

Best Practice- 1

1. Organizing Dr. V.N. Bedekar Memorial Lecture series

Goal:

To equip students with the modern trends of understanding the world and to shape their all-round development.

The lecture series has been started by the College to commemorate the academic and social contribution made by Late Dr. V.N. Bedekar towards society through Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane. To keep the lamp of knowledge burning incessantly Dr. V.N. Bedekar worked tirelessly and diligently. As part of the academic endeavour to disseminate the wisdom, Dr. V.N. Bedekar Lecture series was started in the year 2016 on 20th February. The year 2016-17 was celebrated as his birth centenary. Since then a renowned scholar from various fields such as arts, culture, media, music, indology, etc. is invited to give a special lecture.

The context:

The goal of developing holistic approach to look at life that has to be generated among the students is met effectively through academic programmes. Hence, under this Lecture Series the speakers of eminence in the respective fields are invited for guest lectures as per the specialization of their area and knowledge. The College believes in the philosophy of 'Information to knowledge and knowledge to wisdom'. It entails the fact that students should be sensitized towards the current trends of understanding the pursuits of life.

The practice:

The College has organized 20 lectures as part of Dr. V.N. Bedekar Memorial Lecture series from the year 2016.

The details of the speakers and their topics are as follows

Sr. No	Name of the speaker	Topic	Date
1	Mr. Anil Avachat, Renowned writer	Our Mind Our Behaviour	19 th July 2016
2	Mrs. Madhavi Gharpure, Renowned writer	Marmabandhatali Thev	30 th November, 2016

3	Mrs. Sampada Vagale, Renowned writer	Mala Bhetleli Devmanase	5 th December, 2016
4	Mr. Girish Kuber, Renowned Journalist, Editor, Loksatta	The Impact of Demonetization on Indian Economy	11 th January, 2017
5	Mr. D. Shivanandan, Police Officer	Cyber Security and Students	31 January, 2017
6	Mr. Ramesh Jhanvar, Renowned Journalist	Maharashtra State Budget 2017	23 rd April, 2017
7	Dr. Shubhada Joshi, Former Head, Dept of Philosophy, Mumbai University	Teacher's Role as Leader according to Kautilya	20 th June , 2017
8	Mrs. Anita Agashe, Renowned Indologist	Excavation of Limb Gaon	21 st July 2017
9	Dr. Santosh Dastane, Renowned Economist	Indian Agriculture: Future Prospectus	19 th August, 2017
10	Dr. Prabhakar Apte, Renowned Sanskrit Scholar	Ancient Science and Technology	12 th September, 2017
11	Mr. Raju Parulekar, Renowned Journalist	Journalism: Past, Present and Future	7 th October, 2017
12	Dr. Deepak Tilak, Vice Chancellor, Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune	Bal Gangadhar Tilak: The Maker of Modern India	11 th January, 2018
13	Padmashree Nilima Mishra, Renowned Social Activist (Ramon Magsaysay award recipient)	Empowering Rural Women	6 th March , 2018
14	Mr. Vijayraj Bodhankar, Renowned Painter	Artists, Fine arts and Indian Society	28 th April, 2018
15	Dr. Prabhakar Apte, Renowned Sanskrit Scholar	Relevance of Kautilya's Arthshastra in 21 st Century	3 rd July, 2018

16	Mr. Chandrashekhar Tilak, Renowned Economist	Changing Dynamics of Economics and Society	25 th August, 2018
17	Pandit Vivek Sonar, Renowned Flutist	The Journey of a Flutist	27 th September, 2018
18	Dr. Bharat Vatvani, Psychiatric, Renowned Social Activist and (Ramon Magsaysay award recipient)	Emotions and Social Work	21 st February, 2019
19	Padmashree Dr. Waman Kendre, Renowned Theatre Personality	Life and Drama	19 th July 2019
20	Mr. D.K. Soman, Renowned Astronomer, Writer	Chandrayan 2- India's Space Mission and 50 years of ISRO	19 th September, 2019

Evidence of Success:

The publicity of the lecture series is promoting to the wider and open learning process in the campus. The efforts are made to make these lectures available on YouTube. The live webcasting and live streaming of these lectures is done with help of College Server Room. The Lecture Series is open for the students and faculty members of all educational institutions run by the VPM, Thane.

Problems encountered:

- Unavailability of renowned scholars at convenience of both the parties.

Resources required are:

- The funds
- The High resolution Video Camera and Live streaming setup
- Expert videographers and editors to edit the lecture before getting uploaded on YouTube
- Auditorium with PowerPoint presentation facilities

Best Practice- 2

2. Understanding and creating awareness about significance of women empowerment through celebration of International Women's Day

Goal :

- To sensitize the student's and fellow colleagues about gender equality
- To showcase women role models who have contributed to society.
- In spite of the constitutional status and legal provisions, Indian women are discriminated and face number of problems.

Vidya Prasarak Mandal believes in the principle of gender equality. Most of the key positions in College are held by women. Women teachers and girl students outnumber their counterparts.

Women Development Cell (WDC) attempts to bring about a positive and constructive outlook and so it equips and imparts girl students with techniques and skills which will help them to face various challenges courageously.

During International Women's day Celebration information about the programs like self-defence, haemoglobin test of girl students, sex education program for both boys and girls organized by WDC is given to the stakeholders.

The Context:

The changing trends of celebrating International Women's Day in present times with clicking selfies, huge discounts on various products at different malls and on online shopping basically has made this day a glamorous event in the society. In many countries, it is reduced to being just one of the public holidays and in some countries, it is completely ignored.

It is the responsibility of evolved institutions in the academics to rectify this glossy perception of celebrating it. It is to remind us that International Women's Day is to be celebrated as a mark of civil awareness of woman's rights; it is a day to celebrate womanhood. It is also a day to mark the achievements and accolades of women who have created a space for themselves in patriarchal society like India.

The Practice:

Generally, we club together the celebration of International Women's Day and death anniversary of Savitribai Phule, the first woman teacher of Maharashtra which is on 10th March.

Keeping the aim in mind, WDC showcases the crucial role of eminent women who have displayed unusual strength or courage and have empowered themselves and set an example before society.

Various programs organized on this day includes:

- Dialogue with women belonging to aviation industry
- Performance by women teachers titled '*Milun Saryajani*' enacting role of different women social reformers of Maharashtra
- Program depicting portrayal of women in literature
- Debate of students on gender equality
- In the academic year 2018-19, on this occasion two women rickshaw drivers of Thane were felicitated which was followed by an interactive session with them.

Unique Feature:

Generally, women are felicitated on this day. However, it must be mentioned that Maharashtra has been a unique example where men have contributed to women's cause. Following these footsteps of this progressive thinking, our College in last two years started with a unique practice of felicitating one gentleman from society who has contributed to the societal cause. In the academic year 2017-18 we felicitated Mr. Harish Sadani, founder of MAVA (Men Against Violence and Abuse).

In the year 2018-19, WDC felicitated Mr. Sagar Reddy who is known as the savior of orphans.

Evidence of Success:

These programs create an awareness and understanding among students about gender equality, empowerment of women and contribution of social reformers towards improving the status of less privileged one.

It's an occasion to discuss and ponder over the important issues related to women.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems:

The International Women's Day falls in the month of March which is a crucial month of examination for the students. This becomes a major constraint in celebrating this day and program for students on a larger scale. Hence, students who are enrolled in

WDC, NSS, NCC and some whose examinations are scheduled later are welcomed for the program.

Resources required include the following,

- Auditorium,
- Conference room for conducting various programmes and activities,
- Audio system,
- Photographer,
- Funds for arranging the program