

HEALTHY PRACTICES (2020-21)

Best Practice I

Online Departmental Lecture Series

1. Title of the Practice

This title should capture the keywords that describe the Practice.

“Online Departmental Lecture Series”.

2. Goal

Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Brief the underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words.

From January 2020 the whole country, and the state of West Bengal with it, is reeling under the onslaught of COVID. From 15th March 2020 lockdown was declared throughout the country. All physical activities inside the campus have been stopped throughout the session 2020-21. However, online classes were initiated, and continued throughout the academic year. However, the students were missing the various seminars, conferences, and lecture sessions that had been held in the college before lockdown. As such, for the benefit of the students, the departments were encouraged to organize online lecture sessions and webinars with invited resource persons. This would bring in new ideas and interactions from teachers from outside the college, and would instill new interest among the students.

3. The Context

Describe any particular contextual feature or challenging issues that have had to be addressed in designing and implementing the Practice in about 150 words.

When the idea first took root in the imagination of the Principal, she discussed it in the Teachers' Council. That was in March 2020, immediately after lockdown was declared. The teachers of the various departments welcomed the suggestion, and immediately decided to organize lecture sessions and webinars in their departments as soon as possible, in accordance with the academic sessions. The only initial problem was that the teachers had to make themselves technically equipped to organize these sessions, and arrange for YouTube streaming, as the number of participants often went way beyond the prescribed numbers in platforms like Zoom or Google Meet. But that hurdle was overcome soon, and the teachers became well-set technically in a matter of a few weeks.

4. The Practice

Describe the Practice and its implementation. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian higher education. Please also identify constraints or limitations, if any, in about 400 words.

In the first Teachers' Council meeting in which the suggestion of organizing departmental lecture sessions was discussed, it was also resolved that all the lecture sessions will be organized in collaboration with the IQAC of the college, and any other institution that the department wishes to collaborate with. The reason for this was that the entire procedure will be in the knowledge of the IQAC, which would monitor the quality of the sessions, and participate actively in the process. All incidental costs would be borne by the college, under the recommendation of the IQAC.

The departments were given liberty to collaborate with institutions, as per their choice. Most departments collaborated with other colleges in organizing the webinars and lecture sessions. Some also went for national and international collaborations. The IQAC collaboration remained constant for all. Some departments, like Botany and Economics, organized lecture series, spread over several days. Over the entire period of twelve months, from July 2020 to June 2021, seven departments organized eight lecture sessions. The details are given below.

Date	Topic	Organized by	Collaboration	Resource Persons	Mode	No. of Participants	No. of viewers
18/8/2020	“মারের সাগর পাড়ি দেব” (Influence of Pandemic in Bengali Literature)	Bengali Department	IQAC, Nistarini College	1. Dr. Hamida Begum (South-East University, Dhaka, Bangladesh) 2. Prof. Abdul Kafi (Jadavpur University, Kolkata.)	Online	542	2.6 K
26/9/2020	Indian Education Policy: Legacy of VIDYASAGAR in his 200 th. Birth Centenary	Bengali Department	IQAC, Nistarini College	1. Dr. Dipak Kr. Kar (V C, SKBU) 2. Dr. Nrisinha Prasad Bhaduri (Eminent Indologist and Mythologist) 3. Dr. AbhirupSarkar (Eminent	Online	455	1.3k

				Economist and Ex. Director of ISI, Kolkata)			
15.10.20	Demographic Aspects and Covid-19 Pandemic	Geography	IQAC	Prof. R.B.Bhagat, IIPS, Bumbai Prof. Bhaswati Das, JNU, New Delhi	Online	100+	
18-21.06.21	Yogic Culture for wellness in post Covid Period	Physical Education	Sonamukhi College, Bankura	Speakers: Dr. Mamata Malik, Asst professor, Manbhumi mahavidyalaya Dr Soumalya roy, Chatra Ramai pandit mahavidyalaya Dr. Gaurav pant, College of Physical education, Bharati vidyapith University, Pune Dr. Kallol Chatterjee, Asst professor, Viswabharati Dr. Pintu lal Mondal, Central university of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar Dr. Malay Kumar Mukhopadhyay, PG Govt. Insitute of physical education, Banipur & OSD (Ph edu)	Online	100	100+

				Education directorate, Govt of WB			
28-29 /06/21	Invited Lecture Series on Biosystematics	Botany	NA	Prof. A K.Mondal, V.U. Midnapore	Online	50+	70+
23.06.21	Ecological Restoration	Environmenta l Sciences	AK Mahavidyala ya, Gangpur city, Rajasthan	Prof. Dai-Yeun Jeong, Director, Asia Climate Change Education Centre, Jerun National University, S.Korea, Dr. Grace Yoxon, IOSF, UK, Mrs. Premila Nag Hobbs, USA	Online	100+	100+
1-3/7/2021	Introductory Econometrics	Dept. of Economics		Prof. Subhasis Bhattachary, SKBU, Purulia Dr. Jayanta Hajra, J.K. College, Purulia	Online	100+	200+

5-7/7/2021	Mathematical Economics	Dept. of Economics		Dr. Jyoti Prakash Mandal, Raghunathpur College, Purulia Dr. Suvrangshu Pan, Kashipur College, Purulia	Online	110	200+
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5. Evidence of Success

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks and review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

In a pandemic situation, when all educational institutions were closed, it was a challenge to reach the students and provide them with proper guidance for their examinations. Classes were being held online, and there was no physical interaction between teacher and student. The purpose of organizing these lecture sessions was to give the students a taste of seminars and conferences, even though it is in the online mode. The students will also have inputs regarding their subjects from experts from outside the college. Some of these webinars were International level, with experts from various countries. This has helped the students to get a global view of the subject in question. There were feedback forms at the end of the webinars, and each participant left their opinions here. These webinars have also increased collaborations between this college and other institutions, both in India and abroad.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice in about 150 words.

The initial problem that was faced was to make the departments technically equipped to conduct webinars, create flyers, and create a feedback system online. However, the initial hurdles were soon tackled, and all the departments became very well able to do all the technical work. In fact, it was found that conducting webinars was easier than conducting offline seminars, as resource persons and participants could participate from long distances.

The Governing Body had earmarked Rs.15,000/- for each department for conducting these webinars. After each webinar, the departments submitted their utilization.

7. Notes (Optional)

Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution about 150 words.

It can well be said that webinar sessions have come to stay. Even when colleges open after the COVID wave is over, webinars will be conducted along with seminars. The benefits of both will have to be experienced by the students and teachers.

8. Contact Details

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Best Practices – 2 Welfare Programmes during COVID

1. Title of the Practice

This title should capture the keywords that describe the Practice.

“Welfare Programmes During COVID”.

2. Goal

Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Brief the underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words.

During the COVID lockdown all offline activities were closed in the college. Classes were held online, and webinars were also held. However, the NSS units of the college were concerned because of the dire necessity of assistance that the common people were requiring. There was a shortage of food, of medical necessities, of oxygen cylinders, and of general help in acquiring general necessities. This concern made them decide to collaborate with various NGO-s and other organizations to do their bit for the assistance of the common people. Assistance for animals was also necessary, and that, too, was taken into account.

3. The Context

Describe any particular contextual feature or challenging issues that have had to be addressed in designing and implementing the Practice in about 150 words.

The main challenge was to convince the students that, in accordance with the aims of the National Service Scheme, it is the duty of students to do their social duty, even in times of pandemic. This is a girls' college, and it was particularly difficult to convince the girls and their parents that they must go out and do whatever they can for the good of society. However, the girls were enthused, and after taking the necessary COVID precautions, they worked with their Programmed Officers in various welfare schemes. It was a big challenge to work on the streets in pandemic times, but the students did do whatever they could in this regard.

4. The Practice

Describe the Practice and its implementation. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian higher education. Please also identify constraints or limitations, if any, in about 400 words.

The plan for involving the four units of the NSS in social work related to the COVID pandemic was discussed in an NSS meeting called for this purpose. All the Programme Officers welcomed this proposal, and took on the task of motivating the students regarding their social role in these hard times. The Programme Officers began connecting with some NGO-s and Government organizations, and undertook some welfare programmes. The following programmes were organized in this respect –

- a. 14/08/2020 : Awareness programme on the prevention of COVID 19. Number of students : 157
- b. Feeding and Looking after street animals in locality from 20.08.2020 to 12.09.2020. In collaboration with CBCEE.
- c. Helping at community kitchen at Tambuli samity at Upper Nadiha Durga Puja Committee from 24.10.20 to 28.12.20
- d. Tele-medicine programme and donating of oxygen : In collaboration with Switch on Foundation and Bengal Can (International NGO).
- e. 24/01/2021 : NSS volunteers completed Duty for covid 19 control at Rajashan Vidyapeeth, Purulia and Guided school students during examination, in collaboration with the Office of the District Magistrate, Purulia.

Apart from these programmes, the NSS undertook COVID awareness programmes in the adopted villages by putting up posters and speaking to the village people. The biggest constrain here was the general lack of awareness among the village people, and the lack of understanding of general hygiene – something essential during COVID times. Masks were also distributed among the village people, because most of them did not wear masks.

5. Evidence of Success

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks and review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

The biggest success of these welfare programmes of the NSS was the satisfaction that these young college students got by working positively for the welfare of people who really

needed it. By collaborating with NGO-s and government departments, it was ensured that funds could be obtained for such programmes, and also the collaborations ensured that the NSS can work with public forums for the general good. The students shook off their initial reservations and fear of mixing with people during pandemic times, and realized that the society needs any voluntary service that can be offered, particularly in these difficult times. Apart from that, food was distributed to both hungry people and animals. All these aspects made this programme extremely successful.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice in about 150 words.

All programmes and schemes, however positive, encounter problems during implementation. All the NSS students did not participate, because their parents did not allow their daughters to go out in public during the pandemic. The positive point was that a large section of the NSS did participate, and performed exemplary voluntary service among poor people. Awareness programmes were also very successful.

The NSS does not have large funds of its own, and no government funds were available this year. The college provided funds for awareness programmes in the adopted villages. But the major funding for social work came from the NGO-s and government departments with whom the NSS collaborated. The students of the college put in voluntary service along with these organizations.

7. Notes (Optional)

Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution about 150 words.

The NSS units of the college have resolved that they will continue this voluntary service along with their collaborating partners throughout the pandemic period. Of course, we all hope that the pandemic will die out soon and everything will return to normal. But as long as voluntary duty is necessary, the NSS students will be there to provide whatever help they can.

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