

# *St. Ann's College for Women*

(Autonomous), Affiliated to Osmania University  
Accredited by NAAC with A<sup>+</sup> Grade (3<sup>rd</sup> cycle), CPE by UGC

Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad.



**Best Practices - II**

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## **1. Title of the Practice- Societal Cognizance- Extension/Outreach @St. Ann's**

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

To promote interaction between HEI and local communities to address societal challenges and foster a sense of social responsibility.

- To encourage active participation of students in extension activities to develop their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, allowing students to take on roles such as mentors, project managers, and coordinators.
- To promote sustainability-oriented extension activities that address environmental, economic, and social sustainability issues that celebrate diversity and inclusivity
- To forge partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and NGOs to enhance the reach and impact of extension programs
- To promote socio- cultural exchange
- To develop leadership opportunities within extension programs,

### **3. The Context**

Extension activities of our college provide a link between the college and the community and is committed to enhance human potential in a changing social and economic environment. Education of students is fortified by sensitizing them about the real state of affairs of the community.

Outreach activities encompass various forms of outreach, including community service, research dissemination, and collaborative projects that engage students, faculty, and staff with real-world issues. Our College prioritizes extension activities and encourages all departments to contribute their part towards the community which demonstrates commitment of college to social responsibility and holistic education.

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Extension activities serve as a dynamic platform for students to apply classroom learning to practical scenarios, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Moreover, these initiatives often lead to innovative solutions for pressing community challenges, enriching the educational experience for all involved.

By promoting community engagement and societal development, our college not only fulfils its academic mission but also contributes positively to the regions they serve. In doing so, it demonstrates the vital role of higher education in addressing contemporary issues and nurturing responsible citizens

### 4. The Practice

St. Ann's College emphasizes that education should also instil moral, ethical, and social values for the betterment of society. Practices are adopted at departmental level and Institutional level ,

#### Avenues of Extension : Institutional Level

#### 1. SAHHARA (St. Ann's Helping Hands & Reaching Arms): SAHHARA focuses on cultivating students' sense of responsibility towards society in the areas of **Education, health, Environment Awareness and Protection, Leadership Development**

Departments also shared their expertise in diverse areas and extend their support for organizing various extension activities involving students in activities like Home Gardening, Awareness on Global Warming ,Biodiversity & Conservation, Say Less to pastic, Nutrition education programmes, Awareness on Genetic disorders, rallies, street plays etc

#### 2. NCC - The NCC unit plays a significant role in training cadets, including in social service and outreach. Their work encompasses community development activities, vigilance week programs, visits to charitable organizations, and social service initiatives like blood donation and AIDS awareness.

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3. **NSS** - The NSS Unit offers a platform for active student participation in community service and developmental activities. Regular and special camp activities include Haritha Haram, socio-economic surveys, literacy programs, medical camps and cleanliness drives.
4. **CWS (Centre for Women Studies):** The Centre for Women's Studies has achieved success through its extension activities, evident in high participation numbers, impacting thousands annually. The programs addressing Human Rights, Women Rights, Gender Sensitization, and more have effectively raised awareness and facilitated positive change. This multifaceted approach good touch – bad touch in schools and neighbourhood. underscores the commitment to holistic education and societal improvement. Their activities involve guest lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and awareness programs on gender sensitization and women's rights,
5. **Dharini Eco Club:** This club promotes environmental awareness in and out of campus in alignment with SDG goals on climate change, clean water, leadership development and responsiveness. Their focus areas include biodiversity conservation, waste management, eco-friendly festivals, cleanliness drives, plantation events, innovative projects, internships, and the sale of eco-friendly products on campus.

### **Department ,Committees & Clubs Level:**

All departments, committees, and clubs at St. Ann's College are actively involved in various extension activities. Some of the focus areas include literary activities, soft skill training, environmental awareness, computer skills, digital literacy, healthcare, sanitation, hygiene, conservation, charity programs, donation drives, and career guidance.

### **6. Evidence of Success**

Participating in outreach programs has allowed our students to acquire valuable life skills, expand their personal knowledge, and refine their interpersonal

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communication abilities. These experiences serve as a foundation for personal growth, preparing them with work-related skills before graduation and helping them establish valuable networks with potential employers.

Our institution firmly believes in the empowerment of youth as contributors to nation-building. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) played a pivotal role at the time of national calamities, extending its helping hand toward rescue and emergency services.

NSS has helped our students develop confidence, leadership skills, discipline, and connected them to ground realities and bonding with underprivileged. These qualities prepared them for a better life in adversities equipping them to face the world with confidence.

The Centre for Women Studies (CWS) empowers women through capacity-building measures, fostering gender sensitivity, and promoting gender literacy, education, and leadership skills. These efforts aim to bring about social, economic, political, and cultural empowerment, ultimately working towards gender equality.

Eco Club encourages critical thinking about environmental issues and innovative problem-solving. It raises environmental awareness and instils a sense of responsibility among our youth as change-makers in environmental conservation.

In conclusion, our outreach programs are transformative experiences that shape responsible, empathetic, and empowered citizens who contribute meaningfully to society.

### **7. Problems Encountered and Resources Required Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice**

Undoubtedly, practicing extension activities at Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) presents several challenges. Motivating students to actively engage in community outreach requires continuous efforts from faculty. Not all students naturally possess the motivation to participate, making it imperative for educators to inspire and encourage them consistently.

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Ensuring safety during outreach activities, including travel, and obtaining parental consent, is a critical concern. It demands meticulous planning and monitoring throughout the activity to safeguard students.

Discipline, punctuality, communication skills, and leadership responsibilities must be instilled in both students and faculty to ensure the successful execution of planned events. These qualities are essential for effective teamwork and coordination, which are integral to the success of community outreach programs.

In sum, while extension activities offer tremendous benefits to students and society, overcoming these challenges requires dedicated efforts, careful planning, and a strong commitment to instilling values and skills that prepare students for active and responsible community engagement.