

# **Institutional Best Practices**

## **BEST PRACTICE 1**

### **Title of the Practice : Undergraduate Research**

**Goal:** The broad objective of this best practice is to encourage undergraduate research. Sub-goals towards achieving this overarching goal include encouraging and equipping students with skills to articulate clear research question, to identify and demonstrate appropriate research methodologies and know when to use them, use the library and other tools to search for existing body of research relevant to their study, work autonomously in an effective manner, setting and meeting deadlines and practice research ethics and responsible conduct in research.

**Practice-** As a manifestation of this vision, students are taught within a research-rich environment wherein all departments take humble steps to achieve the following:

1. 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, project and team-based teaching approaches are undertaken that enable students to practice research skills.
2. As part of their course work 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.
3. Interactions of students and faculty members with experts from academia and industry are organized.
4. Encourage students to get involved with departmental research seminars and promote undergraduate conferences and submissions to reputed journals. National/International Seminars are organized by various departments over the years.
5. Encourage students to investigate relevant research avenues and offer to mentor those wishing to write for academic publication and present papers or posters at conferences.
6. Consider co-authoring paper, poster or article with students.
7. Expose the students to research done by academic staff and involving students in current research projects undertaken by teachers.
8. Build this research capacity within the college to raise the profile of undergraduate research within by adhering to the well -established practice of Path finder award for quality research projects.

**Evidence of Success:** Guided development of research papers and increasing number of published articles in journals of repute; presentation of research articles by students and teachers in seminars and conferences; poster presentations; involvement of students in current research projects undertaken by teachers ; choice of themes for Pathfinder awards by students.

## **BEST PRACTICE II**

### **Title of the Practice - Service to Humanity**

Service is love in action. There is a wealth of scientific research that provides compelling data to support that ‘giving’ is a powerful pathway to personal growth, lasting happiness, improved health and even living longer lives. Selfless service purifies the inner consciousness and, brings about transformation of character. It helps us overcome our chief enemies such as egoism, pride, hatred, lust and envy. It enhances virtues such as humility, generosity, equanimity and compassion and increases overall life-satisfaction .

**Goals:** One of the best practices adopted by the college is ‘Service to Humanity’. Its main goal is to help students appreciate the beauty of inter-connected universe by developing in them an awareness and better understanding of the communities they live in; help students to realize they can make a difference in developing a community of care and to expose students to experience the joy of ‘giving’. This approach of reaching out entails going beyond text and books and bringing it closer to context and is highly instrumental in cultivating a sense of social responsibility in the students and experiencing the happiness gained out of civic and social responsibility.

**Practice:** Towards this humane goal, as part of the initiative spearheaded by NSS office-bearers under the mentoring of teachers and drawing student volunteers from all programmes and engaging non-academic staff, Gargi College adopted a nearby underdeveloped village “Shahpur Jat” in order to spread awareness, social literacy and education regarding various issues in the area. Initiatives included door to door campaign to each house to educate the families living there regarding cleanliness, basic sanitation, toilet hygiene etc. as well as educating the shopkeepers in the area regarding government provisions for waste disposal.

Two villages, namely Maidan Garhi village near Saket, Delhi and Chilla Saroda Bangar village located in Mayur Vihar Phase 1 were also adopted under Swachh Bharat Summer Internship. A cleaning cum waste segregation and collection drive was performed with the help of EDMC team. Nukkad Natak, Movie screening, School Level Rally, Swachhta Mela, plantation drives, ‘Say No to Plastic’ campaign, drawing competition, digging up compost pit and various such activities were undertaken to address the issues and concerns of the adopted villages.

Blood donation camp was organized wherein 126 units of blood was collected through the participation of 500 volunteers. They also donated blood in the camp organized by Delhi

University for Pulwama victims. "Children's Day" was celebrated with differently abled students from special schools 'Tamanna' and 'Muskaan' and "Friendship day" was celebrated with 60 people of 'Sandhya' and 'Aradhana' old age homes. Newspaper and clothes collection drives were organized throughout the year for the NGOs 'Family of Disabled' and Goonj. Clothes were also distributed in the slum under the Safdarjung airport flyover. Diwali Mela, "Zistatva" was organized where several NGOs sold their wares and raised funds for their cause.

Extending a helping hand to the less privileged children under 'Mission Buniyaad', NSS volunteers regularly went to teach students of government aided school at Madanpur Khadar. In addition to providing academic assistance, several other play activities, value education programmes, skill enhancement, cultural activities and festival celebrations were organized. NSS volunteers regularly render their loving services in several NGOs such as blind school, Cheshire Home, Udaan, Chetna, Youth for Service, Adhaarshila, Jamghat, cansupport and many others.

NSS Gargi in collaboration with Umeed NGO organized Sanitary Napkin donation Drive and Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Drive in Kirti Nagar slum area. The volunteers participated enthusiastically informing about personal and menstrual hygiene. The women interacted freely and were open to learn.

An awareness talk followed by a camp for Medical Tactile Examination (MTE) for detection of breast cancer by trained blind women was organized. Several cleanliness awareness programmes have been organized through 'Swachhta Pakhwada', 'Swachata hi Seva'. Tree plantation and weekly cleanliness drives were also undertaken.

Evidence of success- 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.

"participation in community service has brought out the best in me and given the satisfaction which impacted my personality".

"My journey of being a member of NSS made me believe in the idea of becoming the happiest person not by getting more but by giving more".

"I am more than myself; this one feeling was given to me while I was part of NSS. Choosing to embrace this world in all its form-the people, the earth, and the trees, what I have learned through NSS is to be able to realize your real essence".

"The immense happiness I have felt after receiving all the love and blessings by serving others cannot be compared with anything. I can say that I have become a better person than I was before".

"I developed the understanding about the philosophy behind "Love all, Serve all. Help ever, hurt never."

“Time can take NSS away from me but not myself away from NSS. I will continue working to bring

positive changes in the society at my level.”

“I feel really privileged to have joined the NGO ‘ Umeed’. They made me realize what social connectivity means”.

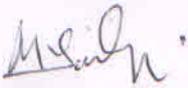
“I enrolled as a volunteer for music therapy for cancer patients at AIIMS. It gives me immense pleasure to realize that my small passion for singing could make my wish of helping the cancer patients come true. I felt so happy while I sang for them at the hospital.”

“Time can take NSS away from me but not myself away from NSS. I will continue working to bring

positive changes in the society at my level.”

“I feel really privileged to have joined the NGO ‘Umeed’. They made me realize what social connectivity means”.

“I enrolled as a volunteer for music therapy for cancer patients at AIIMS. It gives me immense pleasure to realize that my small passion for singing could make my wish of helping the cancer patients come true. I felt so happy while I sang for them at the hospital.”



**Ms. Sailaja Modem**  
Coordinator, IQAC



**Dr. Promila Kumar**  
Principal (Offg.)