

Institutional Best Practices — Academic Year 2018-19

1. Title: Nam manninte makkal

Objectives: The title “Nam manninte makkal” means we the sons of soil. The project is aimed to inculcate love for agriculture and respect for farmers in students. The activity was also expected to help students to acquire skillsets to work in groups.

Context: This activity/ practice was undertaken under the larger umbrella of our institutional project called ‘Nurture the Nature’ aimed at creating awareness and love for nature among students. Kerala is a consumer state dependent on its neighbouring states for vegetables and food grains. In spite of the news about the large quantity of pesticides applied on the vegetables and also large scale promotion for establishing vegetable garden by the government of Kerala, self-sufficiency in agriculture production is a long dream for Kerala. By training students we can encourage families to have small vegetable garden in their kitchen courtyard or on terrace.

Practice: The project was implemented as a competition. The competition was held between the students of various departments. The head of the departments were asked to make sure that all the students of the department participate in the programme. Plot was assigned and necessary tools were provided to students. Students selected the type of vegetables to plant, prepared the plot, planted and taken care of them. The vegetables produced were sold on auction and money generated were given to the students for their association activities.

Evidence of success: As it was a competition, the activities of students of every department were monitored and evaluated by a group of teachers. The Department of Economics and the Department of Mathematics jointly bagged the first prize. The Department of English and Department of Commerce (Finance & Taxation) shared second price. The Department Zoology received third prize respectively. Large scale participation of students and the enthusiasm they showed to come even on holidays to water the plants were the evidence of the interest generated in students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: College gave seed money to students and also allotted the plot to them. The rest students themselves did. We have envisaged this as an activity in which all students of the college participate. However, we found that while some are extremely interested some others were not participating. To resolve this department HODs assigned tasks to different group of students and it was monitored by teachers. As this task was arranged as a competition with attractive cash prize, students took this in a competition spirit.

Through this arrangement we made sure every student of the college to the bare minimum at least once visited their department's farming area.

2. Title: My society my responsibility

Objectives: The practice consists of 5 different activities of the college initiated and run by various departments/ clubs. The aim of the practice is to inculcate the feeling of responsibility and of obligation to contribute to the society we are living in. The activities also aim the holistic development of students.

Context: The practice consists of 5 different activities. One among them "Food for the destitute" is an act of mercy, while "Cloth Banner Making Club" is a green initiative and other 3 (Water testing service, GST Consultancy Service and Electronic device maintenance) are extension activities conducted with student involvement. The practice evolved from the firm belief of the College that education will be complete only if it succeeds in encouraging the learner to contribute to the society he/ she live in.

Practice: The details of each activity are as follows.

1. Cloth Banner Making Club – College has created a banner writing club to promote plastic free campus initiative. The club run under the National Service Scheme (NSS) of the college prepares cloth banners on request from clubs and departments. Students who are part of the club spend an hour of their time after class for 3-4 days to complete the work of one banner. The club works under no profit policy.
2. Water testing service – This is an initiative of the department of Chemistry. Students of the department tests the water brought by nearby farmers and give report to them
3. GST Consultancy Service – This activity was conducted by the Commerce (Finance & Taxation) department. Postgraduate students and interested under graduate students were first trained on GST rules. The trained group provided support to the local small scale merchants on GST rules.
4. Electronic device maintenance – BSc EEM department took initiative to help the local people by repairing their electronic equipment damaged after the great flood of 2018. The activity was taken as an extension programme and helped people from the neighbourhood who approached them
5. Food for the destitute – This is an institutional level practice led by the National Service Scheme of the college. Every Wednesday students and staff are encouraged to bring an

additional lunch packet to contribute to the nearby mercy home for the destitute called “Snehabhavan”.

All these 5 activities are run on a non-profit basis.

Evidence of success: The confidence generated in the students participated in Cloth Banner Making Club, Water testing service, GST Consultancy Service and Electronic equipment maintenance programmes was visible. Students joined these programmes actively participated in the activities. The active participation of entire student community and continuous supply of lunch packets on all Wednesdays to the selected mercy home throughout the academic year can be considered as an evidence of success of the programme.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: It was difficult for students to find time to devote to these extracurricular activities. Students had to stay back in the campus for one or two hours after the class or had to come on holidays. So it was difficult to motivate all students, while the motivated students were very much interested and committed towards the cause. The financial part for banner writing and electronic device repairing was met by charging the expenses directly from the concerned people.