

A SURVEY OF THE STUDENT CENTRED COURSES AT MARIS STELLA COLLEGE

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Abstract:

In Indian society, an individual pursuing mainstream education has a glorified status. Skill-based education is viewed as relevant. However, the good news is that the present day education becomes a platform for an all round development of students. Maris Stella College of Vijayawada, established on July 16, 1962, offers a good number of Refreshment Courses to boost up the skills of students and it aims at vocational training of youth for better livelihood and respect in the society. For instance, take a look at the Mushroom Cultivation, which is a certificate course, offered by the Department of Botany. It has been an eco-friendly program since 2008 for which, the college has a hut where the mushrooms are cultivated and the yield is 3 crops in total per year. It is a very well designed course consisting of 90 hours of total duration for students, divisible into 30 hours for theory and 60 hours for practicals. A workshop is taken place in the month of August and the first crop harvest is done in the month of October. In fact, it is a self-employment course, according to Mrs.C.V.L.Karuna, H.O.D. of Botany. T.Prasanti, a 3rd year B.Sc CBZ student is confident of setting up of a cottage industry after completion of her education.

Keywords: Indian society, education, skills of students, workshop, .etc

In Indian society, an individual pursuing mainstream education has a glorified status. Skill-based education is viewed as relevant. However, the good news is that the present day education becomes a platform for an all round development of students. Maris Stella College of Vijayawada, established on July 16, 1962, offers a good number of Refreshment Courses to boost up the skills of students and it aims at vocational training of youth for better livelihood and respect in the society. The objective of these skill development courses is to enable a large number of students to take up industry relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better position in life.

The courses of applied skills in Maris Stella College are manifold and are opened for outsiders as well. Some of them are conventional courses such as;

1. Mushroom cultivation
2. Herbal Medicine
3. Soft Toymaking
4. Home Crafts etc.,

And some other courses are language boosters including;

5. Communicative English
6. French.

And some are the new courses with persistent demand, such as;

7. Photography and Film Making.
8. Fashion Designing.

Of course, nowadays, every college offers some of these refreshment courses as an integral part of the curriculum, but the students of Maris Stella College are highly benefitted with the advent of a perfect duration of the course, a very regular schedule, and incessant classes and so on.

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Spoken English And Communicative Skills :

The course was initiated into the institution in 2013 with the invention;

1. To develop English fluency
2. To improve the standard of English
3. To build confidence
4. To improve communication skills in its learners

Since then there is an increase in the progress of its results and development. It designs the outcome that every student should be able to

1. Speak fluently
2. Feel more confident
3. Overcome inhibition
4. Use grammatically correct English
5. Improve vocabulary and grammar by the end of the course.

MS B.Shanthi Sree in charge lecturer of the course says that every year 20 - 30 students join the course and develop their communication skills. It is a completely classroom-based course tested by examination and scores.

Sr.Ramya says that the course is being very much helpful to those who are good at writing skills and poor in speaking skills as it enhances the speaking skills in an individual.

Herbal Medicine:

Directed by theHOD of Botany Mrs .C.V.L. Karuna the course took its roots in 2012 and since then it had been mostly into use. It is a self-employment course of 30 theory and 60 practical hours. 20- 30 students take part in the course every year. The students are shown the identification of all herbal plants. Indian indigenous medicine along with the types of plants used for various diseases are taught. kitchen and cosmetic remedies as also the easy ways of

identification are shown. The resource person says that the students can be self-employed by opening a small pharmacy.

Sasya Gohan a student of 3rd Biotech, is of the opinion that all the students taking up this course are benefited because these are the basic home remedies which do not need outside material. The course is refreshing as they feel close to nature when they go to the classes. Everything that they learn is being helpful for them in their daily life.

Soft Toy Making:

It is a certificate course conducted by the PG departments to the students of 1st MA and M SC. The duration of this course is 45 hours for making 5 soft toys namely Panda, monkey, rabbit, teddy, and puppy. The motto of this course is to give employability opportunities to women. Soft toys are very popular among kids, teens, and youth. They also play a vital role as home decorative items. This gives an opportunity to start a business with a small investment and it is also a perfect income generator for women and housewife.

Suswara Deepika and Anushka from I MA were happy to share how they traced the cuttings of toys and the direction of fur cuttings to attach and stitch them in a proper way.

Technical and professional skills also become a part of the course such as

1. Cutting, stitching and finishing of various toys as per design.
2. Ability to plan and access risk.
3. Time management skills.

Home Crafts:

Duration: 30 hours

Course in charge: A.Jyotsna Valenteena and CH.Geeta Devi

Instructor: Mr. Ramesh

Objective:

The students are trained with the objective of having a detailed understanding and practical knowledge of making daily usage of home products like shampoo, oil and soap making etc.

Outcome :

To make the student confident enough to pursue self-help employment group and can take up Orders and market these domestic products.

It is a very useful skill development programme in a society where the cost of living is fast increasing and products are being more commercialized. Pure and healthy methods can be adapted to make this daily usable thing at home according to sr.sabita.

Suggestions:

- ★ During the course, if the students get an opportunity to intern somewhere and actually test their skills that would be great.
 - ★ It would have been better if the students had an event at the end where they showcase their work and even sold it.
 - ★ Industrial type of tours and real practice is key to skill development courses.
 - ★ Testing in class and outside in a real environment would be beneficial in language courses.
1. Many courses in fields such as Hospitality and Tourism, Handicraft, Healthcare, Textiles, Photography, IT, Retail, Banking, Insurance can be added that would interest students to learn from.
- ★ The pedagogy has to be practical; learning can be enhanced through field visits, e-learning, industry-driven projects, digital or video inputs and so on.
- Thus most of the students are exposed to the competitive spirit, that will shape their future. These courses are not the only job oriented but also a definition of self-reliance. Here is a chance for every student to utilize the valuable academic schedule and discover the innate talent.

References:

- Self authored