



Maharashtra Shikshan Samiti's

Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga

Manual for Advanced and Slow Learners

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Manual for Advanced and Slow Learners

Introduction

Slow learners and advanced learners defined

There are always learner differences. All the learners do not have equally developed capabilities to comprehend and process the information imparted to them. In order to identify and cater to the needs of an individual learner, it is necessary that they should be identified through various diagnostic and summative tests. The learner differences are not only in the field of academics but also in the fields of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. A learner who is slow in the academics can at the same time be an advanced in the extracurricular in the co-curricular activities like sports and cultural activities. Therefore, this policy envisions that the slow learners and advance learners should be identified respective to their fields so that the students are not labelled permanently in all spheres of their academic life.

Purpose of the Policy

Understanding that there are learner differences, different cognitive styles and capabilities, this policy ensures that the students with different cognitive styles and differential learning capabilities will be provided an equal opportunity to excel. We understand that the advanced learners should have opportunities as per their capabilities and Slow learners should be provided guidance and mentoring in accordance with their learning styles and speed. This policy is meant to provide a manual and a standard operational procedure for identifying the slow and advanced learners and ensure that nationally accepted standards of education are provided to each learner. We understand that advanced learners and slow learners are not permanent or watertight compartments rather they are variables. Hence, these are not static units. An advanced learner in a field may be a slow learner in some other field of curricular or cocurricular activities whereas a slow learner in academics may be an

advanced learner in co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Therefore these categorizations ought to be used very cautiously and to the specific courses and skills only.

Advanced Learners:

Even though there is no agreeable and comprehensive definition of what an advanced learners is or isn't, what the term denotes generally is, "The learning of students who learn at the rate that exceeds that of their peers in one or more content areas " (frontiers in.org). These students show an ability to comprehend learning resources faster than their classmates. The advanced learners have a better speed of acquisition of the new skills. Generally, such learners are able to learn and accomplish higher level of skills beyond their learning levels. Advanced students have a potential for academic excellence and good performance in their careers. Hard-working behaviors are observed in such learners. They exhibit research and innovative aptitude. They are better in contextualization, critical thinking, and retention of memories, analytical skills, comprehension and creative endowments. These students excel in various activities and accomplish higher level of skills. The students exhibit a potential for higher education and research. Advanced students are with potential for excellence in various arts, sciences and business. The advance learners can come up with new ideas and innovative approaches to look at the traditional fields. In order to develop skilled and well-trained human resource, it is necessary that special activities and programmes should be organised.

Slow Learners:

In contrast to the advanced learners, the slow learners are those who show a slower progress in the comprehension, analysis and processing of the information received by them. They acquire less marks in unit tests and end semester examinations. These learners are also suffering from low self-esteem and lack in confidence. They are less enthusiastic about academics, practicals and research activities. Such students mostly lag behind others. Without self-esteem and desired respect among the peers, they often tend to miss the classes and periodically engage in disorderly behaviour. Such students, however, may show better skills than advanced

learners in sports, cultural and other extracurricular activities. It is mostly found that these students come from the humble background and have poor primary and secondary education. These students highly depend on their teachers for learning every simple skill. As they lack a conducive environment for their academic growth, we need to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness for the support of such learners. Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya Nilanga has taken utmost care to ensure that these students will not lag behind their peers in academic and extracurricular activities.

Identification of the Advanced and Slow Learners

The identification of the advance learners and the slow learners is comparatively easier in the field of academics whereas their identification becomes a tricky issue in the field of extra curricular and co-curricular activities. Therefore, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga has devised various tests and mechanisms in order to identify the slow learners and the advanced learners. Two separate unit tests need to be conducted in each semester. The results of these semesters provide a hint into finding out the advance learners and slow learners in the field of academics. The students who score more than 75% marks in a unit test are marked out as advanced learners in the respective subject. The Examination and Evaluation Cell of the college circulates a notice among all the teachers that the marks lists of the unit tests should have a clear marking out of the advanced learners and advanced learners in the courses evaluated by them.

Classroom seminars, group discussions and question answer sessions in daily classroom teaching also support the identification of the advanced and slow learners. The advanced and slow learners in sports, cultural and other extracurricular activities are identified by organizing various intra-college competitions. The organization of various kinds of seminar, poster, presentation, and other competitions by various departments also form the basis of identifying the advanced learners and slow learners. We indeed understand that slow learners in advance learners or not permanent categories of students rather these are temporary and constantly changing. As such, the lists of advance learners and slow learners are time and again edited and updated.

Activities for the Advanced Learners

1) Elocution & Debate Competitions:

To provide a platform for the advanced learners to learn the art of public speaking and presenting a progressive argument this policy envisions a separate club. Accordingly, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has a separate committee entitled “Literary Association and Debate Club” where the students are introduced to the advanced skills of public speaking. They are encouraged to participate into various competitions organised at inter-college level, university level and state level. Necessary training is provided to them by the Literary Association and Debate Club. Various departments also organise elocution and debate competitions so that the skills of the students will be nurtured. These competitions provide a platform to the advanced learners to express their views and opinions.

2) Poster Presentation:

Poster presentation competition is organised by various departments so that all students will have an opportunity to share their knowledge in a graphic mode. The advanced students are provided with the topics for poster presentations. All the posters prepared by the advanced students are displayed in the college for the average and slow learners. The exhibition of posters contributes to the growth of knowledge among the advanced students so different programs. It also helps the students to gain interdisciplinary inputs to their knowledge. The posters and their presentations are evaluated by an expert committee set by respective departments. The best poster presentations are rewarded.

3) Seminar and PPT Competitions

To provide an opportunity to the advanced learners to explain the syllabi content comprehended by them our college organizes various seminars and PPT

competitions. All the departments organise student's seminar and PPT presentations on the topic given by them. The advanced learners take the opportunity and exhibit their presentation skills. The PPT presentations are evaluated by the experts and reward are given to the best presentations.

4) Coaching for Competitive Examinations

Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has a special cell for guidance on competitive examinations. The cell organizes various kinds of programmes and training sessions on the syllabi contents for competitive examinations. The students are informed about the job opportunities, syllabi content and the deadlines for applying. The advanced students are encouraged to appear for the competitive examinations. Through the special cell for guidance on competitive examinations, group, discussions, debates and mock interviews are conducted.

5) Mentoring:

The advanced learners are often found to be the most sensitive and prone to emotional turmoil. Therefore, the sessions of counselling and mentoring are organised through Mentor-Mentee Committee. The mentors assigned to the classes take care of the advanced learners by providing them necessary counselling and mentoring in order to prepare them for handling new situations with nuisance. All the problems related to academics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities are solved by the mentors. Mentoring is an important aspect of our activities for advanced learners.

6) Shivneri- The College Annual Magazine:

Advanced learners have a talent for creativity and creative writing. Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya publishes the annual magazine entitled Shivneri. It is an important platform for the students to share their poetry, articles and short stories. The creativity of the students is provided an outlet through the publication. Every year, scores of students benefit from this publication. Annual Magazine Committee

encourages the students to write scholarly articles, poems, edited articles and short stories. There is an editorial board comprising of the students and the experienced teachers who carry out the task of collecting the write-ups and editing the magazine. These activities indeed introduce the advanced learners with the important creative writing and editing skills.

7) Science Poster Presentation Competition and Exhibition:

On the occasion of Science Day, Mathematics Day etc. Science poster presentation competitions and science exhibition is organised by various science departments. The advanced students are provided with an opportunity to present their knowledge and their projects in the form of posters. In order to introduce the students with various scientific ideas, experiments and apparatus, science exhibitions are organised. Advanced students can execute their ideas and projects through such presentations and exhibitions.

8) Admission to SWAYAM & NPTEL Courses through a special cell:

In the era of MOOCs and e-courses, advanced students can have the best benefits. The online massive open online courses offered through Swayam and NPTEL and introduced to our students. Advance learners are encouraged to participate in the courses and get certificates. Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has a special committee assigned with the task of encouraging and facilitating online learning of the students. The students are provided access to the internet, information regarding the courses and all the necessary guidance through the committee. The committee monitors the enrolment of the students and also ensures that all the enrolled students appear for the examinations.

9) Prizes for University Ranker Students:

In order to encourage the advanced learners, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya rewards the meritorious students with various scholarships and prizes. Maharashtra Education Society has sponsored prizes for the students excelling in the university examinations. Our college has also started a scheme entitled Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Scholarship to the meritorious students in various subjects. The

university rank holder students are rewarded with money and certificates. An advanced student who ranks first in the university merit is rewarded with of ₹5000. The students ranking at second or third position is rewarded with the prize money of ₹2000.

10) Scholarship for Meritorious Students

To encourage the advance learners for achieving excellence in the university examinations Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has also started a scheme entitled Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Scholarship. Our faculty members have sponsored some scholarships to the students holding first, second and third rank in the university examinations. An amount of ₹1000 to ₹2000 are rewarded to the meritorious students. In total 30 scholarships are sponsored by good teachers.

11) Astronomy Club, Science Club, Green Club etc.

To provide a platform to the advanced learners for getting additional knowledge in the fields of their hobbies and interests, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has started Chess Club, Astronomy Club and Science Association. Advanced students can acquire additional knowledge and have a platform for discussion on the topics. Our college organises various kinds of activities in order to make the students aware about the climate change. Green Club is established to provide opportunities of contributing to the conservation of nature.

12) Literary Association, Social Science Association, Commerce Association etc.

Various activities are organised by literary Association, Social Sciences Association and Commerce Association to provide necessary opportunities to the advanced learners, getting new knowledge, sharing it and develop their skills. The activities like Poster presentation, seminar competition, essay writing competition and guest lectures are organised through these associations. Meritorious students are selected as the office bearers. Separate committees are established. Advanced

students are provided with opportunities to run these associations and develop their social and leadership skills.

13) Cultural and Performing Arts Competitions

Music arts, including performing arts are important in the holistic development of the students. Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya has a Cultural Activities Cell to train the learners in cultural activities. Cultural Activities Cell organizes various cultural and performing arts competition. Through these competitions the students with better skills in performing arts can develop and present their arts.

14) Encouraging Student Participation in Seminars, Workshops and Conferences:

Advance learners have curiosity to know the cutting edge research in the fields of their choices as well as they exhibit interest in the research activities. As a part of their academic development, Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya, Nilanga has Research and Development Committee which encourages and facilitates the research and development activities in the college for teachers and students alike. Through this committee, the students are encouraged to participate in the regional, state level, national or international seminars, conferences and workshops. The participation of the advanced students in such events provides exposure to the cutting edge, research and developments in the field of academics.

15) Additional Books for Advanced Learners Scheme

Knowledge Resource Centre (Library) of Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya Nilanga has devised a scheme for advanced learners, whereby the students can borrow two additional books on their borrow tickets. The students are issued reference books and other study materials besides the textbooks. Advanced students are also issued separate textbooks for the entire semester so that they need not exchange the books quite often.

Activities for the Slow Learners

1) Remedial Coaching

Our college has established a Committee for Advanced and Slow Learners which monitors various activities and coaching organised for advanced and slow learners. Remedial coaching is one of the key initiative taken by our college for the slow learners. The committee prepares a time table for regular remedial coaching activities. The remedial classes are monitored and record is maintained by the committee under the guidance of Internal Quality Assurance Cell. During the sessions of Mentor-mentee meetings the requirements of remedial coaching are collected and accordingly remedial coaching classes are organised.

2) Mentoring and Counseling

During the sessions of mentoring and personal counselling the slow learners are encouraged to state their difficulties in comprehending a specific unit or units of a course. As per demands from the slow learners, special personal counselling is organised to eradicate the difficulties in grasping the learning units. There are a variety of reasons causing impediments in comprehending a learning unit. Through mentoring and personal counselling such internal or external barriers of comprehension are removed.

3) Question Bank

The slow learners are encouraged to solve the questions from the question banks prepared by the teachers so that they can practice on their own. The questions solved by them are assessed by the teachers and necessary guidelines and instructions are given to improve their answers.

4) Home Assignment

Besides encouraging the students to solve questions from question banks they are also given home assignments for self-study. These home assignments and tutorials

are specifically assigned to the students as per their learning difficulties. These home assignment and tutorials are assessed by the teachers and necessary guidelines are provided to them.

5) Special Tests

Special Tests are given to the students who have failed in the semester exams. These special practice tests help the slow learners in getting instructions and guidelines for writing better answers and scoring better in the university examinations. These special tests prepared by the teachers as per the necessities of the slow learners.

6) Departmental Library

Slow learners often feel discouraged in reading the standard reference books therefore all the necessary simplified books and text books are issued by the department. The textbooks and simplified notes help the slow learners in grasping the difficult ideas in simple language.

7) Extra Lectures

Besides remedial coaching and regular classes the teachers also organise extra classes after the regular time table and on the holidays. These classes are meant for solving the problems of the slow learners and to get personalized coaching. The students who wear absent due to some reason to the regular classes can learn the missed topics during these extra classes. Besides these, the teachers also provide personal coaching in the department to the slow learners after their classes.

8) Peer to Peer Learning, Class Seminars,

For the mutual benefits of advanced learners and slow learners peer to peer learning sessions are organised by the teachers. Advanced learners are encouraged to give seminars on the syllabi contents to their classmates. This practice helps the advanced learners in explaining their own comprehension of the syllabi. Consequently, it also helps the slow learners in understanding the ideas from their own peers.

9) PPT and Poster Presentation

The teachers also organise PPT presentation and poster presentation on the units of the syllabus. Hindi's presentations advanced learners present the difficult ideas in the syllabus in the form of posters and PowerPoint presentation. Such graphically represented syllabi units are easily grasped by the slow learners.

Policy Guidelines for Advanced Learners

- Advanced learners are provided with the necessary opportunities whereby they can participate in group discussions, interviews and presentations.
- In order to develop the analytical and problem-solving skills of the advanced learners, various competitions are organised.
- Advance learners are motivated to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences so that their knowledge is updated and they learn new skills.
- Advanced learners are motivated to conduct surveys, initiate projects and participate in science and research competitions.
- Platforms are created where the students can practice their skills of presentations through poster presentations and PPT presentations.
- In order to encourage and motivate the advanced learners for excelling and achieving higher goals, various prizes, rewards and scholarships are sponsored.
- Necessary mentoring and counselling sessions organised for the advanced learners to keep them consistently engaged in their academic pursuits.
- Sports competitions are organised by the college and the participation of the advanced learners in the sports and athletics activities is facilitated.
- Literary creativity of the advanced learners is provided an outlet through annual magazine as well as poetry competition, elocution competition, debate competition and essay writing competitions are also organised.
- The facilitate further studies of the students how library provides extra books to the specified advance students.

Guidelines for Slow Learners

- To bridge the gap between the advanced learners and the slow learners bridge courses and remedial coaching are conducted.
- Extra classes organised for explaining the difficult syllabi contents to the slow learners.
- Special attention is provided to the slow learners that they are not losing interest in the teaching learning process.
- A simple notes are provided to the slow learners so that they can easily comprehend the complex ideas and achieve better marks.
- Advanced learners are encouraged to give seminars for their peer members.
- Group learning activities organised.
- The mentors assigned to the classes attentive to words providing necessary guidance and support to the slow learners.
- Additional unit tests and practice examinations are conducted.
- Special counselling sessions and doubt clarification sessions organised for the students who have failed in the university semester examinations.
- Slow learners are not discouraged or humiliated. Any humiliating comment or any such behaviour is prohibited.

Catering to the learner diversity is one of the major aspects of the teaching-learning process of Maharashtra Mahavidyalaya Nilanga. Advance learners in the slow learners are motivated to achieve higher goals by identifying their own talents. The teachers of the college evolve newer strategies to groom the talents of the students and provide them better opportunities. While paying attention to the slow learners, due care is also given to the advanced learners so that they may not get disinterested in the teaching learning process. As there is no fit for all strategy, teachers are motivated to find out new ways of helping both slow and the advanced

Lear. Attempt is also made for connecting the slow learners with the advanced learners for peer-to-peer learning.

Policy Signed by



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