

7.2.1 - Institutional best practices

Best Practice-I: Blood group detection and hygiene awareness camps

The department of Microbiology and Biotechnology of the college has an active student club- 'Plasmid Club'. In biological world, plasmid means - a genome coding extra characters to the organism. Similarly the main objective of this club is also performing various extracurricular activities. The objectives of this student club are: To get acquainted with good study techniques and to make available the study resources for preparation of competitive examination. Creating cooperative environment within students and helping in expression of Students ideas, views, thoughts and enhance the interaction within students, Students- Teachers and by making available Wall magazine - BIOVISION. Making students aware of social issues such as pollution, disease awareness and importance of personal in daily life. Details of the activities of this club are available at the department website: http://www.mbbtshirpur.in/plasmid_club.php

Objectives of the Practice:

Since the college is working in rural and tribal area of Maharashtra, social and public health related issues are major problems of the region. Due to lesser literacy rate, the villages in the interior of Shirpur Taluka don't have access to preliminary health facilities. Several government residential schools are established in this area offering primary and secondary education to tribal students. However, the students from these schools as well as the tribal people of the villages have no basic understanding of personal hygiene, cleanliness, spreading of diseases and other sanitary practices.

The context:

Microbiology students have basic knowledge of personal and public health importance, role of microorganisms in diseases and preventive measures to control the diseases. Moreover, the students have also primary knowledge of human blood groups, detection of blood groups and Haemoglobin content in the blood.

The practice:

Taking the advantage of their knowledge and to inculcate social zeal among the students, the department of Microbiology and Biotechnology of the college is undertaking the blood group

detection and hygiene awareness camps in the Ashram Schools of nearby villages from last fifteen years on 6th August. Blood group of several thousand students and tribals were checked in this exercise. So far, the camp has been organized at 16 villages. In this activity, students of the department check the blood group of the young children. They also demonstrate importance of hand washing, bathing, nail clipping etc. Students also prepare posters highlighting the important communicable diseases, their control and treatment. During the camp, students present street plays, door to door visit and make the tribal people aware regarding various health issues. This activity has been appreciated by the media as well as by the management of the college (http://www.mbbtshirpur.in/plasmid_club.php).

Evidence of success:

The blood group detection and disease awareness camp run by the college has received attention of various government bodies and media. Government hospital also get involves in this drive for screening of sickle cell anaemia and other diseases. Private dentist of the Shirpur city also voluntarily join this camp and provide important information to tribals and school children regarding dental and oral hygiene. The details of number of camps, location, total number of individuals involved in the camp etc. is available at departmental website: http://www.mbbtshirpur.in/blood_group_camp.php. Moreover, the faculty and the students proactively worked in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Students organize several rallies, media campaigning, clean campus drive etc. The Department of Microbiology coordinated the vermicomposting of solid waste in several housing societies during the Swachhata Drive of Shirpur Warwade Municipal Council. The efforts of our students and faculty are appreciated by media as well as by government bodies. (Details of the practice are available at: http://www.mbbtshirpur.in/blood_group_camp.php)

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

This activity is fully run by a student club. It requires little financial support which is provided by the department from the student registration fees. However, there is tremendous scope to work on these issues especially in rural and tribal set up. More involvement of government organization and NGOs is anticipated so that the college can reach to wider group of people in remote areas.

Best Practice-II: A Center for Study, Research and Preservation of Ahirani: A Dialect in North Maharashtra

A Center for Study, Research and Preservation of Dialect in North Maharashtra is a newly established in the college. This center is a collaborated work that is initiated by the Faculty of Humanities.

The Center is set up with a view to study the dialects especially, Ahirani: A regional variant of Marathi, which is popularly spoken in the North Region of Maharashtra. The center concentrates on the study and research of the dialects and at the same time to preserve the dialects.

The Context of the Center:

It has been observed that in the era of globalization, the languages and the dialects in the developing and undeveloped countries are at the verge of extinct. The threat to the existence of the major languages as well as the minor languages in the wake of globalization is the direct threat to the civilization and culture of the societies which use these languages. Every language is the outcome of the age old phenomenon. A language is itself is a cultural evolution and culture is transmitted through language. Every major language is a blend of various dialects that exist within it. The dialects which are the direct sources of the major language are vanishing fast due to the spread of global foreign languages. To prevent the decay of dialect and the language itself spoken in this area, it is necessary to revitalize the dialects and regional languages through systematic study and research. This center concentrates on the study and research of Ahirani, one of the major dialects of Marathi in Maharashtra.

Objectives:

- To study and conduct the research for preserving Ahirani: the dialect of Marathi
- To collect the vocabulary of Ahirani and publish it in the form of dictionary
- To study the cultural heritage with reference to Ahirani
- To create the awareness among the students and people about the linguistic legacy
- To encourage the knowledge creation and creative writing in dialects.

Practice:

Ahirani is a dialect of Marathi, which is spoken in some of the regions in Nasik, Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon. There are other dialects which are closely related to Ahirani. Even one can see the geographical distinctness in the variants of Ahirani in above mentioned regions. The dialect is spoken by the folk and farmers, merchants and workers, educated and non-educated ones and the citizens of cities and villages. Still there are no specific efforts taken in collecting the vocabulary of Ahirani and to study the cultural interconnection.

As a part of higher education and as the students of humanities, we feel it our responsibility to study Ahirani and other dialects in the region, to conduct research and to preserve them by collecting the vocabulary, idioms, phrases and to study their styles and their variants with all their social and cultural aspects. Such study consciously helps in developing the Marathi.

For the study of Ahirani, the subject areas are listed carefully to collect the vocabulary under the specific headings. The functions, ceremonies, occasions when Ahirani is used especially are detected in the preliminary stage.

The center has its functioning that includes visits to the various villages and town where Ahirani is spoken largely. The interviews with elder persons in various fields are being conducted. The cultural and social implications of the words, phrases and idioms are being studied and getting recorded.

Evidence of Success:

In 2018-19, the meetings were held for determining the objectives. The methodology for conducting the study and planning the activities were anticipated. The study area is defined. The different areas where Ahirani is spoken are detected and listed. The members visited the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre to plan the future activities.

Problems Encountered and Resource Required:

The center is established by the faculties of Humanities Department to take an initiative to study and undertake research to preserve the dialects in North Maharashtra especially, in the districts of Dhule and Jalgaon. The center is run in the college and fund, required for the activities is

raised by the faculties and aided by the College Management. There is no financial aid from any government or non-government body.

The faculties involved in the activities are inexperienced but overcoming the inexperience by studying the functioning of the other institutions dedicated for such language study.