

Need of Student Support activities in Higher Education Institutions – A Case Study of Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt.

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to emphasize the role and need of student support activities in Higher Education. This paper is specifically the case study of Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. Every year a large number of students getting support services in one way or another in the college. In a review of support services offered by the college, the article identifies innovative programs that show potential for improved career support for students. A College must strengthen their support to student's department by department, but programs and activities across-departments need to be integrated to improve services for student.

Keywords: Career Guidance, Freshships, Progression, Student Support

1. ***Introduction:*** - Student Support Services (SSS) are fundamentally significant for the social, passionate and character advancement of students and the improvement of learning atmospheres that are helpful for students to accomplishment of higher education. Student Support Services assisting students facing barriers to learning to achieve their educational and developmental potential. Colleges are strengthening their support for students by conducting various activities and support programs (UNESCO 2002).
2. ***Role of the student services:*** - Student support and services contribute to the quality of their learning experience and their academic success (Arnold, 2018). Studies show that the most important factors in education quality assurance are: *quality of teaching / learning and service systems and support for students* (Ciobanu, Alina, 2013). Therefore the importance of support activities for the students is obvious but also presents the management of services with difficulties due to the increasing number of students and their needs (Cummings, Marie, 2014).
3. ***Types of Student's Support:*** - There are various ways an institute can opt for helping their students like: -
 - Free Ship
 - Fees Concession
 - Earn While You Learn Scheme
 - Scholarship
 - Career Guidance
 - Book Bank

- Free Ship:** - In Free Ship, very needy and meritorious student can continue his/her study without any financial barrier (Dhillon, Jaswinder, et. al. 2006). Sanatan Dharma College provide free ship to many students after checking their family background. During the time of admission, economically backward, meritorious, outstanding sportspersons are required to fill a specially devised form. These forms are scrutinized by a specially constituted committee which identifies the needy students. Thereafter, the list of deserving candidates is displayed on the college notice boards and college website. These students are then interviewed by the Committee members who decide the students for free ship.



- Fees Concession:** -An Institute can have many parameters for fees concession like Sports Concession, Cultural Concession, Employee Ward Concession, Special Concession etc. by checking their family condition and by communicating them. Following data shows the fees concession given to students by Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt.

Table 1: Year wise students and amount of freeship

Year	No. of Students	Amount
2017-2018	109	715090/-
2018-2019	72	672225/-
2019-2020	40	455246/-

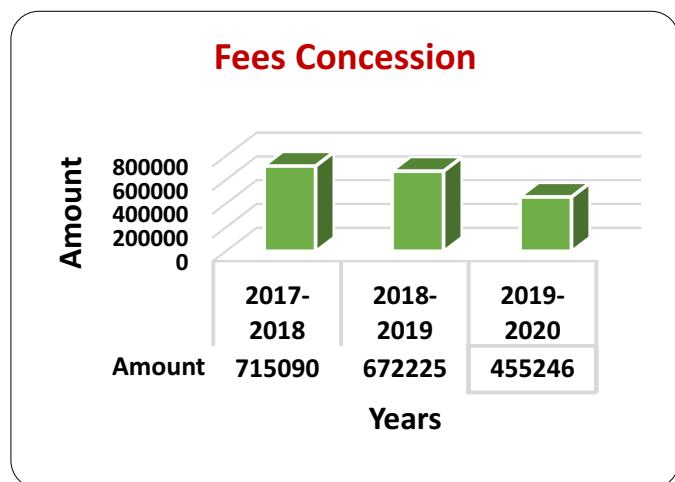


Figure 1: Year wise students and amount of freeship

- **Earn While You Learn Scheme:** -The Higher Education Department of Haryana has introduced this type of scheme from the ensuing academic session for Govt. And Aided Private Colleges. This scheme was placed in Academic Committee meeting held on 27/02/2001 and the same was approved with minor modifications. The objectives of this scheme are as listed below: -
 - a.) Exploit the immense potential of students as a valuable human resource.
 - b.) Involve the students in management and development of the institution.
 - c.) Give students hands on experience and thereby prepare them better for taking up jobs in future.
 - d.) Encourage young students to learn about dignity of labor.
 - e.) Prevent students from avoidable distraction and engage them in meaningful, positive activities.
 - f.) Reduce dependence of regular ministerial staff whose productivity over a period of time has declined considerably.
 - g.) Achieve better work efficiency at a lesser cost.
 - h.) Enable meritorious and needy students to earn a reasonable amount every month to meet their expenses.

Under the scheme the students could be engaged by the HEI for jobs in the following areas:-

- a.) Laboratories
- b.) Library
- c.) Office
- d.) Data Entry

Table 2: Year wise Earn While You Learn Scheme data of Sanatan Dharma College

Year	No. of Students	Amount
2017-2018	15	13800/-
2018-2019	14	15500/-
2019-2020	17	59065/-

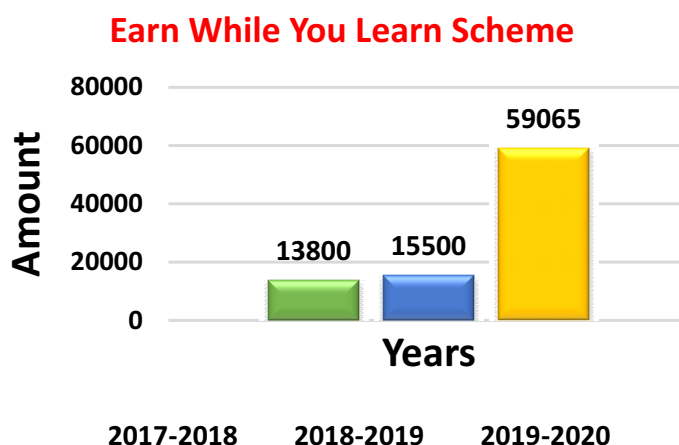


Figure 2: Year wise Earn While You Learn Scheme data of Sanatan Dharma College

- **Scholarships:** -There are plethora of factors to support and contribute students but financial assistance to needy and meritorious students play major role to continue their Higher Education (Hill, Yvonne, et. al. 2003). There are 2 types of scholarships in the region:
 - a.) Private Scholarship from institution/Non-Government Agencies
 - b.) National/Government Agencies
- a.) **Private Scholarship from institution/Non-Government Agencies:** -In this scheme beneficiaries get scholarship (Financial Assistances) from college or non- government agencies such as: -
 - I. Fatherless Scholarship Scheme
 - II. Scholarship for the ward of Commercial Drivers
 - III. Financial Assistance for poor and needy students
 - IV. Merit-cum-mean Scholarship

Table 3 : Year wise student and amounts for scholarships in Sanatan Dharma College

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Students</i>	<i>Amount</i>
2017-2018	204	409700/-
2018-2019	177	637800/-
2019-2020	259	1409200/-

Private Scholarships

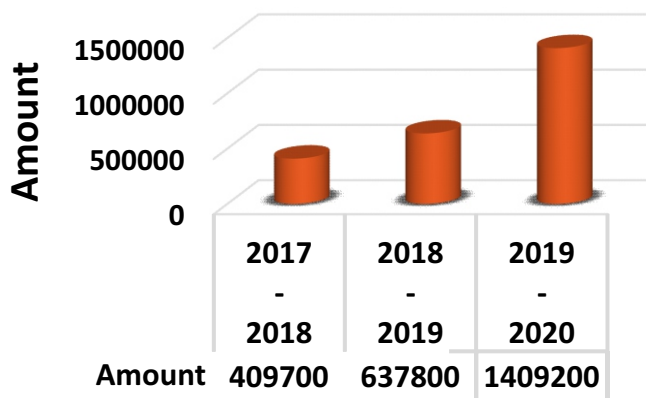


Figure 3: Year wise student and amounts for scholarships in Sanatan Dharma College

- **National / Government Scholarship:-** With a goal to make education for all, the Government of India and the state governments run various scholarship schemes for students at various level of higher education. The schemes are:-

- I. **Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students**
- II. **Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child**
- III. **Post Matric Scholarships Scheme for Minorities**
- IV. **Post Graduate Merit Scholarship for University Rank Holders**
- V. **Promotion of Science Education Scholarship/ POSE Scholarship**
- VI. **Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST Students**
- VII. **Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students**

Table 4 : Year wise student and amounts for government scholarships in Sanatan Dharma College

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Students</i>	<i>Amount</i>
2017-2018	199	2525605/-
2018-2019	251	4201614/-
2019-2020	345	5319163/-

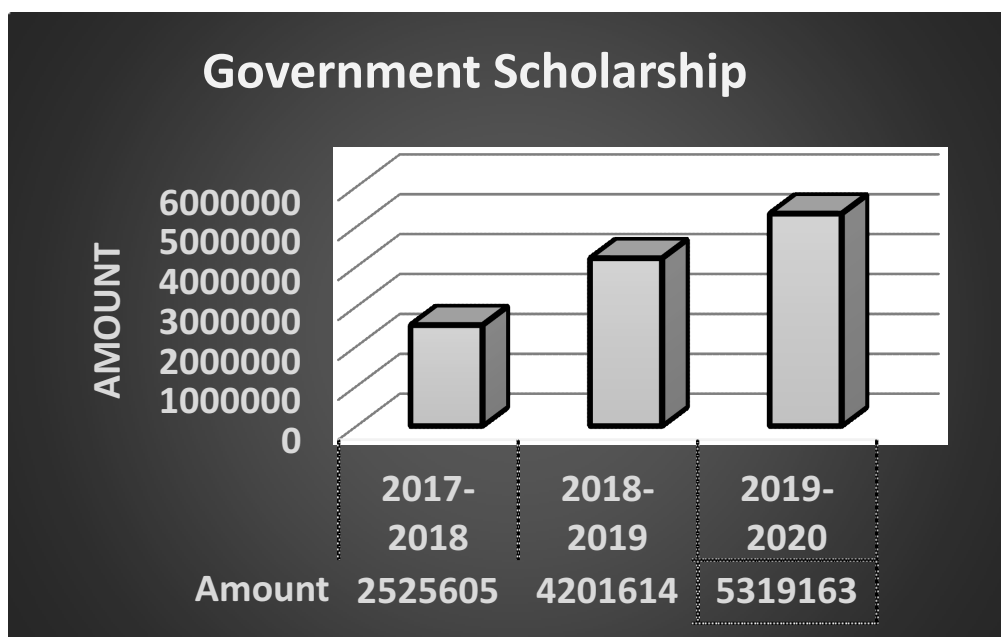


Figure4: Year wise student and amounts for government scholarships in Sanatan Dharma

- Career Guidance Cell:-**The cut-throat competition at all levels in the job market demands a support system that enables the students of an institution not only the attainment of academic excellence but to find a comfortable placement in life (Kelley, Caren, 2010). **Career Guidance Cell** of Sanatan Dharma College plays a crucial role in guiding the students to various openings suitable to their competency, economic resources, and personal choices. Since the student intake is from different social, economic and academic backgrounds, the students need a well-planned and organized career counselling at the institutional level for their career progression. Career Guidance Cell (CGC) of the college is a dynamic body functioning to offer wholesome development to the students. To assist & train students in their career planning and provides information that helps the students to give a direction to their aspirations and interests.

 - To invite companies/organizations for campus interviews and provide the necessary facilities for conducting written tests, group discussions, HR interview, etc.
 - To organize various types and levels of training programs like personality development program, workshops, seminars, soft skills training programs, mock interviews, group discussions, experiences sharing by eminent personalities.
 - To provide coaching for various competitive exams like UGC NET, Banks, IT exams, etc.
 - To prepare students to cater to the needs of the competitive world.
 - To display various jobs advertisement coming in employment news, opportunities, and career columns in leading newspapers.
 - To makes students aware about the latest trends & needs of the Government & Private Sector.
 - To conduct different types of competitions to develop innovative personal and professional skills in students.
 - To conduct Orientation Programmes for freshers.

Table 5: Year wise students guided by Career Guidance Cell

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Students</i>
<i>2017-2018</i>	<i>850</i>
<i>2018-2019</i>	<i>960</i>
<i>2019-2020</i>	<i>1245</i>



- **Book Bank:-**Two types of Book Bank facilities are available at Sanatan Dharma College. One is Departmental Library consisting of lots of books related to specific subject. Central Library maintains a book bank mainly of undergraduate and postgraduate level text books to help students belonging to economically, socially weaker sections of the society and for meritorious students.

Books Issued from Book Bank: The Books from the Book Bank are issued for the whole year or for each semester. Student should be member of Central Library and students can borrow up to 5 books from this collection for a period of one semester. The library issues a Circular in the beginning of every Semester and the eligible students may apply to avail the benefit as per the schedule announced by therein.

Table 6: Year wise strength of books in college library

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Book in Library</i>
2017-2018	62673/-
2018-2019	65647/-
2019-2020	68787/-

Conclusion:-

The student services value needs greater recognition, support and development in the interests of all students. The role of student services is influenced by relation with higher education institution and students. The composition of the student group, the knowledge and beliefs of academic staff and administrative staff influences the manner and responsibility in which the student programs and services are delivered. So, providing these kinds of facilities to the students will surely improve their overall growth in the HEI. In Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt. day by daysupport is provided to the students in one way or another.

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