



# ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

**AUTONOMOUS** | College with Potential for Excellence | Re accredited with A++ Grade

DEVAGIRI, CALICUT-673008, KERALA, INDIA

*Affiliated to the University of Calicut*

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## BEST PRACTICES 2023-2024

### 1. Title of the Practice: COMPASSIONATE DEVAGIRI

### 2. Objectives of the Practice

St. Joseph's College has undergone a significant transformation in its approach to social outreach. Previously, many students weren't involved in social service activities. To address this, the college launched "Compassionate Devagiri," a comprehensive and well-structured social service program designed to:

- Inculcate social responsibility among students
- Cultivate a strong value system that emphasizes empathy, respect, and ethical behavior
- Institutionalize the college's social service programs

### 3. The Context

Social extension services for students were restructured with a focus on institutionalization, participation, collaboration, and achieving measurable outcomes. In 2019, the curriculum revision made the Social Service Programme (SSP) mandatory, carrying four credits, ensuring all students participated. The college collaborated with the District Administration, Local Panchayath, NGOs, and other organizations to organize extension programs. The program emphasizes assessing the outcomes of student service and measuring its impact. The College identified key institutions and areas for student engagement in social services. Increase student participation in social service activities

### 4. The Practice

To enhance the impact of social service initiatives, the college restructured its Social Service Program (SSP) in 2019. Key changes included:

- **Institutionalization:** SSP became mandatory for all students, carrying 4 academic credits.
- **Participation:** All students were actively involved in service activities.
- **Collaboration:** Partnerships were formed with local authorities (District Administration, Panchayats), NGOs, and other organizations.
- **Outcome-Oriented Focus:** Rigorous assessment of service outcomes ensured measurable impact.



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## Key Areas of Student Engagement:

**Ashakiran School:** The college adopted the nearby Ashakiran School for Differently Abled Children, with student involvement in various support programs.

**Blood Donors Forum:** A robust system, including an innovative UT code software, facilitates blood donations and donor matching.

### Swayampoorna e-Literacy Campaign:

- Peruvayal Panchayat: Focused on e-literacy classes for mothers.
- Mavoor Panchayat: Emphasized government website services.

**Tribal Village Adoption (UBA St. Joseph's College):** Adopted Thazhekappu and Melekappu villages in Wayanad, implementing initiatives in education, healthcare, and skill development.

**Asha Bhavan Old Age Home:** An MoU with the Women and Child Development Department facilitated the adoption of Asha Bhavan, enabling student support for the elderly.

## 5. Evidence of Success

The college adopted Ashakiran School for Differently Abled Children, adjacent to the campus, involving students in various support initiatives. The college's Blood Donors Forum encourages student blood donations through a robust system that collects and updates blood group data and utilizes innovative UT code software to match donors with recipients. "Swayampoorna" is an e-literacy campaign conducted across two panchayats: Peruvayal Panchayat, where e-literacy classes were conducted for mothers, and Mavoor Panchayat, focusing on classes about services available through government websites.

## 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

To effectively organize extension services, manage student assignments, track activities, and compile reports, a full-time coordinator and support staff are crucial. While allocated college funds for social services are valuable, additional fundraising programs with strict accounting and oversight should be implemented to ensure sustainable support. Furthermore, building and maintaining strong relationships with NGOs and local authorities is essential for successful program implementation..



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## BEST PRACTICES 2023-2024

### 1. Title of the Practice: DEVAGIRI SKILL DEVELOPMENT HUB

### 2. Objectives of the Practice

Recognizing the growing need for practical skills and entrepreneurship among students, the college introduced the "One Year, One Certificate" initiative. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by providing students with valuable vocational and skill-based training.

### 3. The Context

The initiative, driven by the need to enhance employability, mandates that every student complete at least one add-on or certificate course annually. Boards of Studies, in collaboration with external experts, developed syllabi for these courses, ensuring at least 30 hours of instruction. By 2022, 79 vocational/skill-based certificate courses had been approved and implemented across various departments.

### 4. The Practice

*One Year, One Certificate" Initiative:* To enhance student employability, the "One Year, One Certificate" initiative requires all students to complete at least one add-on or certificate course annually.

#### Course Development & Implementation:

- Boards of Studies, in collaboration with external experts, developed syllabi for 30-hour vocational and skill-based courses.
- By 2022, 79 such courses were approved and implemented by the Academic Council, with departments overseeing their operation.

#### Resource Acquisition:

- To support these initiatives, the institution acquired significant resources:
  - A large fishpond (400,000 liters)
  - A well-equipped Gas Tungsten Arc Welding Lab
  - 10 aquariums and 6 Ornamental Fish Hatcheries
  - 30 apiaries
  - A micro nursery cum laboratory



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- Computer labs were equipped with licenses for essential software like MS Office, SPSS, Tally Prime, and E-Views.

## **Certificate Issuance:**

- The General Coordinator of the DSDH submits the Tabulation Report to the Controller of Examinations.
- Certificates are then issued to students who successfully complete their chosen courses.

## **Key Vocational Courses:**

- The program offers a diverse range of vocational courses, including:
  - Plant Propagation and Terrace Farming
  - Fish Farming
  - Ornamental Fish Farming & Aquarium Setting
  - Beekeeping
  - Assistant Yoga Instructor
  - Gas Tungsten Arc Welding
  - Botanical Illustration and Photography
  - Indoor Gardening
  - Mushroom Cultivation
  - Tissue Culture Techniques

## **5. Evidence of Success**

To support these initiatives, the college invested in significant resources, including a large fishpond, a well-equipped Gas Tungsten Arc Welding Lab, 10 aquariums, 6 Ornamental Fish Hatcheries, 30 apiaries, a micro nursery cum laboratory, and computer labs equipped with licenses for MS Office, SPSS, Tally Prime, and E-Views.

Key vocational courses offered include Plant Propagation and Terrace Farming, Fish Farming, Ornamental Fish Farming & Aquarium Setting, Beekeeping, Assistant Yoga Instructor, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, Botanical Illustration and Photography, Indoor Gardening, Mushroom Cultivation, and Tissue Culture Techniques.

The successful implementation of this initiative is evident in several ways:

- Increased student engagement and participation: Every student voluntarily participates in at least one certificate course per year.
- Enhanced employability: A remarkable increase in campus placements and the emergence of new student-led entrepreneurial ventures testify to the success of this initiative.



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- Skill development: Students who have acquired skills through these certificate courses have successfully launched small businesses and begun generating income.

## **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Securing initial funding for the necessary facilities to support these courses presented a significant obstacle. Additionally, designing skill-based and vocational courses effectively fell outside the traditional expertise of the on-campus faculty. To address this, students were often transported to off-campus facilities and plant nurseries to gain valuable hands-on training and practical fieldwork experience. Meticulous planning is crucial to successfully schedule course sessions, ensuring that dates and facility usage do not conflict

