



# Best Practices 2021-22

**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 70 university ranks in UG University examinations and in PG University examinations.
- b. The students also secured 4 S grades, 96 A+ grades and 154 A grades in the UG Universityexaminations.
- c. In majority of the programmes, the pass percentage is above 90% and some departments secured 100% pass percentage.
- d. More than 200 students got placements and 25 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. 200 trees were planted as part of the Haritha Keralam Mission.
- iii. A study centre was established in Kuttampuzha panchayat during this academic year.
- iv. Various financial literacy programmes were organized by the Financial literacy cell.
- v. The institution carried out impactful extension activities in the neighboring community under the flagship program Karuthal.
- vi. Volunteers raised funds to procure digital gadgets for needy students, bridging the educational divide.
- vii. Additionally, NSS distributed food packets and kits to underprivileged families, addressing food insecurity. Informative webinars on cancer and AIDS awareness were organized on international observance days, empowering the community with crucial information.
- viii. A webinar on positivity in life provided strategies for stress management and resilience.
- ix. During the monsoon season, NSS set up a help desk to coordinate rescue operations and provide assistance to flood-affected individuals.

These activities showcased the institution's commitment to social welfare and community development, addressing education, hunger, health awareness, and support during disasters.

#### **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

