



BON SECOURS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (Autonomous)

NAAC Accredited with A++ Grade in cycle II

UGC recognized 2(f) and 12(B) Institution

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli

Vilar Bypass, Thanjavur- 613 006, Tamil Nadu

A Sensitisation Programme on

DBT STAR SCHEME: Strengthening UG Programmes

(Science Departments – Biotechnology, Botany, Physics and Chemistry)

Programme Report

A Sensitisation Programme on the **DBT STAR SCHEME**, Strengthening UG Programmes was organized for the Science Departments-Biotechnology, Botany, Physics, and Chemistry—on 25.06.2024 at 2:00 AM in St. Joseph's Auditorium. **Dr. S. Gayathri, Principal** and Chairperson of the DBT Star Scheme, presided over the programme. **Dr. R. Kalaivani, the Project Coordinator** and Assistant Professor in Biotechnology, was the resource person. Participants included the DBT-Star Scheme working committee members and both teaching and non-teaching staff from the Science departments.

The Project Coordinator provided an overview of the DBT Star Scheme and its objectives, explaining that the programme aims to enhance critical thinking and 'hands-on' experimental work at the undergraduate level in the sciences. The goal is to encourage more students to pursue higher education in science by providing academic and physical infrastructure to achieve excellence in teaching and offer unique exposure to experimental science.

She presented the following Objectives of DBT Star Scheme

- To strengthen the academic and physical infrastructure for achieving excellence in teaching and training.
- Enhancing the quality of the learning and teaching process to stimulate original thinking through 'hands-on' exposure to experimental work and participation in summer schools and promote networking and strengthen ties with neighboring institutions and other laboratories.
- To conduct specialized training programmes for faculty improvement for optimizing technical capabilities and increase capabilities of core instrumentation resources by procuring new equipment and upgrading of existing facilities.
- Providing access and exposure to students to research laboratories and industries in the country and supporting in devising standard curricula and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) / kits for practicals. Also provide better library facility to students and teachers.

She listed out **the activities to be performed as part of Star College** for students, faculty members and non-teaching staff. She emphasized that skill development, research and community engagement play a pivotal role in this programme.

She explained the expected **Annual outcomes of the scheme** as

1. Increase in the number of practicals being conducted individually by the students.
2. Introduction of "hands on training" to enhance conceptual clarity for topics taught previously by theoretical approach.
3. Engaging students in minor research projects.
4. Faculty development programs and laboratory staff training programmes.
5. Involvement of students in scientific writing and journal club activities.

She also highlighted the **consolidated outcome after the sanctioned tenure (3years):**

1. Increase in the admission cut off percentage and decrease in the dropout rates of students.
2. Increase in the faculty generated resources viz extramural research grants from other funding agencies to strengthen the Star College Scheme efforts.
3. Number of colleges or schools mentored from underprivileged areas.
4. Number of colleges mentored to write grants for Star Scheme support and their outcome.
5. SOPs developed, lab manuals created and uploaded on website or submitted to DBT.

The Project coordinator insisted about the Parameters to Measure Success of the programme by following parameters:

1. Substantial increase in proportion of 'hands on' experimental work by students.
2. Increased access of undergraduate students to laboratory and bioinformatics infrastructure.
3. Improvement in access to sciences related journals.
4. Summer schools.
5. Percentage of students pursuing PG science education.
6. Measure effectiveness on the basis of feedback from students, faculty and employers of students.

The Principal commended the four departments for their consistent support and cooperation, expressing best wishes for their continued progress and achievements. The Project Coordinator thanked the participants for their active participation and interactions.

Photo Gallery

