



# PARAMEKKAVU COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

THRISSUR AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT. U.O. No. 2436/2013/CU  
(Managed by Sree Paramekkavu Educational, Cultural and Charitable Trust)

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## BEST PRACTICE - 3

### TITLE

Free Transportation for All

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE

- To address travelling difficulties of students to arrive college on time.
- To ensure hassle-free and safe transportation.
- To prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of the college community.
- To ensure that students can attend classes, lectures, and other academic activities regularly and punctually.
- To reduce the financial burden on students, faculty, and staff, making education more accessible.

### THE CONTEXT

Paramekkavu College of Arts and Science provides college bus services for the convenience of students and faculty. Transportation is important to students because it affects their attendance and ability to get to college. One of the critical benefits of college buses is that it keeps students active. Implementing free transportation for students can have numerous benefits, such as improving attendance rates, reducing dropout rates, and promoting equity in education. With every student reaching campus on time, teachers can start their courses on time. It is beneficial for them to complete their yearly syllabus on time, including the revisions. Thus, students, as well as teachers, become more productive.

Since the college was unable to provide transportation for students during the initial phase, there were significant barriers for attending the classes. As a result, the college decided to approach the management authority and address the issue. After discussions, management has taken the right decisions by providing school bus facilities from bus stop to college campus after school time.

### THE PRACTICE

The college is situated in a less accessible area with limited connectivity, and faces challenges when it comes to students seeking higher education. The lack of accessible transportation options often discourages students from enrolling in the college as

well as it has an adverse impact on the punctuality of the students in attending classes.

The college was encountering many obstacles when attempting to establish college transportation. It covers things like the financial crisis and a shortage of faculty and students. The parents also voiced complaints about the problems with transportation. To address these obstacles, the college discussed with the college management to extend their transportation facilities to the college as well. Thus, the college has introduced a practice of offering free transportation services to both students & staff members. For students, there were three buses available. On all working days, the bus service was available from 9:00 am to 9:30 am.

## **EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS**

The free transportation unit practice has achieved remarkable success, leading to positive outcomes and enhancing the college's reputation. College is widely recognized for its commitment to student's welfare safety. Despite the presence of numerous competing arts & science colleges in the region, the College continues to attract a significant number of students, as widened by its robust enrollment and overall strength.

One of the significant impacts of this practice is the increased opportunities it has provided to students to pursue their studies. The provision of transportation Services has played a pivotal role in empowering the students, boosting their educational and career prospects. As a result, parent's confidence in the institution has significantly grown, further Solidifying the college's reputation. The success of the free transportation unit can be exemplified in the punctuality of the students coming to the college. It helped in enhancing the college's commitment to its mission and contributed to the overall advancement and development of its students. The timeliness in attending the classes had a positive impact on the overall results of the students gradually.







## **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED**

When implementing a free transportation facility for students in college, several problems may arise along with the resources required to address them. Providing free transportation strains the college budget. Resources required include funding for fuel, maintenance, and staff salaries if drivers are needed. Transportation capacity needs to be managed well, contingent on demand and student enrolment. Resources required involve determining the optimal number and size of vehicles needed, as well as scheduling to accommodate peak times. Another issue was that college students had trouble getting around if the school wasn't operating. Even the parents of the recently admitted student expressed dissatisfaction with the travel challenges and are choosing to attend other colleges. Additionally, there was no transportation available when they took their university exams. Since the exams take place during the midday session, the students arrive on campus exhausted. When teachers would hold special classes, students would often skip them due to a lack of transportation options or by whining about arriving home late. To overcome these problems the college had asked management to arrange for school buses to be provided during university exams and on school holidays.