

Ramai Poli Bhaji Report

Objectives of the practice:

- To provide proper and adequate food for poor and needy students.
- To encourage student participation and involvement in academic and co curriculum activities.
- To enhance students educational quality

Majority of the students in the college come from rural areas belonging to needy, poor and tribal families and 90 percent of the students belong to socially and economically marginalized sections. Some of the students travel an average distance of around 80 kilometers from interior pockets of villages to reach to the college. They spend two hours to travel at one side. Among the various economic hardships faced by these students, the major problem faced by them is lack of proper and adequate food.

The College timing is from 9.00a.m to 3:00p.m. Many of them have to go without an afternoon meal as they cannot afford to buy lunch. Due to poor nutrition these students suffer from poor health. Intake of food is vital for proper performance. Chronic hunger prevents students from making the most of a formal education, no matter how hard they try to ignore its effects. The sad truth is that hunger can have physical and psychological effects on young people that make learning substantially difficult.

Food is the fuel necessary to get through a normal day. Calories in food provide energy to carry out regular day-to-day activities. Without an adequate amount of this energy, students may lack the energy to pay attention to an entire day of classes. Children experiencing hunger are



more likely to have problems with memory and concentration because they do not have the energy to carry out these functions.

The total strength of the college is 238, out of which 60 students come from extremely poor families. Therefore the College has been initiated a unique concept “Ramai Poli Bhaji Centre” under which a mid-day meal scheme under which it provides three chapattis and vegetable.

- The college has been started a “Ramai Poli Bhaji Centre”. Three chapattis and Bhaji are provided to the needy students at a nominal cost of five rupees. Improved nutrition has the potential to positively influence students’ academic performance and behavior.
- A core Committee has been constituted to supervise and coordinate this centre. The Principal is the Chairperson and there are 04 faculty members in the committee.
- In the beginning of the Academic session the coordinator calls for applications from the students and then based on the assessment carried out by the faculty members, including home – visits, the beneficiaries are selected.
- Every month one faculty and one non-teaching staff take on the responsibility of day – to day running of the Centre.
- The committee in consultation with the students prepares structured menu, keeping in mind the nutritional values as well as seasonality of the vegetables, which is provided to the Cook.

Evidence of Success:

1. The College has been able to successfully run this activity for nearly two years
2. The number of beneficiaries has increased from 20 to 100.

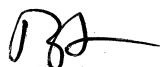


3. We have generated Rs.14,22, from donors to sustain this Centre.
4. This effort of the College has been received appreciation and wide media coverage.
5. The students' participation and involvement in academic and co-curricular activities has been increased
6. The students' attendance has been increased in the afternoon lectures as well as Individual conferences and Group conferences.
7. The success of our centre is reflected by the fact that our model has been implemented by the Aurangabad High court where some lawyers have started a similar centre for needy and poor people.
8. Deshbandu & Manju Gupta Foundation is a famous NGO working all over India - it has been published an article on Ramai Poli Bhaji Centre in its annual magazine.
9. Now Ramai Poli Bhaji Centre is an independent and sustainable activity of our college.

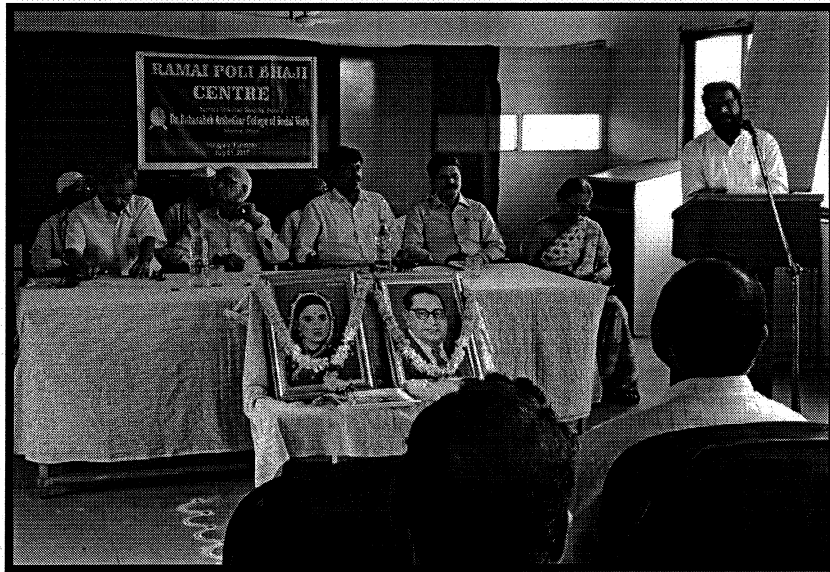
Problems encountered and resources required:

1. When we decided to start Ramai Poli Bhaji Centre we had no fund available in the college.
2. Therefore the major challenge was fund - raising, this activity is purely based on donations.
3. Further, another challenge is to ensure proper Cook for preparing healthy food in reasonable rates.




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Inauguration of Ramai Poli Bhaji



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