

**V.K. KRISHNA MENON COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMICS
AND**

SHARAD SHANKAR DIGHE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

[AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI & ACCREDITED BY NAAC]

(MANAGED BY BHANDUP EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY)

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Institution's Best Practices

Best Practice-1

Title: Igniting Young Minds

Objective:

1. To focus on fun way and application-based teaching-learning for inquisitive school children.
2. To empower students to make informed choices about careers.

The Context: 'Change is inevitable, Growth is optional. To grow as an individual, one must embrace, and adapt to, change. The institute has planned its activities, keeping in mind the holistic development of students. We believe this has made our students stronger and self-reliant.

The play-way and experiential methods of learning is a proven recipe for easier grasping and retention of difficult concepts.

As a responsible institution, we have tried to share this idea with the extended Menon family and the community.

The Practices:

Highlights of some of the activities:

Celebration of National Festivals:

The institution celebrates occasions like **Independence day, Republic day, Gandhi Jayanti, etc.** as one family. During such celebrations, it makes special efforts to keep school children in the forefront, to give them an opportunity to manifest their latent talent and to strengthen their confidence in themselves.

Kargil Vijay Diwas:

‘The child is the father of the nation’. Our institution has pledged to sensitize our students at a very young age towards patriotism and the sacrifices made by our soldiers. To institutionalize this concept, we, along with our ex-students (Menonite 99), came up with the idea of celebrating **Kargil Vijay Diwas**, in our institution, since 2008. School students actively participate in this program. On this day army officials are invited to inspire our students through their motivational speeches and PowerPoint presentations on various careers in Army. To pay tribute to the martyrs, some years our students prepared a street play, with the same theme to be presented in front of the speaker.

Funfair and Science Exhibition:

A vibrant and festive atmosphere pervades the college during **Funfair and Science Exhibition**. School children eagerly look forward to these events and participate enthusiastically, involving even their families. Funfair is managed totally by our college students, right from registration, allotment and arrangement of stalls, publicity among students and sales. This is a celebration of our students’ entrepreneurial skills. Science Exhibition is a part of funfair where models and posters made by our school and college students are displayed and explained to the visitors. All the stalls are judged on pre-set criteria and awards presented on prize distribution day.

Display of Products made by Differently-abled Students:

An exceptional feature of funfair is the participation of **NASEOH (National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped)** an NGO that work with differently-abled students. Items like clay pots, jute bags, cloth bags, jute files, confectionaries etc., prepared by their students, are displayed and sold here. We assume that this inclusiveness perhaps plays a small part in encouraging these special students to unravel their latent talents.

Igniting the Young Minds:

Igniting the Young Minds is an experiment, on the part of our teachers, to invite the school students to the curious and exciting world of pedagogy.

Science departments stimulated the imagination of students through experiments like the golden spangles test, fire on wet paper, the existence of light, candle see-saw, sound energy using a scale, electromagnetism. Magnified specimens of algae and fungi gave them a peek into the exciting microscopic world. Thrilling games like pipetting out, puzzles and fallacies helped to tickle their brain. In the Commerce program, students were introduced to the aptitude test, TED talk, Spell-O-Fun, Quiz on Economics, team-building exercise, career prospects in Mathematics and Accounts.

Activities of WDC:

WDC organized events like earing making, clay modelling, self-defence workshop for our girls, where schoolgirls were invited to participate. Under the ‘**Health and Hygiene**’ program, WDC also conducted seminars, exclusively for school girls, on ‘Good Touch-Bad Touch’, menarche and workshop for mother-daughter bonding.

We assume that the whole process has made our students intensely aware of their privileges. They have made attempts, in their own small ways, to spread the flame of curiosity. Following are some of the activities by college students for school students.

Shanivari Vidnyanvari:

Our college collaborated with Marathi Vidnyan Parishad for the project **Shanivari Vidnyanvari** under which eight B.Sc. students volunteered for the two-day training program. They then visited Marathi or semi-English medium schools of their choice, on Saturdays, to teach science to class VI and VII students through interesting experiments.

Computer Literacy Project

Under **the Computer Literacy project**, our college collaborated with BMC school at Bhandup village. Ten of our T.Y.B.Sc. CS student volunteers taught school students the fundamentals of computers.

Samutkarsh Abhyasika Project:

Our **NSS volunteers** have pledged to **teach underprivileged students** of Bhandup village, in a fun-n-learn manner. During a vacation in 2015, they participated in a ten-day camp to teach children shlokas, painting, craft, yoga, rhymes, songs and dances. Again in 2018, two students volunteered to work with children in one abhyasika in Bhandup, for a month, under ‘Samutkarsh Abhyasika Project’.

Understanding and Expressing Mathematics with Modelling:

A seminar on Mathematics, ‘Understanding and Expressing Mathematics with Modelling’ was conducted in collaboration with Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR. Our college students were given practical exposure of mathematical concepts, through puzzles, fallacies and games. Our students then shared these concepts with junior college students and students of standards IX and X, in a fun and interactive way. A purely theoretical and difficult subject matter, thus, was converted into a more interactive and playful theme.

Outcome:

We assume that the whole process of involving School Students in various activities and programmes enlightened young minds and help them to choose the right career path.

Evidence of Success:

Feedback from participants was Excellent. The ongoing nature of these activities speaks about its success. Certificates are issued to successful students.

Photographs, Letters, Attendance, Reports, etc. are other evidence.

Problems Encountered:

Since many of these programmes are being organized by the institution over longer period of time, each activity is well planned and equally well implemented without any major problem.

Resources Required:

Volunteers, Resource Person, College Infrastructure, MOUs, Printing Facility, Photocopy, Camera, Stationary, Computers, Decorative Items and Flex Banners.

Best Practice-2

Title:

Centre of Gandhian Studies and Action

Objectives of the Practice:

To emerge as a Forum for Study, Research and Outreach activities to propagate Gandhian Vision of Social Transformation and Individual Empowerment by involving students, staff and community around.

The Context:

- Our Founder chairman **Advocate P.A. Menonji** was an ardent follower of Gandhiji. He not only followed the Gandhian principles of Non-violence, Simplicity, Truth and Faith throughout his life but also ensured that these principles are percolated down to the staff and students of the institutions established by him.
- With an objective to let his acquaintances, including the students and teachers, imbibe the Gandhian principles, He founded the **Centre of Gandhian Studies and Action** on 30/09/2008.

The Practice:

With an intention to achieve its objectives, the Centre organizes several activities. Some of these activities are as under:

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti Every Year

- **Speeches** on lessons to be learnt from Gandhiji's life, including simplicity and adherence to truth, are delivered on the occasion.
- Rendition of Gandhiji's **Hymns**, followed by **cleaning of the campus** by teaching and non-teaching and students are the highlights of the day.
- **Books on life and philosophy of Gandhiji** are given to all staff members to commemorate the event.

Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Ba and Gandhi:

The nation celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the year 2019. The College celebrated a week from 30/09/2019 to 7/10/2019 as '**Gandhi Week**'. A number of programmes were organised during this period to propagate Gandhian Philosophy.

| Date | Programme |
|-------------|---|
| 30/09/2019 | The workshop titled ' Igniting the Young Minds '. This programme integrated the School Students to the exciting world of learning through various play-way and experiential methods of learning devised by the College teachers with an intention to help them choose the right career path. |
| 1/10/2019 | An Inter-collegiate Elocution Competition on the topic 'Principles of Bhagwad Gita'. Total 17 college students participated and benefitted from this program because sublimation of the base nature is possible by adopting Bhagwad Gita as dictionary of life. |
| 2/10/2019 | Gandhi Bhajan and Campus Cleaning. Gandhi Jayanti was organised through lighting the lamp, devotional songs and speeches. All staff members were felicitated with a book of Gandhiji titled 'All Men are Brothers' to re-establish their faith in the values laid down by the Father of the Nation. The event was followed by cleaning activities. The programme concluded by singing the National anthem |
| 3/10/2019 | Free Eye and Dental Check-up camp. Gandhian centre in association with Lions Club organized this camp for school and college students of the institution. Total 172 students benefitted from this camp. |
| 4/10/2019 | Unveiling of Bust of Adv. Shri. P.A. Menon Sir. In the memory of our honourable chairman sir, Junior college, BES school and our library were named as P.A. Menon Junior College, P.A. Menon English High School and P. A. Menon Knowledge Resource Center respectively. |
| 5/10/2019 | Guest Lecture by Dr Radhakrishnan Pillai, Author of 'Corporate Chanakya'. He mesmerised the audience with his speech about the relevance of Gandhian ideology in the current economy. He also explained Chanakya's seven secrets of leadership which he has mentioned in his famous book. |

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| | Guest Lecture on ‘Gandhiji’s Vision for India and its Reflections in Indian Constitution’ by Dr Anand Raut. The speaker quoted some examples from the Indian constitution which reflects Gandhiji’s concern for persons who are in the last row of the society. |
| 7/10/2019 | Intercollegiate Essay/Poster/PPT Competition on ‘Mahatma Gandhi- A Journalist and an Editor’. Total 31 students from various colleges participated in this event. |

One Day State Level Seminar:

Seminars on ‘**Young India looks at Gandhi**’ for Students and ‘**Gandhi’s Interpretation of Bhagwad Gita as a Dictionary of Life**’ for Teachers were organised in association with the **Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, New Delhi** on 21/01/2020. Total 21 students and 6 teachers from different colleges presented papers during the seminar.

Seminar on ‘**Promotion of Self-employment under Prime Minister Employment Generation Program**’ in association with **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Ministry of Micro and Medium Enterprises, Government of India** was organised on 20/2/2020. The seminar benefitted 114 participants.

Other Activities:

- Debate Competition on ‘**Is Gandhian Ideology/ Philosophy relevant for Rural Industrialization?**’ was organised in association with **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** on 17/02/2020. A total of 10 college students participated.
- Essay Competition on the topic ‘**Weapons of Gandhiji: Truth and Non-violence**’ was organised in association with **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** on 18/02/2020. A total of 24 school students actively participated in the competition.
- **Eye Check-up camp** was organized for the community people in collaboration with Navdrshti Seva Sansthan, Panvel on 22/9/2019 and a total of 102 people were benefitted.
- **Session on ‘Brahmavidya’**, an ancient system of Yoga and Philosophy, by Mrs Leela Nair was organised for staff members on 9/9/2019 in association with **Brahmavidya Sadhak Sangh**.
- Visit **Mani Bhavan**, a museum on the life history of Mahatma Gandhi was arranged in 2018 to make students experience Gandhiji.

- A 45 days ‘**Yoga and Meditation Course**’ with **Ambika Yog Kutir** was offered to students which benefitted 373 students.
- “**Kaushal**”, a skill development course was organized jointly with WDC from 13/10/2018 to 22/10/2018 to develop entrepreneurial skills and to promote self-reliance among girls. The course was completed by 24 candidates.
- **Guest lecture and film screening** on Gandhian values were organised on 5/10/2019 and 23/12/2019 respectively by NSS unit.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)/Collaborations with External Agencies

The Centre collaborated with a number of government and non-government agencies in order to enable the 'Centre of Gandhian Studies and Action' to achieve its objectives in a true sense. Some of the (MOUs)/Collaborations with the external agencies in organising various programmes are as under:

- MOU with Ambika Yog Kutir for Yoga and Meditation courses.
- Collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- Collaboration with Brahmavidya Sadhak Sangh.
- Collaboration with Lions Club.
- Collaboration with Navdrshti Seva Sansthan, Panvel

Evidence of Success:


- Active participation from all teachers and students in Debates, Competition, Seminars, Courses, Visits and Guest Lectures.
- 27 research papers on the Seminar Theme in the State Level Seminar.
- Feedbacks, Photographs, Letters, Attendance, Reports, etc. are other evidences.

Problems Encountered:

The Centre has been successfully operating since last 13 years and had been headed by Advocate P.A. Menonji, Founder Chairman, himself. Therefore, every activity of the Centre was meticulously planned and executed without any problem.

Resources Required:

MOUs with other institutions for organising various activities of the Centre.



Prin. (Mrs.) S. V. Phadnis
PRINCIPAL

