



BEST PRACTICE 1: PROGRAM FOR OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited.” – Plutarch

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE:

SVDC -PODS (Programs for Overall Development of Students)

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE:

1. To kindle the fire of learning among students and prepare them to apply it in diverse real life situations during their professional life.
2. To provide a holistic learning atmosphere and contribute towards the wholesome development of a student to evolve as an entrustable health care professional.
3. To strengthen student-centered education through participatory learning.

THE CONTEXT:

Sri Venkateshwaraa Dental College (SVDC) truly believes that education is the most powerful tool to change the world. PODS is an attempt by SVDC to change the world for the better through students.

THE PRACTICE:

The institution practices full inclusivity by involving students in various activities like patient out - reach programs, course/subject oriented CDE (Continuing Dental Education) programs and skill development programs along with co-curricular activities – sports, cultural events and art.

PODS programs not only emphasize on the subject matter but also give opportunities for students to improve their skills in terms of communication, patient education, team building and leadership, public speaking and management of people – patients, colleagues, seniors and juniors. The students are trained to manage patients from all walks of life including difficult and apprehensive patients. All these give students the necessary experience to manage and coordinate



their profession with the help of their academic and people skills. This equips them to capably manage their dental practice in the future.

The institution has a functioning student council which is completely involved in all student oriented decision making and a significant participant in organizing all the programs of Sri Venkateshwaraa Dental College.

The students are encouraged to hold on to their additional interests/hobbies and to learn how they can be turned into a lateral profession. Eminent speakers and pioneers from different fields are brought in, to shed light on the career opportunities in regular hobbies like art, craft and cultural activities.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

The practice of holistic student development by encouraging extra and co-curricular activities has lead the graduates to excel as entrepreneurs, community health educators which has also resulted in increased admissions every year. One of the graduates has also joined the police force.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Certain students from rural backgrounds are timid to open up and participate in the programs. This was overcome by continued encouragement and measures taken to make them feel comfortable.



BEST PRACTICE 2: REACH THE UNREACHED – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**“Community development has a long history of innovation and learning from experience.”
– Ben Bernanke**

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE:

REACH THE UNREACHED (Community Development Program)





VISION AND MISSION:

The program incorporates community service in the academic curriculum to inculcate civil responsibility among students. This facilitates learning, personal growth and cultural understanding among students through active participation in an organized service based on the survey and analysis of the community needs.

The mission is to:

- Provide a learning experience to the students in Community dental camp by solving the problems of local development.
- Increase student's intellectual capacity for doing research, analysis and scientific problem solving in building dynamic society.
- Help students to be a capable communicator in various social levels.

OBJECTIVES

1. To act as a primary care provider of emergency and multidisciplinary oral health care, directing health promotion and disease prevention activities, using advanced treatment modalities.
2. To diagnose and identify the oral health problems and their effects in order to effectively combat the endemic problems of the locality.
3. To apply scientific principles in the provision of oral health care.
4. To utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centric care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity.
5. To imbibe the students with a spirit of social consciousness and an urge for protection of rural health.



CONTEXT:

Oral health needs of a population are considerably high in a developing country like India. The subgroups of the population like school going children, geriatric, physically and mentally challenged etc. have the maximum need for dental care. Unusually high settlement of dental practitioners in the urban areas has led to a wide gap in the accessibility of dental services by the rural population. “Reach the Unreached” aims to overcome the setbacks like lack of awareness, affordability, cultural practices, myths and beliefs of the rural community and thereby improve their dental health. Imparting this program in the curriculum creates an avenue for the students to learn through experience.

PRACTICE:

Students’ involvement through regular postings at various community settings for the following activities:

1. Conducting camps in schools, colleges, old age homes, orphanages, factories, Government bodies and local community centers with special needs.
2. Extended services in Primary Health Centre for rural oral health care which caters to the clustered villages around.
3. Referral of patients with needs to the institution for further treatment with extended transport facility for those with socio-economical demands.
4. Conduct of oral health awareness and care for the individuals with special needs (mentally & physically) and their caregivers.
5. Outreach activities on special days such as World Oral Health Day, World Cancer Awareness Month, and World No-Tobacco Day etc.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

1. Enhanced clinical competencies of the students through participatory learning which is reflected in their positive feedback.
2. Transformation of nearby villages into a healthy place through awareness and practices of dental care.



3. Awareness of dental hygiene, tobacco consumption among school children, geriatric and general population.
4. Enhanced care of unreached population groups.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

1. Obtaining approval from the authorities to conduct oral screening & treatment camps due to government restrictions.
2. The transport of oral healthcare personnel to distant areas along with equipment becomes a logistical issue.