



BEST PRACTICE 2: St. James' Outreach Program (SJOP- Adoption of village- JWALA)

Objectives/Goal: The goal of the Village Adoption Program of St James College of Nursing is manifold. Some of the main goals are:

- To create a culture of care and social commitment in students
- To provide information vital to the development of the village through research conducted in various fields such as Geographical, Historical, Sociological, Political, Cultural Literature etc.
- To foster civic consciousness, leadership qualities, and communication skills
- To assist the village in assessing the best possible ways of improvement and development that is both affordable and sustainable.
- To identify the potential of the village towards further growth and advances.

The Context:

St. James College of Nursing, guided by the motto "**We Foster Health,**" extends its services beyond its center through the Village Adoption Program. Focused on research, education, and collaboration, it aims to enrich student and faculty experiences while contributing to rural development and the well-being of adopted villages.

As part of the 'St. James' Outreach Program' (SJOP)', Next Level has embarked on an impactful initiative by adopting a tribal village. This commitment involves fostering sustainable development and empowering the community through education, healthcare, and skills training. Next Level aims to create lasting positive change, respecting the cultural heritage of the tribe while supporting their growth and well-being. Through this adoption, the program seeks to forge a meaningful connection, working collaboratively with the villagers to enhance their quality of life and foster a brighter future for generations to come.

The Practice:

Embracing a village through adoption endeavors to link students with society, serving as a remarkable avenue to instill principled and open-minded values towards community engagement. Funds for the program are provided by the College Management, which actively endorses these initiatives under the banner St. James Outreach Program (SJOP). Spearheaded by the Community Health Nursing Department, in collaboration with various other departments, the

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execution of Village Adoption and SJOP activities is orchestrated. The College forms a committee with the Principal as the Chairman, and the committee decides by conducting various surveys on which the village is to be adopted. Teachers and students work in tandem to discern the specific requirements of the local community, employing a collaborative effort to identify and address these needs through

- baseline surveys
- focused group discussions with local bodies, civic groups, and NGOs
- meetings with the leaders

Based on the local needs, suitable programs are planned by teachers. This happens while preparing the course plan for the new academic year.

The program during the last year focused on preventive and curative activities such as:

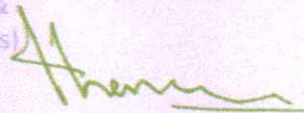
- Health Surveys
- School Health Programs
- Health Day Celebrations
- Health Camps
- Assistance in Pulse Polio Programs
- Lifeguard Training
- Health Awareness Programs

Evidence of success:

The integration of the village adoption program within SJOP has undeniably yielded favorable outcomes, notably influencing both the academic advancement and personal development of our nursing students. This initiative has served as an avenue for multifaceted learning experiences, effectively enhancing their understanding of societal demands and nurturing a heightened sensitivity towards community needs. The compelling feedback received from the students serves as tangible proof of the program's success. It resonates with their testimonials, vividly illustrating how this immersive engagement has not only diversified their educational journey but also kindled within them a profound sense of social responsibility. Their reflections consistently highlight how this experience has enriched their perspectives, fostering a genuine commitment to actively contribute towards the betterment of society. Through these accounts, it's evident that the village adoption initiative has not only impacted their academic learning but has also instilled

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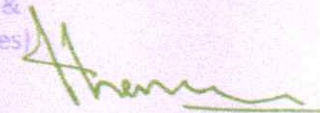
a deep-rooted ethos of service and empathy, marking a significant milestone in their personal growth.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Lack of time: Universities should assign mandatory credits for social work
- Local infrastructure and financial constraints: Effective collaborations may resolve this.
- Motivating participants and handling scepticism: Support from LSGs/NGOs can address this issue.

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