Best Practice 2

1. Title of the Practice

Providing opportunities for '*earning while learning*' to former college students.

2. Objective of the practice

To support talented students from humble background economically so that they could continue their studies while they earn.

3. The context

A large number of students at the institution belong to sections that are economically weaker. It adversely affects such talented students who would like to study further but cannot do so due to weaker economic support from their families. As the college has acute shortage of staff, some of these talented former students could be given opportunity to work on the daily wage basis. This would provide them with an economic support to continue their further studies.

4. The Practice

Some of the former college students have been hired to work in the college as administrative support staff. Currently two such students are working in the college even as they study and pass exams for a better job position.

5. Evidence of Success

Giving opportunity to these former students to work in the college has been economically supportive to them. The college has also been benefitted as these dedicated young students while they learn about the associated administrative work over a period of time, bring more efficiency and swiftness into college administration.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

These former students-cum-staff are currently paid the rate according to the law of daily minimum wage. The college is restricted by the university rules and cannot appoint them even on contract basis.