

SHRI SAMARTH ARTS & COMMERCE COLLEGE, ASHTI

: Institutional Distinctiveness: Community Engagement through Village Adoption

Education, Research and Extension is the three pillars of higher education system. Education is a process which transfers knowledge into the various strata of the society. It aims at uplifting society. These aspects are more interlinked to each others. An extension activity is the medium to connect college with communities. Extension activity plays an important role to strengthen linkage between college and community. The college puts its efforts to take such an initiative as 'Community Engagement through Village Adoption' in this direction.

Vision of the College

Ashti is a taluka place in Wardha district of Maharashtra. According to Census 2011, the block Ashti covers total 158 villages which are widely varied with socio-economic conditions. Most of the people are engaged in agricultural and ancillary activities for their subsistence. The college was established in 1989 with aimed to provision of higher education facilities in surrounding villages. The college has adopted in its vision and mission, '*to serve the community through extension activities*'.

Area of Study: Community Engagement through Village Adoption

In order to creates awareness about community development. The college has conducted various extension activities throughout year in villages. The objectives of extension activities are as follow.

- 1) To create awareness about various welfare schemes in rural area
- 2) To determine the priority areas for study purpose
- 3) To establish linkage with community through extension activities

The college has conducted various activities in villages such as Ashti, Botona, Drugwada, Kinhala, Lahan Arvi, Panchala, Pandhurna, Parsoda, Porgavan, Sahur, Sirkutni, Thar etc. in last three years. The study conducted focused on priority areas such as- attainment in elementary education, kitchen garden and food security, welfare schemes, health awareness, income sources in occupations and Self Help Groups.

The Priority area under Community Engagement

The block Ashti is widely varied with socio-economic conditions. Most of the villages are divided into a sub-village panchayats. Various studies conducted by the college show that villages are still away from the basic facilities offered by Government. The local administrative mechanism is failed to deliver various welfare measures at village level. It is

resulted that there is an adverse impact on village development. In order to identify the priority area, NSS unit of the college conducted a baseline survey at village Panchala and Porgavan in 2018-19. The observations found show that these villages are still away from the mainstream of the development and faced several problems as compared to other villages. Therefore, Village Porgavan and Panchala has been selected as adopted village for community engagement.

The college will take initiative in adopted village in association with various stakeholders such as village panchayat, block level administrative agencies, teachers and students in future. It also reflects in conducting various extension activities from time to time. The college would review the stated mission in future course of action. It is humble effort of the college to establish distinctiveness in this direction.