

Bharati College Learn and Earn Scheme

Dr. Naila Anjum

In recent years pedagogic practices across the world have undergone a paradigmatic shift which contrasts with the earlier paper-based, teacher-led instruction and encourages a much more dynamic approach to learning. At the same time, to benefit from this shift, educational institutions in developing countries like India must consider the specific socio-economic contexts of their learners, and tailor their programme accordingly. The Bharati College Earn and Learn scheme is precisely such an effort. A unique endeavour, it seeks to inculcate a Project- Based Learning (PBL) approach in an Indian context.

The programme grew out of our analysis of two growing trends-we observed that there was continuing financial pressure on families, the brunt of which would often be faced by the girl child deferring or altogether cancelling university education. Secondly, we realised that a small but growing segment of students already possessed skill sets which, with the right mentoring, could lead to gainful employment. The scheme aims to address both these needs.

Objectives:

- 1.To allow students with economically weak backgrounds to pursue and complete college.
- 2.To learn new skills.
3. To develop real-world expertise and experience.
4. To serve as a potential stepping stone into more complex roles.
5. To encourage collaborative relationship building between industry/ government and higher education.

Implementation/ Methodology

The students were chosen after a fairly vigorous selection. Applications which had to be accompanied with a valid income certificate were invited through student/ public notices. Each application was scrutinised in which the previous academic performance of the applicant was considered and a need assessment was also done. Finally, the shortlisted applicants along with their parents/guardians were called for an interview. Learn and Earn scheme has covered 20 percent to full payment of the fees for the year. The committee members worked in cooperation with the Accounts Department.

The areas identified in which the students could work:

- 1.Cleanliness
- 2.Discipline

3. Medical room
4. Library
5. Activity period (3 years)
6. Enabling Unit help
7. Energy conservation
8. Gardening
9. Remedial instruction
10. Computer lab

Initial guidance was imparted to the girls based on where they were assigned work. For example, the girls supposed to help in the Medical Room were given first aid training.

Students have been regularly engaged in these areas. They submit a record of their work which is then verified by a Learn and Earn scheme teacher member.

Beneficiaries:

2015-16 : 90 students. Among other things, they worked for the NGO 'Sparsh' in educating slum children around Mahavir Enclave.

2016-17: 90 students.

2017-18 : 22 students

2018-19: 21 students

2019-2020: 44 students.

Commitee:

2015-2017 : Dr. Asha Tiwari (convenor), Dr. Shobhana, Dr Bindia Trivedi, Dr. Suman, Dr. Praveen, Ms. Nishtha Bhushan

2017-2019- Dr. Jaya Keral (convenor), Dr. Asha Tiwari, Mrs. Deepti Singh, Mr. Alok Anand, Ms. Nisha Tiwari

2019-2020: Dr. Naila Anjum (convenor), Dr. Ekta Chaudhary, Dr. Swati Bawa Sawhney, Dr. Pratibha Tripathi, Dr. Suman

Conclusion:

The Learn and Earn scheme will continue to enhance the meaning of both 'learn' and 'earn' for the students so that it represents an effort towards community welfare. We believe that our students who benefit both financially and vocationally/academically by the scheme will be our future ambassadors in this endeavour.