

Institutional Best Practices — Academic Year 2019-20

1. Title: e- Samvijnan

- Objectives:**
1. Empower students to confidently use the digital platform for day to day needs
 2. Show students how to use internet to supplement what they have learned in classrooms
 3. Bridge the gap between the digitally privileged and underprivileged students

Context: In today's world, communication and access to information are invariably linked to digital technologies like internet, social media and mobile devices. To thrive and push oneself ahead in a society where the digital landscape keeps on changing, one must be able to access, manage, manipulate and create information in an ethical and sustainable way. A large majority of the students of our college hail from a rural background where digital literacy is almost non-existent. In a bid to bridge the gap between the digitally privileged and underprivileged, the college has launched 'e- Samvijnan' in hopes to help its students reap the full benefits of a digitized world.

Practice: The entire student community was divided into various groups for the successful implementation of the programme. An expert committee of teachers designed a detailed syllabus to expose the students to digital devices and their functions, fundamentals of MS Office, Internet banking, emails, online banking and e-commerce. Questionnaires were distributed to every student in the college so as to assess their current level of digital competence. A joint meeting of teachers and students was held to find out the digitally proficient among students. These students were gradually trained into instructors to enrich the digital education of all the students.

Evidence of success: At the end of the course, it was found out that all the participants in the course have become well versed in the basic usage of computer and its related applications. It enabled them to carry out every day activities such as browsing, banking and so on with ease. The students of the college are now empowered learners who can use internet in their lives in a constructive manner.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Finding time out of the regular academic timetable was a challenge. Some of our students had transportation issues and we arranged special sessions to those students. For few batches we had to hurry through as the Corona pandemic hit by end of February and March. We overcame the constraint by giving classes through online mode.

2. Title: Service Learning

Objectives: 1. To make the students aware of the unenviable living conditions of the marginalized communities.

2. To inculcate empathy for the people in need and engage in the process of social change.

3. To enable the students to think beyond the academic realm and connect with the needs of the people.

Context: The institution has adopted an educational policy that links personal development with cognitive development, touching feelings as well as thought. The activities of the college revolve around the set of core values labelled “BLOOMS.” “Love for Others” indicated by the alphabet “L” has been put into practice in “Service Learning.” The college sees to it that learning objectives are combined with community service so that its students become socially responsible citizens.

Practice: The details of each activity are as follows.

College conducted different programmes to serve the larger community. The details are

1. Food for the needy: Food packets are distributed to the destitute in a nearby orphanage named “Snehabhavan” every Wednesday. The staff and students of the college actively participate in this noble venture without fail.

2. “Nanmamaram”: The volunteers of the college collect stationery items from students and distribute them among the poor. This event is conducted during the Christmas day every year. In the academic year 2019-20 the stationery and sanitary items collected were given to Snehabhavan Care home and JMM old age home

3. Blood donation camps: The college promotes the cause of saving lives by encouraging its students to donate blood. College conducted a centralized blood donation camp on 19.09.2019. In addition to this NSS maintains a list of the blood donors and student volunteers donate blood on request received through authorities.

4. Flood relief Camp and distribution of sanitation kits: Since the college is situated in a water-logged area, floods and related damage are a regular occurrence here. The flood relief camp is set up within its premises every year during the monsoon season. In 2019 August college auditorium functioned as relief camp. The students donated drinking water and sanitation kits to the camp inmates.

5. Campaign against Social Evils: The college conducts campaigns against social evils to educate its students and general public. In 20019-20 college NCC and NSS units together conducted a candle light March against child sexual abuse on 31st January 2020. Also a campaign on the need to follow traffic rules was conducted on 7th February 2020.

6. Cleaning drives: The institution educates its students on the need for a clean and healthy environment by initiating cleaning and greening drives in the campus as well as in its nearby

roads and villages. College conducted Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign under the leadership of NCC. NCC Cadets cleaned KSRTC bus station and surroundings. Also students under the leadership of Commerce Department, cleaned the main road after pongala, the famous festivity of the nearby Chakkulathukavu temple on 10th December, 2019

7. Providing financial aid: The college provides financial help to economically backward students who are in need. In the academic year 2019-20, the management, staff and students joined hands to raise funds for two of our students who met with accident.

8. Helping Hand at the time of Covid: When Covid struck the entire World the students of the college came out with helping hand. Students under the leadership of NCC and NSS stitched cloth masks and distributed it to the general public and public institutions like government primary health centre, bust station, etc. Students under the leadership of Department of Chemistry made hand sanitizers and distributed free of cost to offices and general public.

Evidence of Success: Most of the programmes were pre-planned while activity like Covid relief was in response to the need. However, all the activities were organized with the objective of imparting the philosophy and the value of service to our students which we consider as one of the core objectives of education. The confidence generated in students which was manifested through the active participation and display of leadership capabilities is a clear indication of the impact of these activities on our students.

Problems Encountered: Availability of time outside curricular activities was the main constraint. Lack of transportation facilities (public and private) was a hurdle to organize the activities early morning or in the evening after class. Finding funds to run the activities was also a problem.