

DBT STAR COLLEGE SCHEME

Star College Scheme” has been initiated by DBT to support colleges and university departments offering undergraduate education to improve science teaching. The programme aims to improve the skills of teachers by organizing faculty training, improved curriculum and emphasis on practical training to students by providing access to specialized infrastructure and consumables. Star college scheme has been divided in two categories *viz.* strengthening of support for undergraduate education and Star college status. Criteria for selection as a “Star College” are very stringent and budget provision is double for colleges accorded star college status. So far, 88 colleges have been supported under the “strengthening of support” category. The support has strengthened physical infrastructure in laboratories, library, teaching aids, and promoted networking with neighboring institutes. Hands-on training and projects of day to day relevance have enhanced interest in students to pursue science courses at Undergraduate level.

It is vital to attract undergraduate students to pursue higher studies in science by providing them practical exposure. With this in mind, the Department of Biotechnology is focusing on boosting its star colleges scheme which aims to improve curriculum with emphasis on practical training to students by providing access to specialized infrastructure and consumables and scale up the skills of teachers by organizing faculty training.

Features of the star college scheme

Opportunities to learn from stalwarts and visits to nearby institutes and universities are provided under the scheme. The programme lays emphasis on inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary interactions. Innovative minor research exposures to students by projects of day to day relevance are being encouraged. Faculty improvement workshops. Workshops on handling of sophisticated equipment, safety precautions for pathogenic organisms, hazardous chemicals and waste disposal are being organized for laboratory staff. The colleges are engaged in outreach activities for school students and neighbouring college students. The scheme has enabled higher, enrolment in undergraduate science courses, increase in cut off percentage at time of admission, decline in dropout rates, better pass percentage and higher enrollment in post graduate courses in science.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) identifies colleges with ambition and potential for excellence and provides academic and physical infrastructure for achieving excellence in teaching and unique exposure of students to experimental sciences.

- The objectives of the scheme are as follows:
- To strengthen the infrastructure and academic facilities for achieving excellence in teaching -learning
- To Enhance the quality of education through extra workshops/hands-on/training programs and experimental work. To promote networking and strengthen ties with neighbouring institutions and other laboratories.
- To conduct faculty improvement.
- To Augment the laboratories by procuring new equipment and upgrading of existing facilities.
- To Increase the access and exposure of students to research laboratories and industries in the country.
- To Prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).
- To provide better Library facility to students and teachers

We received the DBT Star College scheme in the year 2016. Through this scheme the several student-centered programs were efficiently implemented for the UG science students. Put together around 550 students were benefitted by this scheme. Thirteen colleges have participated in few events organized under this scheme.

Academic Activities conducted in 2017-18:

1. Additional Practicals/Demonstrations ---54
2. Research Projects by students----- 64
3. Lecture series ----- 33scientist/academicians invited.
4. Industrial Visits----- 12
5. Science exhibitions/Competitions ----- 04
6. Outreach Programs ----- 02
7. Workshops/Hands-on training -----14
8. Teachers Training ----- 03
9. Equipment/Consumables/Books & Journals wee procured from the grant which added up to the existing facilities of the college.

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