Best Practices

AQAR 2023-24

Maharaja Ganga Singh University

A State University of Higher Education for Dignity and Self-Reliance
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Best Practices

1. Title of the Practice: Community Engagement and Social Responsibility

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- The Smart Village Initiative (SVI), which is part of University Social Responsibility (USR), aims to promote holistic rural development.
- To align with Mahatma Gandhi's vision for Adarsh Gram and Swaraj.
- To meet the needs of chosen villages through sustainable development projects.
- To improve education, healthcare, environmental awareness, and economic prospects in rural communities.
- To promote community engagement and empowerment through a variety of campaigns and programs.

3. The Context:

Swaroopdesar is the University's third village under the Smart Village Initiative (SVI) initiative, after Kotdi and Naalbadi villages as part of its University Social Responsibility (USR) under Mission Antodaya Yojana. The effort is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideal of Adarsh Gram and Swaraj, which emphasizes holistic rural development. The Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, who is also the Governor of Rajasthan, has directed the adoption and development of smart villages. Under the direction of Vice-Chancellor, a framework for action was developed, with a focus on sustainability. A smart village has five pillars: retrofitting, redevelopment, green village, e-village, and sustainable livelihood.

4. The Practice:

The University has undertaken various initiatives for community development in its adopted villages, including Swaroopdesar. Key activities include:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Repairing community water storage tanks, constructing boundary walls, toilets, and community centers, and renovating school facilities.

- **Education and Skill Development:** Establishing computer centers, providing internet facilities, and sponsoring vocational training (e.g., basic computer training), and organizing adult education programs.

- **Healthcare Initiatives:** Donating indoor patient beds to the primary health center, organizing medical checkup camps, and conducting health awareness campaigns.

- **Environmental Initiatives:** Conducting tree plantation drives, pond desilting discussions, and cleanliness drives to promote a clean and green environment.

- **Community Engagement:** Organizing voter awareness campaigns, drug awareness rallies, and visits to the MGS university for school students to inspire higher education.

- **E-Initiatives:** Providing computers, printers, and internet education services to schools.

The University has also allocated funds for other projects totalling Rs. 6.77 lakhs, such as the construction of boundary walls, the maintenance of community facilities, and the provision of sporting equipment.

5. Evidence of Success:

- **Attempts were made successfully to develop Swaroopdesar as a smart village.**

- Improved village infrastructure, such as community centers, schools, and healthcare facilities.
- Computer training programs, and university visits will improve educational options for students.
- Increased environmental awareness through tree planting projects, cleaning campaigns, and water conservation initiatives.
- Positive community reaction and appreciation for initiatives like the donation of indoor patient beds and health awareness campaigns.
- Villagers actively participate in activities such as voter awareness, drug awareness, and adult education programs.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Challenges:
- Limited technical and financial resources to meet all community demands.
- Ensure the long-term viability of projects and community participation.
- The community has limited technological ability to support digital and e-learning efforts.

Resources Required:
- Financial assistance for long-term infrastructure projects, healthcare facilities, and educational initiatives.
- Technical skills in executing e-initiatives and sustainable livelihood programs.
- Continued work with local leaders, panchayats, and community organizations to ensure that projects are effectively implemented and monitored.