

Best Practice - 1
Title of the Practice - Samskrita Vikasa Kendram

Objectives of the Practice –

In this era of rapidly changing technology, Indian culture is being ignored and the next generations are rarely given a true picture of the same. Parallely, young children are influenced by the western set of cultures and values and the same have a huge impact of their tender and sensitive psyches. Realizing that orienting the future generations to our knowledge systems and culture is the need of the hour, Samskrit Vikas Kendra was established to promote and propagate Sanskrit and the vast treasure troves of knowledge embedded in its cradle.

As the saying goes – *“If we cannot bend a plant when it is at its initial stage then we cannot bend it when it grows up as a tree”*, it is imperative that good values are taught to children at a young stage so that they can imbibe them at an early stage, so that these values and ideals play an important role in their holistic development.

The main objectives of the **Sanskrit Vikas Kendra** are -

- Organizing Samskrit Camps.
- Organizing Samskrit Balakendras.
- Organising Special Lectures.
- Managing Continuous classes.
- Organising Geeta Jayanti Festivals.

The Context - Nowadays, curriculum at schools ends up with tests and exams trying to assess the comprehension of the students. It has created a notion in the students that they must learn the subjects for the sake of clearing exams. This method has created a huge void among the student community and questions even with the slightest variations go unanswered by the students, thereby exposing their lack of proper understanding.

Hence, there is an immediate need to inculcate and promote knowledge-based learning and education among the students. To fulfill this aspect, NSU has established Samskrit Vikas Kendra. **SVK** provides an opportunity of knowing our vast history by providing unique insights. A congenial atmosphere created here ensures that students and children learn various aspects of Sanskrit in a joyful manner without mugging up the contents and without being bombarded by the pressure of exams. Students are taught in a stress-free manner using direct method of teaching using a multitude of aids thereby cementing subject matter in their tender minds effortlessly.

The Practice – *Sanskrit Vikas Kendram* has multiple initiatives under its banner to cater to the Sanskrit needs of people from various ages and different strata of the society. **Balagokulam** has kids as young as 3 years and they are taught basic Sanskrit, short stories, songs, stotras imbibing culture etc. thus instilling the seeds of love for Sanskrit at a very tender age. As children have a very good grasping power at young ages, learning these stotras, leave a lasting impact on their psyche. Another important aspect to be noted is that Sanskrit, being the mother of various Indian languages, exerts its hold and influence on them. Hence many words are seen in their mother tongue have their origin in Sanskrit. Children, through the little bit of effort, tend to easily learn Sanskrit. These children from the Balakendra end up conversing easily in Sanskrit at their homes too. **Spoken Sanskrit Camps** conducted by the Kendra help in widely spreading Sanskrit in the society. The instructors ensure that the methods employed by them to teach vary according to the target audience.

Evidence of Success – In the year 2018, 37 Sanskrit Balakendras with over 1000 children were conducted. Classes were held on weekends on 5:30PM - 7:00PM. 28 Sanskritshibiras with 647 participants were organized. In these classes, Stotras, Sanskrit Songs, names of the Indian Samvatsaras, Ratus, Months etc. and Simple Spoken Sanskrit are taught.

The relation between the society and the University increased exponentially through this exercise. It is a matter of pride that through these Balakendras, ten “**Sanskritagruhas (Sanskrit Homes)**” are seen today in Tirupati.

In the spoken Sanskrit Camps which were organized every year, many IAS, IPS Officers, Judges, Lawyers, Homemakers, Priests and vendors actively participated. Many students, who participated in these Sanskrit Sambhashana Shibiram, took admission in the Prak-Shastri Course of the University in the academic year 2019-20.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required – Parents are not very encouraging as they lack basic idea as to what is taught. Hence, it takes much time to convince the parents to send their children. Another very important problem is the limited funding to carry out the various activities of the Kendram.

Best Practice - 2

Title of the Practice - All India Sastrartha Training Camp – 2018

Objectives of the Practice –

As a custodian and guardian of the ancient Sastric tradition, the Vidyapeetha had, over a span of three decades, conducted various programmes for the preservation of the Sastras. In a similar manner, it was decided that an **ALL INDIA SASTRARTHA TRAINING CAMP** be conducted in the premises of the Vidyapeetha from May 27th to June 11th 2018. As the Indian tradition of *Sastrartha* or *Vakyartha* played an extremely pivotal and instrumental role in carrying forward the philosophical traditions and human thought, a camp to train the current generation of students in this traditional method of *Vakyartha* was envisioned by the Vice Chancellor.

The Context

Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha has been established with the noble vision of preserving and propagating ancient and invaluable knowledge embedded in Sanskrit lore and proving its relevance to the modern times. The vision of the Vidyapeetha is to create knowledge-based Sanskrit education and to bring out the cultural, socio-economic and environmentally sustainable development of individuals and communities. The Vidyapeetha had always been a fore runner in the Sanskrit scenario and had always strived, not just to save the rapidly diminishing Sastric knowledge systems, but to proliferate them in the present society.

Looking at the overwhelming response of the All India Sastrartha Training Camp – 2017, it was decided to re-conduct the camp for the year 2018. In the Sastrartha training camp students are taught higher texts under the tutelage of scholars and

are also trained in the ancient method of **Vakyartha**. The following texts were taught to the students in different Sastras.

Subject	Text
Nyaya	Savyabhicharam 1 st Lakshanam
Advaita Vedanta	Sastra Siddhanta Lesa sangraha 1 st Paricheda
Dvaita Vedanta	TattparyaChandrika
Vyakarana	Sabdaratnasahita Praudhmanorama
Sahitya	Dhvanyalokah – 3 rd & 4 th Udyothas
Mimamsa	Mimamsa Nyaya Prakasa
Jyotisham	Suryasiddhanta – Madhyamadhikara, Spasthadhikara & Triprasnadhikara

The Practice

As per the directions of the Vice-Chancellor, a committee was constituted for the conduct of the Camp. Information about the conduct of the training camp was sent to various Sanskrit institutions all over the country. Students pursuing Acharya 2nd year/other equivalent degree/M.Phil/P.hd scholars were deemed eligible to participate in the camp. However, it was also decided that a two-fold entrance exam would be conducted – a written and an oral exam. Only those students who clear both these exams satisfactorily would be allowed to participate in the training camp. Over a 100 applications flooded the office of the coordinator within a period of two weeks. On May 26th, a written exam was conducted in the Vidyapeetha. The exam was for 25 marks consisting of 10 one

word answer questions and 3 short answer questions. The duration of the exam was one hour. Post the written exam, the answer scripts were thoroughly evaluated and a list of eligible candidates was put up for the oral interview. The afternoon session witnessed the interview and after scrupulously testing the academic proficiency of the students, students were selected to participate in 7 Sastras in the Training Camp.

Evidence of Success

Although there was only a short duration between announcement and the conduct of the camp, the response from students from different corners of the country was overwhelming.

Students who participated in the previous camps conducted in 2000 and 2003 were invited as teachers in the current Training Camp. Also, due to extreme demand, training in two new subjects *viz* Mimamsa and Jyotisha was imparted. This is a direct evidence of success of the Training Camp. Also, the participants expressed their utmost happiness to the authorities of the Vidyapeetha for conducting such a unique program and stated that they were extremely satisfied with the arrangements- both academic and physical, for the smooth conduct of the camp.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

There weren't any problems as such to conduct the Camp as it was unanimously declared both by the participating students and scholars that the Training Camp was organized in a very meticulous manner. Continuous funding, if obtained on a yearly basis, would be a welcome resource, so that Training Camps like these can be conducted on a larger scale, thereby resulting in the propagation of Indic Knowledge Systems among the current generation of students.