

Best Practice

Title of the Practice- Marian Innovation Research & Technology Centre: Pratheeksha

Goal

The objective of the Centre is to enhance students' research aptitude through mentoring on various research projects leading to product development.

The Context

It promotes critical thinking and knowledge advancement, fosters innovations, enhances academic and career success, and leads to experiential learning among students.

Practice

Students of our college are encouraged to participate in various research-oriented projects and competitions leading to product development. MIRTC also mentors students from neighboring institutions for the research work of their academic projects.

Evidence of Success

Easy to carry Emergency Water Purification Cartridge, Master Bin- the waste management system, Biogenic Wound Healing Material, Herbal Mosquito Repellent developed here won State Level Yuva Mastermind Competition under the Malayala Manorama Daily. Identification and solution to pest attacks in mango plantation at Muthalamada, effective utilization of waste paper into useful products etc are other contributions, funded by Malayala manorama & IBS, Mattathil trade links and so on. In 2022-23, developed Smart Heal: Wound dressing material in collaboration with Business Innovation & Incubation Centre, M G University. The project was sanctioned for 3 lakhs for the research work and prototype development by KSUM, Kerala Startup Mission. Underwent trainings at

Chennai Theragen Biologics, Mag genome and TICEL Biopark under the mentoring of BIIC and KSUM. The project was under the scheme Research incubation programme (RINP) by Kerala startup mission. Product has reached the status of IPR filing and the process is ongoing.

Students from GEC Calicut and St. Thomas College Thrissur conducted research at our center. Additionally, two postgraduate students from our Microbiology department completed projects on standardizing methods for degrading sodium polyacrylate, an environmental concern in diapers.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Lack of sustainable funding to ensure its continuous operation.
- Limited integration of research components within the curricula, constraining the availability of students for engaging in research-related activities.

Title of the Practice- Marian Monsoon Fest

Goal

The primary objective of the fest is to raise economic resources for the welfare of students of St. Mary's College, Thrissur. Additionally, the program aims to instill entrepreneurship skills, cultivate leadership and teamwork qualities, and foster a compassionate attitude towards fellow beings among young Marians.

The Context

The college accommodates a significant number of students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom are in dire need of financial assistance. Despite the college's provision of scholarships and fee waivers, the demand for support continues to escalate. In light of this, the College's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) determined to organize a fundraising event. Following deliberations with stakeholders, it was ultimately decided to host the Marian Monsoon Fest, involving active participation from all stakeholders, including students, parents, alumnae, and staff members.

Practice

The Marian Monsoon Fest was launched in 2014 with a focus on student entrepreneurship and welfare. Held annually in July or August, in sync with the monsoon season, the entire college community actively participates in various capacities. The Marian Monsoon Fest features various zones, each offering unique attractions such as Fun, Food, Art, Textiles, Health, Education, and more, drawing participants and visitors alike. Students diligently prepare for the fest weeks in advance, showcasing their entrepreneurial talents through self-made ornaments, decorations, embroidery items, homemade delicacies, and more. Notably, student entrepreneurs also accept orders for stitching, embroidery, and other services, which they continue to fulfill throughout their academic tenure. Students seize the opportunity to showcase additional skills such as mehndi designing, nail art, hair styling, and face painting. The event's highlights include food stalls and vegetable sales operated

by students, staff, alumnae, and the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). The fest boasted vibrant and memorable experiences for all with its fun and game zones, fashion shows, horror houses, DJ rooms, film screenings, and more. In addition to the aforementioned attractions, the fest also featured a range of activities including college-level and intercollegiate competitions, medical camps, educational fairs, and personality development sessions, all aimed at fostering the festive spirit and engaging participants.

All proceeds from the fest are dedicated to student welfare through a strategic allocation plan. The accumulated interest from the funds generated each year through this fest provides a sustainable source of support for students and their families. This interest is distributed across four key areas: 30 percent for student scholarships, another 30 percent for medical assistance of either students or their parents, 20 percent to facilitate student participation in national and international sports events, and the remaining 20 percent to empower students excelling in both district and inter-district competitions.

Evidence of Success

The remarkable enthusiasm and robust engagement of the students stand as the most compelling indicators of success. With each passing year, the funds raised for student welfare continue to increase, effectively supporting students and their families. Moreover, the growing involvement of stakeholders, school students, and the wider community further underscores the success of the event.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The demand for financial support among students far exceeds the funds generated by this event. Introducing additional programs and activities, extending the duration of the event, and encouraging greater participation from stakeholders and the public could significantly boost fund generation. Moreover, if the expenses for organizing this event are covered by external sponsors or sponsoring agencies, it could lead to even greater profits for student welfare.