

7.2 – Best Practices

7.2.1 – Describe at least two institutional best practices

1. Title: Promotion of students' research and publications

Goals:

- a. To familiarize undergraduate and postgraduate students with the scholarly activities
- b. To encourage them to pursue their academic projects with seriousness
- c. To familiarize them with the standards of publications, academic writing etc.
- d. To make them aware of publication channels
- e. To help students to network with peers and other scholars of the respective fields

Context

While reflecting on the academic experiences during the previous assessment period, the faculty of the college came to know that if promoted, students will excel in research and subsequent presentations & publications. Hence, it was decided to inculcate research aptitude among students - both undergraduate and postgraduate - to pursue small scale research, and present their findings in conferences for wider discussion.

The Practice:

As an initiative, four departments (Economics, Malayalam, Physics, and Psychology) actively promoted this practice among both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Several students responded to this initiative call of the departments and pursued their academic projects with specific scope. When conferences/ seminars were announced, teachers and college librarian provided necessary guidelines in preparing presentations and articles as per the formats prescribed by organizers.

Evidence of success

The scholarly activities of students belong to various disciplines are mentioned below:

- a. Economics – 7 paper presentations in conferences (One paper which addressing the impact of flood on households got special comments)
- b. English – 1 article published in scholarly journal
- c. Malayalam – 7 (Interviews of leaders of social service activities and community welfare groups will be published as a book in the coming year. Students who conducted interviews were rigorously trained through a series of mock interviews)
- d. Psychology – 14 students presented papers. One student published an article in peer reviewed journal
- e. Physics – 12 students participated in conferences and presented 4 papers; another 2 students got research funding from a state government agency.

- f. Zoology – 1 student got Millennium Zoology award for her PG Project
- g. Botany – 1 student won the first prize in the project presentation competition conducted by Kerala Botanical Society

The practice will be further popularized and strengthened in the next year by conducting a workshop on research methodologies, and inviting participation from more departments.

Problems encountered

- a. Lack of sufficient time to conduct research and then to prepare articles due to the tight class schedule.

2. Title: Bhoomi Malayalam

Goals:

- a. To provide a space for scholarly discourses**
- b. To address those themes pertaining to cultural studies, literature, and linguistics which require special attention**
- c. To examine and appreciate different viewpoints and perspectives**
- d. To encourage research among students, research scholars and faculty**
- e. To encourage academicians to publish their findings**

Context: The department of Malayalam has been very active in promoting discussions, research, etc. in topics related to the marginalized issues of Cultural studies, Malayalam Language, and Literature. Ever since the inception of the undergraduate program they have conducted seminars, conferences, workshops etc for the benefit of students. In the past, many such programs were appreciated by the college community, and had impact on students' learning. However, such programs were not properly documented or archived. Hence, the department embarked on organizing programs systematically, and subsequently archive/publish the documents presented in such programs.

The Practice:

Since 2007, every year the department selects a key theme for discussions and subsequent seminars in that year, and at the end of the year publishes the documents presented in the series of seminars in the form of a journal called 'Bhoomi Malayalam'. The outcome is that a key theme which requiring academic attention will be examined in detail by scholars from various perspectives, and papers will be brought out for wider circulation and readership. Besides, the practice promotes academic writing among the students of the college.

Evidence of success:

The department has been publishing the journal since 20 and contents of many of them are followed by students as a supplement to the prescribed textbooks of Mahatma Gandhi University for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Problems encountered

No significant problems encountered.
