



NIRMALA COLLEGE, MUVATTUPUZHA



# Best Practices 2019-20

**BEST PRACTICE I**  
STUDENT ACTIVE  
LEARNING  
ANDRAGOGY

**BEST PRACTICE II**  
NIRMALA SOCIAL  
CONNECT

## Best Practice I

### STUDENT ACTIVE LEARNING ANDRAGOGY

#### 1. Aims and Objectives

- a. To motivate the faculty to adopt learner centric approaches.
- b. To bring ICT based teaching, learning and evaluation tools for integrated learning.
- c. To include more experiential, collaborative, participative and problem solving learning strategies in the curriculum transaction.
- d. To promote blended learning among student community.

#### 2. The Context

In tune with one of its core values “Pursuit of Excellence” Nirmala college has the culture of adopting the academic reforms in higher education envisaged by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in a timely manner. In various reports published during 2016-19, the UGC has stressed the importance of shifting from ‘teacher-teaching’ approach to ‘learner-learning’ approach. In learner centred andragogy, students are independent and they are responsible for achieving the learning outcomes suggested in the curriculum. The teachers have to facilitate the process and mentor the students to face the problems encountered during the process. In the learner based system, the teachers have the responsibility of equipping the students to meet the competing demands for accountability and innovation.

#### 3. The Practice

The Management, the College Council and the IQAC have taken several conscious steps to materialize the above transition process. During IQAC-Department Interface meetings, the discussions were made on the student centric methods that can be adopted during the academic year and modified version of earlier practices. The institution adheres to the following practices to create a learning environment that keeps the students at the centre of learning.

- a. Malayalam and Hindi departments often organize Theme Based Quizzes related to various themes.
- b. Resonance, a campus newspaper is designed and published by the students of Communicative English department.
- c. Making of short films as part of education enhances students’ interest in and knowledge about the motion picture development and production process.
- d. Nirmala Darshan, the campus TV venture keeps on giving a hands-on experience on televising and processing of visuals along with soft skills for giving a lively screen presence.
- e. Press Visits is one of the key parts of the curriculum in language programmes. The Campus Radio Station helps to build an inclusive atmosphere in the campus. Theatre Workshops and Heritage and Folklore Exhibitions are part of the learning process.

- f. Science departments give training in vocational subjects like organic farming, Apiculture, gardening and terrarium making, bonsai preparation etc enhance the learning experience of students.
- g. Departments of Botany, Zoology and Chemistry take up case studies related to environment, agriculture etc.
- h. The college encourages and provides opportunities for students to attend on the job training at institutes like Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin; TIES, Kottayam, etc.
- i. Under Cooperative Learning system, the students are split into small groups and are encouraged to teach other students in a particular subject area with the belief that “to teach is to learn twice”.
- j. Students presentations are part of the learning process. Demonstration of experiments, industrial visits, Spytis projects, etc provide activity cantered learning atmosphere to the students.
- k. Dissertation work taken up by the students are usually related to real world problems or basic science concepts. Industrial visits and field trips have become part of the curriculum delivery.
- l. Faculty members use case study method and real world situations while delivering their courses.
- m. The students at UG level are required to do group projects on a suitable topic related to commerce and management. PG students are required to present their UG project work when they enter into the first semester.
- n. Group discussions, debates and quizzes are conducted on a regular mode under the supervision of faculty members. Online Quiz platforms like Kahoot and college education app CamPulse are extensively used.
- o. The students are motivated to do video lectures on commerce related issues.
- p. The Financial Literacy Cell helps the students to start bank accounts. As part of Digital India campaign, students popularized various digital payment apps in collaboration with public sector banks. Hands on training is given to students on various aspects of project report preparation.

#### **4. Evidence of Success**

- a. The college bagged 24 university ranks in UG University examinations and 18 university positions in PG University examinations.
- b. The students also secured 72 A+ grades and 154 A grades in the UG University examinations.
- c. In majority of the programmes, the pass percentage is above 90% and some departments secured 100% pass percentage.
- d. 144 students got placements and 38 students qualified competitive examinations.

#### **5. Problems Encountered**

- a. Incompatible assessment methods and curriculum.
- b. Resistance to change
- c. Inadequate teacher training

## Best Practice II

### NIRMALA SOCIAL CONNECT

#### 1. Aims and Objectives

- a. To bridge the gap between theory and practice through continuous community engagement.
- b. To deepen the interactions between the college and local communities to identify the real life problems.
- c. To catalyse new initiatives of community engagement to help the local community.
- d. To gain understanding of social realities and find out solutions.
- e. To appreciate local knowledge and wisdom.
- f. To help the needy people during natural disasters

#### 2. The Context

During the previous assessment period, Nirmala college has organised so many activities and taken initiatives under its flagship programme “Nirmala Hastham” in tune with the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on “**Fostering Social Responsibility in Higher Education Institutions**” in 2012. In February 2019, the UGC has brought another policy document as a continuation to the earlier policy titled “**Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement in Higher Education Institutions in India**”. The purpose of the document is to bring curricular reforms to include community engagement initiatives in the course structure of programmes offered by the higher education institutions in India. Though Nirmala College is an affiliated college and cannot design its own curriculum, in continuation of its long standing commitment on community engagement, the college has made serious efforts to improve the social connectedness of our students and faculty members through various initiatives.

#### 3. The Practice & Evidence of Success

All the students are encouraged to participate in the extension activities organized by the cells, clubs and departments in the college. The activities of the cells and clubs focus on the concept of campus community partnership, engaging the students with the realities in the society and creating a mind-set to extend a helping hand to those in need. The activities done by the college as part of ‘**Nirmala Social Connect**’ are given below.

- i. The students of the college developed a website '<https://covidchainbreaker.com> to help the Taluk Hospital, Muvattupuzha.
- ii. The Vigilance awareness week was observed in the month of November 2019.
- iii. 200 trees were planted as part of the Haritha Keralam Mission.
- iv. The college organised a programme titled 'Nadhi' towards river protection on 05.10.2019.
- v. A child welfare programme 'Bal Kushal' for children in tribal villages was organised on 16.11.2019.
- vi. Two blood donation camps were organised with the help of HDFC Bank.
- vii. In association with Haritha Kerala Mission, Clean Campus, Green Campus initiative was undertaken.
- viii. In association with State Social Justice Department, 'Crime Free India' programme was conducted.
- ix. Sanitizers were distributed to the people in the locality on 20.03.2020.
- x. In association with Fatima Eye Hospital, Eye Camp was conducted with the motto of 'Clear Vision for All' on 29.09.2019.
- xi. Swachh Bharat Rally was conducted on 24.09.2019. No vehicle day was observed on 23.09.2019.
- xii. The internal green audit was done on 27.09.2019.
- xiii. Two-week cleanliness mission was done in association with Central Youth Sports Authority during August 1 to August 15.
- xiv. The college organised a seminar on Health & Hygiene on 02.10.2019.
- xv. Swachh Bharat Lecture Series programme conducted on 29.09.2019 in association with South Indian Bank.
- xvi. Eco-friendly bottle garden was made on 09.12.2012.
- xvii. The college organised many solar bulb making workshops.
- xviii. The college organised awareness programme on Malaria Day (29.09.2019)
- xix. Organised Mushroom Gardening Workshop on 04.12.2019.
- xx. A massive flood relief campaign was initiated from the college.
- xxi. The college made a relief camp which helped 188 families and 591 individuals.
- xxii. The college acted as supply centre for groceries to the relief camps.
- xxiii. The college organised National Floorball for Differently Abled during the year.
- xxiv. A cancer awareness programme was organised on 08.11.2019.
- xxv. A soap making workshop was organised on 09.12.2019.
- xxvi. A book fair was organised on the theme Gandhi Philosophy during 26.02.2010 - 28.02.2019. 200 books related to Gandhian Philosophy were displayed.
- xxvii. Cloth Bag making workshop was done on 16.01.2020.

#### 4. Problems Encountered

- i. Lack of time and no credits for students.
- ii. More number of teachers are required to monitor the activities.
- iii. Financial constraints

