



## BEST PRACTICES OF THE INSTITUTION AY-2022-2023

### **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 beyond the campus through various programs.

**The Context:** 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 always tried to share this idea with extended Menon family and community around us.

#### **The Practices:**

Highlights of some of the activities:

#### **Celebration of National Festivals:**

The institution celebrates occasions like **Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Founder's Day etc.** as one family. During such celebrations we always make 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 self. These celebrations also inculcate the spirit of 'Unity in Diversity'

#### **Indian Armed Force- Our Pride:**

'The child is the future of a 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, "**Indian Armed Force- Our Pride**" is celebrated in our institution every year on July 26, since 2008 under the initiative by our ex- students "Menonite 99". College and School students actively participate in this program. This year the programme started with the welcome speech of the principal and an advice to the students to carefully hear the major & Kargil story to acquire knowledge. Col. Unnikrishnan started with very sensitive, heart touching and awaking stories of Kargil as July 26 is also celebrated nationwide as Kargil Vijay Diwas. He also shared some of his stories & then guided the students how to take up career in Army.





Bhandup Educational Society's  
**V. K. KRISHNA MENON COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ECONOMICS  
 AND SHARAD SHANKAR DIGHE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**

व्ही.के. कृष्ण मेनन वाणिज्य व अर्थशास्त्र महाविद्यालय आणि शरद शंकर दिघे विज्ञान महाविद्यालय

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• **Funfair and Science Exhibition:**

- A vibrant and festive atmosphere pervades the college during Funfair and Science Exhibition.
- All the students of the institution (School and college) eagerly look forward to these events and participate enthusiastically.
- Students from Primary School section is allowed to be assisted by their parents/guardians.
- Under the guidance and observation of the teachers, our college students are involved in management of these events which includes registration, allotment and arrangement of stalls, publicity among students for inviting participation, etc.
- Funfair helps our students to understand their entrepreneurial skills in all commercial aspects.
- The prize for the Best-stall motivates the students to perform better and to use their available resources in an optimum manner.
- Science Exhibition, where models and posters are made and displayed, helps the students to think out of the box from their regular academic studies and motivates them to conduct a sort of research for preparing their project to be displayed during exhibition.
- Considering the age and the class/standard in which the students are studying, the projects displayed during science exhibitions are worth appreciating.
- Members of Governing Body, staff members of the institution, parents, students and even general public visit the stalls installed during funfair and science exhibition which boost and motivates the participating students and also a feeling of oneness is strengthened.
- An exceptional feature of funfair is the participation of **NASEOH (National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped)** an NGO which work with *divyangjan* students. Items like clay pots, jute bags, cloth bags, jute files, confectionaries etc. prepared by *divyangjan* students are displayed and sold here. This inclusiveness plays a small part in encouraging unraveling their latent talents

**LAKSHH:**

Swami Vivekananda said “Concentration is the essence of all knowledge; nothing can be done without it”. When our ‘Concentration’ or ‘Lakshh’ is fixed and if we hold on to it with dedication, one day we will surely meet success. V. K Krishna Menon College of Commerce & Economics, Bhandup East has been organizing a grand Intercollegiate Cultural & Sports Fest since 2018-19 and has coined the name ' LAKSHH ' for the fest. The **LAKSHH INTERCOLLEGIATE FEST 2022-23** was the fourth year of the fest. This year the fest was something different. During the last three year the fest provided a platform to all participants





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of neighboring colleges to showcase their talent and our student volunteers gathered event managerial skill. This year in addition to the above benefits 494 students from V. K Krishna Menon College also participated in the various events. For the last three years we had a theme for the LAKSHH fest but in 2022-23 when we are free from all COVID 19 protocol, we expressed our new found freedom by keeping open ended theme to allow students to express themselves during the fest which was held from 2nd to 6th February, 2023. It was truly an amazing experience by all to watch youth showcasing their brilliant talents and abilities in 19 different cultural and sports events. There was a total participation by 1391 students from 78 different colleges.

### Extension activity by various departments

Various departments have conducted activity for the **neighboring school children** with the objective to **enlighten the young minds and help them to make right choice towards career, investments**. It was a joint endeavor by faculties and college students to expose the younger generation of the school to numerous avenues and aspects which they can explore during the course of their education journey. Some of the activities were “**Fun with Chemistry**” by Chemistry Department, Two Days Session on “**Digital World**” by Computer Science Department. All activities were highly appreciated by the school students.

**Centre of Gandhian studies and Action/WDC/DLLE/NSS units** every year organized several communities enrich programs like health camp, rallies etc. to inculcate feeling of care and compassion among the organizer and beneficiaries. Beside this some other programs organized for or in association with school students were:

- (a) To create awareness among the students about the use and misuse of online facilities a **seminar on “Cyber Security Awareness”** was organized for the school students on September 30, 2022. Total 188 school students have participated.
- (b) **Gandhi Handicraft Mela** was conducted on 28th January 2023 in college campus from 09.00 A.M. to 1 P.M. There were 11 stalls by school and college students with hand made products like woollen art, seed balls, paper bags, art and craft, paintings etc. In Mela not only participants were eager to sell their products but about 405 visitors were also seen visiting stalls and willing to purchase the products.
- (c) **One Day Workshop on Theater Making** was conducted on September 19, 2022 for 33 secondary school teachers from nearby schools so that they can go back to their schools and encourage and provide training to their students.
- (d) **DLLE Community Outreach Program**. DLLE in Collaboration with BCPT, an NGO trained 32 IOP students to teach in ward 80 municipal schools. College signed an MOU for one year with BCPT. Students taught primary school children by using videos and through different activities.





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Similarly, some of our DLLE IOP students also taught in Aabyasika of Seva Shayog, an NGO which has several projects across Mumbai.

**(e) Ceramic Making Certificate Course for school students**

**Outcome:**

**College:**

The College was happy to conduct such programs. The college has provided a platform to all participants of neighboring school and colleges to showcase their talent and has encouraged students to engage in extracurricular activities. The programme has boosted the energy, enthusiasm and confidence of the organizers. This kind of programs has also fueled the college's reputation.

**Students/Event Managers:**

This type of activities has expanded the horizons of a *student's* learning experience. The *activities* augmented a *student's* practical learning experience. It helped the event managers and participants to learn networking and soft skills. Four essential skills that were built by organizing program of these types are planning, teamwork, leadership, and multi-tasking. Such skills will help the students later in their career and future life.

**Teachers:**

Each year these programs bring the entire college community together through a series of engaging discussions. Teachers and students working together was a wonderful experience where the teachers got an opportunity to guide the students with their wisdom and students had the privilege to interact and learn from them. Teachers also learned a lot from the performance of the participants and this kept them updated with the current generation. Some teachers were the judges for the events. The valuable inputs given by the judges will help the participants to perform better in future. The various activities organized for school students was an interesting means of connecting our faculties with the young minds, who are our nation's future.

**Society:** Lakshh festival contributed to the enhancement of community cohesion, promoted unity among organizer, inculcating the qualities of tolerance and harmony towards our competitors. “**Indian Armed Force- Our Pride**” celebration every year helps keeping the patriotic fire burning in every mind. Cyber Security Awareness program has made our school students aware about cyber etiquettes, threats and security. The various activities organized for school students enlightened the young minds and helped them to gather knowledge beyond the text book.

**Evidence of Success:**

Feedback from participants is Excellent. The on-going nature of these activities speaks about





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its success. Exciting prizes and certificates are issued to successful students. Photographs, Attendance, Reports, etc. are other evidences.

### **Problems Encountered:**

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

### **Resources Required:**

Volunteers, Resource Person, College Infrastructure, internet, Computers

### **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 September 30, 2008.

#### **The Practices:**

With an intension to achieve its objectives, the Centre is organizing several activities every year. In the year 2022-2023 following activities are conducted:

**Gandhi Week**, spanning September 26 to October 7, 2022, was a diverse two-week celebration featuring activities such as book reviews, ethical education sessions, short film competitions, and cyber security awareness seminars. The week also included intercollegiate contests, a Gandhi Jayanthi celebration, peace march, health Check up, Khadi Diwas celebration, all dedicated to instilling Gandhian values and community awareness among students and participants.

**AHIMSA Week**, from January 23 to February 1, 2023, featured intercollegiate events promoting Gandhian principles and non-violence. Activities included Skit/Street Play, Essay/Elocution, Bhajan Singing, Parody/Rap Song, Poster, and Classical Dance competitions. A Student Seminar, Debate, Gandhi Hastshilp Mela, and a Personality Development Camp also enriched the program, fostering ethical growth and peace awareness. AHIMSA Week







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successfully engaged students in various activities that promoted Gandhian values and principles of non-violence.

**The International Seminar** on April 28, 2023, in a hybrid mode, explored the themes of "Gandhian Critique of Modern Times" and "The Significance of Gandhi in Contemporary Times." The event took place from 2:30 to 7:30 PM at the College Auditorium and featured speakers from various regions, including Mumbai, Jaipur, South Africa, and the USA. Speakers from diverse geographical backgrounds shared their insights, fostering a global perspective on Gandhi's critique of contemporary issues and his enduring significance. The event promoted cross-cultural dialogue and emphasized the enduring relevance of Gandhi's ideas in addressing contemporary challenges.

**The National Seminar** on April 29, 2023, addressed the themes of "Gandhi and his Contemporaries: How to Differ from Others Without Disrespect" and "The Gandhian Way of Ending a War: From Power to Peace." Held in the Seminar Room at 12:30 PM. The speakers, offered valuable insights and perspectives on these topics. Participants gained a deeper understanding of Gandhian principles and their relevance in contemporary contexts, fostering a culture of respectful dialogue.

**A field visit to Mani Bhavan** was organized jointly with NSS (National Service Scheme) to promote awareness of Gandhian ideology among students. This educational excursion aimed to sensitize students to the values and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, emphasizing the importance of non-violence and freedom in our history.

**A Yoga Course**, held from September 14 to October 1, 2022, was jointly organized with the Yoga and Health Club, and Ambika Yog Kutir. Participants had the opportunity to engage in yoga and holistic health practices, promoting physical and mental well-being. The collaborative effort aimed to foster a culture of wellness and mindfulness among participants.

Yoga Day was celebrated on 21.6.2022

**A Certificate Course** on Comprehensive Skill and Personality Development, with a focus on Advanced Communication Skills, was conducted from July 1, 2022, to December 23, 2022. This extensive program aimed to enhance participants' personal and professional skills.

Additionally, various **specialized courses** were offered:

Candle Making: July 13, 2022, to December 10, 2022.

Best out of Waste Project: July 16, 2022, to December 3, 2022.

Ceramic Painting (for school students): July 16, 2022, to January 21, 2023.

Bhagwat Gita in Sync with Modern Times (Batch 1): July 6, 2022, to September 29, 2022.

Bhagwat Gita in Sync with Modern Times (Batch 2): February 15, 2023 to April 10, 2023.

Soap Making: July 22, 2022, to November 26, 2022.

Beautician Course (Advanced): July 14, 2022, to December 12, 2022.

Computer Hardware and Software: August 22, 2022, to April 15, 2023.

Communication Skills (Advanced): August 8, 2022, to January 25, 2023, and August 24, 2022, to January 26, 2023.

Bakery and Confectionery: July 7, 2022, to December 3, 2022.





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### Outcome

The center was instituted with the thought of percolating the thoughts of Gandhi ji amongst the stakeholders within the college and in the community.

- Participation in Gandhi week and AHIMSA WEEK validates our goal achievement.
- With regular and consistent teaching of morals and values through the activities organized during Gandhi week and ahimsa week students are sensitized about the need of Gandhian philosophy.
- Yoga course and yoga day celebrations are helpful in improving mental and physical health
- The certificate courses aimed to provide valuable skills and knowledge to participants, contributing to their personal and professional development over the respective durations.
- The International and National Seminars gave Participants a deeper understanding of Gandhian principles and their relevance in contemporary contexts.

### Evidence of Success:

- Active participation from all teachers and students in the program.
- Photographs, Attendance etc. are other evidences.

### Problems Encountered:

Online attendance and surety of presence of student was the biggest challenge. Technical issues like internet/ WIFI problem were also faced by the committee members.

### Resources Required:

Resource Person, College Infrastructure, internet, Computers, online meet platforms

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

