

# GARGI COLLEGE

## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

### Best Practices (2019-20)

- Activities such as Appreciation Week, Happiness Day, Gratitude Day, De-stress Day, Children's Day etc) are organized in some departments for keeping the spirit of the department alive. During Appreciation Week, students and teachers write appreciation letters to anyone in the department. This could be anonymous or named. This promotes a habit to unconditionally appreciate those around us and spread positive energy around the department.
- Faculty members are available for counselling sessions for the students and help them in dealing with daily life stressors. This ensures an optimal environment for learning as well as for the holistic development of our students.
- Fair and transparent mechanism of feedback from students and faculty members and the feedback is available on the website for all the stake holders.
- Regular department meetings to discuss challenges that faculty and student body face.
- Faculty members respect each other which leads to a healthy work environment and sharing of responsibilities. This includes an effort at equalizing hierarchies among all the men faculty members
- Transparent functioning for all stakeholders (Assignment submission schedule is provided).
- Democratic and fair distribution of workload and timetable. Try to match paper with faculty expertise.
- Design and assign interesting projects and presentations related to course work.
- The B.El.Ed Association festivals have emphasized the collaborative over competitive structures and instead of competitions , student events are held that facilitate inclusion and creativity of all students by avoiding meritocracy.
- Students are encouraged to speak Sanskrit. Sanskrit speaking shivir as well as extra lectures are organized for this purpose.

#### BEST PRACTICE 1

##### Title of the Practice : SERVICE TO HUMANITY

##### Goal-

Understanding the true essence of Humanity as building a bond amongst the society with the help of sustainable values, regarding love in high esteem and kindness in all walks of life, we at Gargi continued to encourage 'Service to humanity' as a best practice . Service to humanity results in increased sense of oneness .This oneness spreads peace and harmony around us and makes our lives richer and fuller. Through this best practice of 'service to humanity' it was intended to expose students to experience the joy of 'giving' and help students to realize that they can make a difference in developing a community of care .

##### Practice-

Through the various activities organised in college, students are provided number of opportunities to work for the benefit of society as a whole without expecting to get anything in return. Our flagship events, like NSS Diwali mela, Swachh Bharat Drive, Peer Teaching Programmes are organized to create a holistic environment which benefits various non-profit organisations and helps to imbibe larger social responsibility. Blood donation camp was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 wherein the faculty, administration staff, and students volunteered for this noble cause. Out of 640 registrations for blood donation, 145 were medically eligible donors who happily donated the blood.

Food and clothes donation drives were organized where the volunteers, taking the collected supplies, went to the jhuggi under the Safdarjung Flyover and street hawkers who lived under the IIT Flyover and distributed them. When various donation drives are organized, volunteers are asked not only to contribute food, clothes and newspapers but are also given an opportunity to come along to distribute these essentials to the under-privileged. This helps them to see the positive and holistic impact of their contribution being created in the society. Some of such humane activities organized are as follows:

- Newspaper Donation Drive (2nd September 2019, 29th Feb-2nd March 2020) - Gargi hosted newspaper donation drives where the students were encouraged to donate bundles of newspapers. The proceeds were sent to Family of Disabled, a registered charitable trust that works for the service of the people with disabilities. These newspapers are used to make pencils and envelopes, the sales of which help the disabled people earn their livelihood. It also become a way to create awareness among people about the need for inclusiveness of differently-abled people in society.
- Students worked with different NGO's to help the underprivileged. Some of the NGO collaboration are as follows-
  - ❖ Visionaries - A movement aimed at connecting visually blind people with students to help them by undertaking various activities from recording for online books in Hindi and English to writing board exams and accompanying them to events.
  - ❖ Connecting Dreams Foundation- working towards the empowerment of youth and women in rural India through Connectivity and Entrepreneurship. Students worked on 2 projects namely Alfaaz and Kilkari. Project Alfaaz was initiated for the holistic development of students between the age group of 8-10 years by enhancing their writing, speaking and listening skills through an activity-based curriculum, and Project Kilkari that aims to achieve zero illiteracy in urban slums of Delhi.
  - ❖ The VIDYA Foundation - a charitable organisation that specialises in the education and empowerment of children and youth with minimum privileges.
  - ❖ Janta Adarsh Andh Vidyalaya (JAAV)- volunteers visit to teach and interact with the kids after their school hours from Monday to Saturday at Janta Adarsh Andh Vidyalaya (JAAV), school for visually challenged children, most of whom belong to underprivileged families.
  - ❖ Cheshire Home- a home for the destitute, where volunteers assist in making merchandise like candles which are sold at our annual NSS Mela Zistatva to help them raise funds for the NGO.

- ❖ Assist Asiad village society in helping underprivileged students who are currently enrolled in Government schools ,working in tandem with the teachers to identify individual needs of every student and teach them accordingly, giving more lessons as per their syllabus and helping them in their academics.
- ❖ Wishes And Blessings - volunteers work closely with the children in activities such as Origami and Kite making workshops to bring out the creative side of these children.
- Sadbhavana Day: (2020)- On the occasion of Sadbhavana Day, NSS Gargi organised a virtual gathering to reminisce and honour the ambassadors of goodwill in our daily lives who impact and influence us by going out of their ways to help others and serve as an epitome of compassion. It was followed by Sadbhavana Day pledge wherein everyone vowed to work towards promoting and instilling peace and harmony and do their part in making the world a better place.

### **Evidence of Success-**

**Year-wise reports and Activity based reports have been sent to NSS Delhi University .**  
[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=14gRQKBsoCo1iun17TL7biK2\\_5vzsMUdA](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=14gRQKBsoCo1iun17TL7biK2_5vzsMUdA)

The most obvious and effective evidence of success of best practice, namely ‘Service to Humanity’ is the feedback and the verbatim experience sharing of some of the volunteers who participated in this noble exercise of serving beyond self-

*“In a way, volunteering has not only taught me about the various challenges in the society but has also helped me in improving myself as a person every single day. I find a lot of happiness in doing my bit for society. I am indeed lucky to have chosen to volunteer.” -Richa Singh*

*“For my second semester, I had joined Project Kilkari' as the position of a teacher intern. The way children smile when they get appreciated, the way their eyes lit up every time they learn a new word is so healing for me to see and feel”. – Ayusshi*

*“I feel blessed to have been given a platform through which I have been able to serve the nature and mankind to my best and in return, it has inculcated a deep sense of ethics and integrity in me and has transformed my personality significantly”.- Swapnil*

*“Being a volunteer for one whole year taught me the greatest lessons of life. It helped me reflect on my capabilities and my potential”. - Itibaw Farooq*

*“Volunteering gave me an opportunity to slow down and think about what truly matters in life- compassion and gratitude. The smiles of the children at the NGOs and the volunteer’s enthusiasm were happy reminders of this”. - Radhika*

## **BEST PRACTICE 2**

### **Title of the Practice: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

#### **Goal :**

By encouraging undergraduate research the institution aims to benefit students as well as faculty mentors. Incorporating a research component along with a sound academic foundation enables students to develop independent critical thinking skills along with communication skills. The basic understanding of research process aims at providing valuable learning objectives as well as enhancing learning experience that has lasting influence as undergraduates prepare for professional service.

## Practice :

- Undergraduate students are being encouraged to participate in teachers' established research projects where the work done in the areas can lead to later independent research.
- Students are also encouraged to develop their own research projects with the aid of faculty member/s.
- Working outside the curriculum, many students do extra mural research, make their presentations in conferences and publish their studies in reputed journals and conferences regularly.
- Students are encouraged to get involved in departmental research seminars.
- As part of their coursework, students participate in field-trips, off-site activities and visits relating to their studies and collect small amounts of data themselves. Industrial, clinical and other educational trips for conducting research-based activities for students are organized under the guidance and supervision of faculty members.
- Multi-disciplinary approach is encouraged where departments collaborate to organize seminars with active involvement and participation of students. Also, National/International seminars are organized by various departments over the year.
- For exploring and investigating relevant research avenues interactions of students and faculty members with experts from academia and industry are organized.
- For enhancement of subject & research knowledge, classroom sessions are augmented by exercises, projects, case studies, role plays, presentations and brainstorming sessions. A range of inquiry, projects and team-based teaching approaches are undertaken that enable students to practice research skills.
- Efforts are made to build this research capacity within the college to raise the profile of undergraduate research by adhering to the well-established practice of path finder award for quality research projects in the 3 streams of humanities, science and commerce. This holds a prestigious position in our institute as it focuses on looking at aspects of problems which require different, unique and pathfinding approach. Each year a different theme is identified by the committee, which is of relevance to the prevailing times, a current burning issue or something related to the students and community around Gargi College. Each year students enthusiastically participate and compete for this award. Many teams work hard and come up with path breaking unique practical solutions, which they have actually done with their participants. The unique aspect of pathfinder research initiative is that the students engage in inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary work, wherein they make teams with students from other departments as well and work with teacher mentor from other departments. Hence pathfinder has been a special initiative of Gargi College to provide atmosphere for good empirical research.
- Humanities had their online presentations for the year 2019-2020. The theme for the research projects was Health and Youth. Five teams competed in the online presentations. All the presentations were done very well and successfully by the participating teams. The judges also asked questions from the participants after their presentations. The judges applauded the teams for their excellent work and effort in such difficult times of pandemic. The topics were quite different and covered a wide range of concepts such as teenage pregnancy, fad diet and health and culture on social

media, the physiological and psychological risks on young Indian women, transforming anxiety to creativity, fighting PCOS, health and Aesthetics and Health and disability. The judges came to the conclusion that the winning team of Pathfinder Humanities Award 2019-2020 is the research with the title, "Health and Disability - "A problematic equation?" done by Ms. Afnan Mohammad (B.A. prog. 2nd year) and Ms. Aastha Singh (B.A. prog. 2nd year) under the mentorship of Mr Sahin Shah of English Dept. This project focused on the real-life issues faced by the disabled population. Their report presentation was also excellent.

**Evidence of Success:**

- guided development of research papers
- involvement of students in research projects of teachers
- mentoring of students' paper presentations for various conferences
- Presentation of research articles as well as poster presentations by students and teachers in seminars and conferences
- the choice of themes for Pathfinder awards by students
- proficient academic work undertaken by students is selected for publication in college magazines



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