

7.2.1 Best practice 1

TITLE : PROMOTION OF THE SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY AND CRITICAL THINKING:
STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

OBJECTIVE :

1. Encouragement of the spirit of enquiry.
2. Development of research skill through Field work
3. Acquaintance with the methodology of field survey for collection of primary data
4. Awareness of contemporary issues of social relevance
5. Generate interest in higher studies

CONTEXT: Modern education demands life centricism. Actual practical experience and experiment not only motivates the students but also helps them to develop interest in higher education as well as plan a future career in academic professions. So it is felt that participation in small research projects will enhance their skill for critical thinking . Accordingly the idea of carrying out small scale basic research projects with student participation was born.

PRACTICE:

The administration approved the proposal of carrying out a student research project every year and sanctioned necessary funds. The first project entitled *The Revolutionary Journey of Medicinal Plants from Ancient Days to the Present* was successfully carried out jointly by the Departments of Botany, Philosophy and Sanskrit. The students and teachers of these departments carried out the literature review, field survey for data collection and preparing posters and presentations with great enthusiasm.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

Completion of the project culminated in an inter-disciplinary seminar and exhibition, held on September 27, 2019. The programme also included lectures by invited speakers who were experts in their respective fields. The report has been compiled and is ready for publication. This endeavour has not only helped to channelize the natural inquisitiveness of young minds towards scientific enquiry but also influenced other departments to prepare research proposals on relevant contemporary issues.

Best Practice II

Title: The making of the self- towards self-Actualization through self Expression

Objectives

The college founded in memory of Pandit Sivanath Sastri aspires to promote humanistic ideals among its students so these empowered students can play constructive role in nation building and promoting social development. This would enable them to develop critical mind and

rationalist views about life. Academic activities and classroom exercises alone cannot promote broader social awareness and thus will not help the students to form life experience. The college endeavours to promote overall development of the students through:

1. All round personality development.
2. Development of free self expression.
3. Encouragement in active participation in extra-curricular activities
4. Soft skill training.
5. Enabling students to organize group activity through mutual interaction.

Practice

Besides routine classroom academic exercises the development of self is encouraged by various departments.

This is promoted through various creative activities in which the students participate and explore their qualities like creative writing, performing arts, participation in various social work etc. it help the students to develop their concept of self identity and self respect.

An exclusively student's magazine "Its' Me" is published from the college. This Magazine is edited by the students and literary creativity of the students is thus given encouragement in a great way. Short stories, Poetry, Painting, articles on contemporary social issues are being written by the students. Three issues of the magazine have been published till 2018-19 academic sessions. Lockdown due to the pandemic prevented publication of the next issue. However students were encouraged to send their artwork, dance and music presentations and photographs and the teachers helped them to create inspiring collages and presentations.

Evidence of Success

Students prepared a number of short videos of their patriotic dance presentations, music, poetry recitals and short skits, which were then combined with beautiful photographs and artwork captured through the lenses of other students of the College. The students also shared their experiences of the Covid-19 Lockdown through their brushes and lenses via an online exhibition. These were collected and edited into a short video that provides unique glimpses into what the pandemic meant for students living in different parts of Kolkata and the suburbs. These attempts provided an outlet for the talents inherent among the students and promote a natural inclination for self actualization among the students.