

Rural Empowerment Program (REP) through scholarship

Objectives:

- Recognize and empower rural talent by supporting exceptional students demonstrating outstanding academic and intellectual abilities to foster highly skilled and innovative engineers.
- Eliminate financial barriers hindering talented individuals from pursuing engineering education. Emphasize the development of essential engineering skills, focusing on innovation and excellence.
- Cultivate a community-centric approach to engineering education, ensuring engineers are not only academically proficient but also equipped with a mindset to positively contribute to societal advancement through technological innovation.

Context:

Established in 2011, Sir Isaac Newton College of Engineering and Technology is dedicated to providing quality education within rural communities. The college's chairperson founded the institution with a mission to empower the upcoming generation of students, particularly those from rural backgrounds, to become skilled engineers. Over 14 years, the college has attracted numerous aspiring students, offering a conducive educational environment. Our college implements a merit-based scholarship program designed to identify and support outstanding students demonstrating exceptional academic and intellectual capabilities. The majority of students admitted belong to the first graduate category, with parents residing below the poverty line. Since its inception, the management has consistently provided merit scholarships and fee waivers to students based on their economic backgrounds.

Practices:

The college implements merit-based scholarship programs for:

- Exceptional students at the pre-university level.
- Offering fee concessions to the students whose parents work at the institution,
- Providing complete fee waivers to the students facing discontinuation.

The aim is to sustain this support to contribute to societal development by providing quality education. Scholarships are awarded based on 12th-grade exam and their semester results performance, with students achieving over 85% receiving Rs. 15,000 annually, over 75% receiving Rs. 12,500, and over 70% receiving Rs. 7,500. Fee concessions are also extended to children of staff members, benefiting around 10 students annually.

Evidence of Success:

This framework serves as a means to both support and reward students for their diligent efforts and academic achievements. This support ensured that financial constraints do not hold back their educational aspirations, demonstrating our dedication to enabling every student's academic journey.

Problem faced and resources needed:

Institutions face challenges in providing scholarships, including financial constraints, defining eligibility criteria, ensuring fair selection, and managing administrative tasks. Additionally, scholarship recipients may face pressure to maintain high academic standards, leading to increased stress.



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