



CRITERIA - 7
INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES
7.2 BEST PRACTICES

7.2.1: Best Practices

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BEST PRACTICE - 1

Title: VIDYALANKAR - STRIVING FOR SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE

Objectives:

This practice aims to facilitate a breeding ground for academic excellence and creativity and to create an innovative mindset among the students.

Context:

The best practices of the college are developed in tune with the mission of the college, which is to strive for academic excellence, creativity, and social commitment to the citizens. Vidyalandkar is a Sanskrit word for academic excellence.

The Practice:

Every year, the college organizes more than 100 programmes, such as seminars, workshops, invited talks etc., in frontier areas to expose the students to new heights of information and knowledge. The programmes like Student seminars, Mathematical problem contests, department-level monthly meetings, debates, and project works help them to be critical thinkers. Students have every opportunity to show up and enhance their talents through various creative activities, such as Exhibitions, Skill development programmes, short filmmaking and the publication of magazines. All departments and the college union publish magazines every year. The departments also provide various certificates/add-on courses to the students. Meanwhile, they gain valuable lessons through various social activities and services, with the prime objective of academic excellence. The Arabic Department is publishing a research journal called Raihan. The college provides opportunities for the students to participate in Young Innovators Programme (YIP) by presenting ideas. Kerala Government has sanctioned an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC) at the college under the Kerala start-up mission. The college has three incubation centres. The college has been granted the UGC-funded STRIDE Project (Component-1) titled "Adaptive Speech Recognition for Speech Defects in Malayalam Language." This significant achievement has provided students with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a major research ambience right within their campus.

Evidence of Success:

Every year a significant fraction of students are opting higher studies. Most of them are getting admission to prestigious institutions in India. Many of our alums are researching at various top-ranked universities worldwide and even at NASA. Our alums work as scientists in India's most prestigious organizations, such as ISRO and DRDO.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Wayanad, one of India's backward districts, needs more facilities in all areas, including the educational sector. The region's availability of resource persons, research centres, etc., is significantly less.

BEST PRACTICE - 2

Title: SOCIAL CONSCIENCE TOWARDS SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Objective:

The objective of this best practice, "Social Conscience towards Social Well-being," is to foster a strong sense of social commitment among students and position the institution as a facilitator in Wayanad, a socially and economically disadvantaged area. The practice aims to raise awareness about pressing social issues and encourage active student engagement in initiatives promoting social well-being. By instilling a profound social conscience, the college empowers students to become catalysts for positive change within their communities. Through outreach programs and partnerships, the college addresses Wayanad's specific needs and contributes to its overall development. Emphasizing social responsibility, the objective is to cultivate empathy, compassion, and a deep understanding of challenges faced by marginalized populations while fostering inclusivity and unity among the student body. Additionally, the college actively promotes community engagement by sharing its facilities for sports, cultural, academic, and community activities with nearby residents. This inclusive approach enhances the college's social impact,

facilitates meaningful interactions between students, faculty, and the Wayanad community, and contributes to the holistic development and well-being of individuals beyond the college's student body.

Context:

In alignment with the college's mission to pursue academic excellence, creativity, and social commitment to its citizens, the best practice initiatives have been carefully developed. Wayanad, known as one of the most underdeveloped districts in India, faces significant challenges in terms of urbanization, with a rate below 4%. Moreover, approximately 90% of the population belongs to socially disadvantaged categories such as SC/ST and OBC. Higher education facilities in this area are scarce, and the region's infrastructure for community engagements is also limited. Recognizing these circumstances, the college takes proactive measures to utilize its student body's strength for the betterment of society and addresses the pressing social needs of Wayanad. Additionally, the institution shares its resources and facilities with the general public, actively promoting community engagement. By extending its support beyond the campus, the college strives to become a facilitator in uplifting the socially and economically disadvantaged area of Wayanad.

The Practice:

Write a paragraph on the best practice of the college with the following points. The students of the college, under the guidance of faculty members, actively participate in all kinds of social service activities whenever the situation demands. The social service department and NSS conducted awareness and support programmes among the nearby communities. During the Kerala flood in 2018, the students actively participated in the relief activities, including the collection and distribution of relief materials and volunteer services. A team of 70 students participated in the post-disaster assessment survey (2018) conducted by the district administration Wayanad and other agencies. Similarly, during the second Kerala flood of 2019, students have extended their service to the society through volunteer service at the relief camps. Through NSS, they have supported the health department to chlorinate the drinking water sources in nearby villages. They also conducted a survey of the flood-affected areas and gave the report to the district administration. During the Covid pandemic

also, students and faculty members participated as volunteers. In all these difficult times, college has made open all of its infrastructure facilities to conduct relief camps, and medical camps and to set up quarantine centres. Also, the sports facilities, auditoriums and computer centres are utilized by various local organizations and testing agencies. The college stands out as a major facilitator for society in all aspects.

Evidence of Success:

Over the past five years, the college and its staff members have been recognized with 15 Certificates of Appreciation from local bodies, District administration, and various Government agencies for their outstanding contributions to community services. The impact of their efforts is evident as more than 2000 students actively participated in diverse community service initiatives.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were restrictions for the various extension and community services.