

Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice:

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE WITH ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE(PEAK)

2. Objectives of the Practice:

Academic Knowledge leads to Professional Excellence.

The Institution plays a key role in motivating both staff and students in all its academic pursuits. It conducts numerous Seminars, Workshops and Conferences that accelerates the skill of the students and expertise of the staff. The objectives are:

- To acquire new knowledge powered by leading experts on emerging trends, innovation and creativity for the benefit of the Baby Boomers and the Generation Z Learners, resulting in academic furtherance.
- To encourage productive interaction and active participation, thereby kindling the spark of self-assurance, self-esteem and self-belief among the participants.
- To provide proactive training to integrate resilience, agility and effective communication skills to meet industry expectations.
- To motivate students to aspire for lucrative careers by pursuing higher education, seeking placements or becoming self-sufficient entrepreneurs.

3. The Context:

Transcending knowledge beyond textbooks to discover something novel is unquestionably a yardstick for student development. Seminars, Workshops and Conferences are real time experiences and a platform for the students and faculty to understand the scope and the essential skills relevant to the subject. The expertise shared by the Resource Persons provide inputs for the students on various learning resources. All these programmes kindle the Higher Order Thinking Skills, enhance participative learning and improves skills like listening, questioning, interacting, planning and organising among the participants. Active participation in such programmes also improves the personal and interpersonal skills, nurtures social relationships and fosters self-discipline that helps to become responsible citizens. In

tune to the evolving global market there is a demand and expectation to be industry ready. The Institution therefore provides varied and in-depth exposure in their respective subjects and fields which help them to adapt and acquire new skills in order to face the ever-changing job environment with confidence.

4. The Practice:

Learning is an ongoing process. The Institution seeks to identify the meritorious students who are highly confident in applying their learning to critical thinking, creativity and problem solving abilities. Seminars, Workshops and Conferences serve as a platform where like-minded intellectuals, professionals and enthusiasts brainstorm ideas, share thoughts, debate, discuss, analyse and comprehend each other's points of view on a particular subject. It has a long-lasting impact as new, scientific and technological ideas are debated and discussed.

The Language Departments and the various streams of Arts, Science and Commerce conduct State, National, International Seminars, Workshops and Conferences every year. Each Department submits a proposed programme with a financial plan. Following the approval of the budget, the Departments organise the Seminars either as a single department or in collaboration with other department(s). The lectures and discussions delivered by experts greatly benefit the participants to explore new horizons of knowledge beyond the coded texts. Face-to-face interaction with such accomplished resource persons is a great source of motivation and inspiration.

Tremendous effort is extended by the faculty to develop a new web of knowledge and to create a learning environment which is charged with abundance of facts, theories and information.

The planning of an effective Seminar determines its strong purpose, postulates the target audience and deciphers the expected gain. Faculty are assigned duties and student volunteers are chosen to assist them in event coordination. From selecting the resource person to printing invitations, stage decoration, arranging refreshments, recording the event and live streaming, there are numerous opportunities for both staff and students to gain valuable experience. Organising each event has its

unique experiences and challenges. Following the conduct of the event, the outcome is analysed, taking into account the response sheet of the attendees, their feedback and a review meet is conducted to determine whether the purpose of the Seminar and its outcome was effective. Flaws if any, are recorded and corrected.

5. Evidence of Success / Impact of the Practice:

A total of 294 International, National, State and District level Seminars and Workshops have been conducted with 41,405 participants. These Seminars and Workshops offer an opportunity to the students to interact with experts in their respective fields. The Resource Persons are intellectuals whose invaluable contributions inspire and sharpen the potentials of students from various perspectives, resulting in an interesting and informative exchange of learning and knowledge-seeking process. Seminars, Conferences, Workshops as knowledge repositories are a welcome gesture to faculty and students from other institutions too. The discussions, debates and suggestions of the experts and a medley of paper presentations from the host college and other institutions serve as an academic feast. The Departments compile and publish papers in the Conference Proceedings with an ISB Number whenever possible, that gives credit to the individual, the Department and the Institution.

The great advantage of conducting such resourceful Seminars and Conferences is that it results in the establishment of a good rapport with the guests and guest speakers, fortifying the bond, solidarity and friendship. It also helps to pave way for new collaborations and the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with new organisations and institutions.

Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Webinars serve as a catalyst in bringing out the best in every participant both personally and academically. True to the motto of the College, "Learning is light from God", learning is an unending beacon of light which has illuminated thousands of lives with knowledge, skills and empowerment for a promising future.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

All the faculty members of the Department work diligently and enthusiastically in organising the events. Yet some uncertainties and challenges create unavoidable circumstances, some of which include:

- Organising events when students do not have examinations or other important activities.
- The choosing of a venue, fixing the date and selecting the Resource Person for the event present a challenge in the initial stages of organisation.
- The Resource Person's unavailability on the scheduled dates.
- Due to unforeseen reasons such as the death of a prominent leader, strikes and protests, natural calamities such as floods and cyclones, when the State Government declares holidays as a safety measure and red alert, the events organised are cancelled and rescheduling the programme poses a significant challenge.
- The procedure and rules for inviting Resource Persons from abroad is challenging.