



Lekshmipuram College of Arts and Science
Neyyoor-629802
(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli)
Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu

Best Practices 2017-18

Best Practice 1: Thought for the Day—a Kural

The Goal

Through the practice of ‘Thought for the Day-a Kural’, the institution aimed at inculcating moral and life values among the learners.

The Context

Students of different backgrounds, namely socially, culturally, economically, and from other deprived sections of society, are admitted to the institution for their undergraduate and postgraduate programme. Value education, or moral education, is part of their curriculum until their secondary education. A well-planned curriculum in the form of moral stories and similar activities helped them acquire ethics and moral principles. Today, these values are decaying day by day, and they behave immorally in the classroom and behave indifferently with elders, teachers, and parents. They also become addicted to drugs and become socially unwanted elements. Normally, adolescents' periods are full of stress and storms, and they are misled by the so-called social media. Imparting value education through the formal system may not yield the desired results, and it is the social responsibility of the institution to channel them in the right way as responsible citizens of the nation. Thus, the Staff Council has unanimously decided to implement the practice of ‘Thought for Day—a Kural’ since 2015.

The Practice

Normally, the regular classes of a day begin with the ‘*Tamilthaivazhtu*’ followed by the recitation of a verse (a kural) for two minutes from the holy book *Thirukural*, a sacred book in Tamil written by Ayyan Thiruvalluvar. *Thirukural* is a common book without mentioning any religion, caste, or creed, but it imparts ethics, morals, and life values. The work of recitation of *kural* is assigned to the final-year students, starts with Tamil major and continues to other major subjects as a routine practice through the sound system on campus. The student first recites a kural in its original form, as it is mentioned in the book, with the number of that kural, the part for references, and the meaning in Tamil with appropriate interpretations or illustrations. The moral values behind each *kural* reached the students; moreover, they are fresh in the morning, and the theme of the *kural* provokes their insights and leads them to self-introspection. The English version of the *kural* was also presented by the English major students on their turn.

Evidence of Success

The practice of beginning a working day with a *kural* reached the whole campus; the active involvement of students in the new practice itself is evidence of the success of the initiative. Respecting teachers and others on campus, exhibiting obedience, sincerity, punctuality, empathy, helping mentality, obeying rules and disciplines, and self-discipline among the students show success.

Problem Encountered

The allocation of students and their timely arrival in the principal office to present before the sound system may pose some problems, but it is not a serious one. Lack of apt interpretation of the *kural* by students may not reach the values behind the *kural*.

Notes

Proper guidance for the selection of a *kural* from 1330 helped to achieve the purpose.

Contact Details

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Best Practice 2: Enriching knowledge through Club Activities

Goal

To supplement classroom instruction through club activities and the involvement of students to enrich their knowledge and encourage participatory and self-directed learning

The Context

The traditional teaching-learning method followed in the higher education system is the lecture method, in which the learners are passive listeners. Activity methods and participatory learning are encouraged by the faculty members, mostly in the science discipline and other disciplines based on content. To make them more active and vibrant, teachers follow different student-centric approaches within the curriculum framework. To enrich their knowledge in emerging areas, involve students in the teaching-learning process, promote intellectual curiosity, and foster creativity, members of the faculty encourage them to participate in department club activities, namely the Tamil Literary Club, the English Literary Club, the subject-oriented Club, the Eco-Club, and similar. Through planned department club activities, the institution supplements classroom instruction, activity-oriented learning (projects), involvement, developing interest, creativity, and innovation.

The Practice

Every department has its own department club activities in such a way as to promote interest, involvement, participatory and self-directed learning, scientific curiosity, creativity, and innovation. The club activities of departments are carried out under different names, namely, subject club or

association. For uninterrupted club activities, association or club activity secretaries are selected department-wise, and they have representation as executive members of the student council. They function under the direction of the faculty in charge of the respective department. They conduct club or association activities, seminars, symposia, workshops, quiz competitions, invited talks, paper presentations by the students, and so on.

Evidence of Success

The quantum of work carried out by the respective department association or club activities itself shows the success practice. Department identified the gifted learners and they are further refined by assigning intellectual work namely writing assignments, article publications, news paper clipping service, poster presentation, story writing, short plays writing and so on. The students were become creative writers, researchers, scientist, entrepreneurs and teachers are the success of the initiative.

Problem Encountered

Time is a crucial factor in the semester system, and the department takes on its own efforts to organize club activities in addition to the routine work. Most of the department organizes club or association activities integrated with regular teaching and learning activities. Another factor is cost involved in organizing such activities. The department has to identify the fund in addition to the fund provided by the management. However, funds and time should not be factors that disrupt the association activities.

Notes

Documentation of all activities conducted by the club is not always possible due to the workload of the faculty. Along with the student representative, the documentation work is carried out.

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