

# BEST PRACTICES

## 1. RENAISSANCE

### **Title of the Practice: RENAISSANCE: CENTRE FOR RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND STUDIES IN LITERATURE & ARTS**

(*Fostering creativity & innovation since 2003* -- Established in the Golden Jubilee Year of the College 2003-04).

- **Goal**

#### **Renaissance: The Formation**

During the Golden Jubilee year of the college, in 2003-04 the Centre was started as a vibrant gathering with a view *to stand together, to work together, and to grow together.*

#### **Vision**

To initiate a campus Renaissance from one corner of the country to other parts, starting from the college named after the saint-philosopher Sree Sankaracharya, the proponent of *Advaita*.

#### **Mission**

**“To creatively engage the young.”**To mould character, culture and competency with a view to foster creativity and innovation, along with the assimilation of the hallowed principles of family, tolerance, democracy, and nonviolence perpetuated by our great nation.

#### **Motto**

*Study & Serve* is the motto. The young are expected to grow with the society, serving the society.

- **The Context**

The coordinators use this platform to creatively engage the young, who expect to be guided, in areas that suit their individual tastes and interests, so that it will enhance and channel their energy through a positive and fruitful way enabling them to choose their own paths and help them be competent and capable in what they are good at. All along, the coordinators as mentors would be there beside the students. The kernel principles that were adopted included are:

- Moulding the future citizens in the values of character, culture, and competency
- Foster creativity and innovation
- Synthesise study and serving the society.
- Mutually motivate, and, above all, cultivate aesthetic sense blended with Humanism, Integrity, Reason, Nationalism, Resolve & Democracy

## **The Practice**

### **Funding**

Any enterprise needs financial support. The source of fund decides the character and quality of the enterprise. So far, the Centre has not received any funding from any individual or any agency nor has any plan to do so in future.

We the coordinators consider the Centre as a family -- Renaissance family -- which of course is an extension of the individual families. We spent not less than 5% of our monthly salary (in certain years it goes up to 10-12%) for the activities every year. We, the coordinators hold that we have been given education through public funding and we receive salary from the public exchequer, and hence, apart from the monthly tax contribution/deduction, we willingly contribute to a great cause related to students, the future citizens in the making.

### **Functioning**

#### ***Regular gathering:***

Whenever the students and the coordinators get free time, we assemble - under the shade of a tree, in the veranda, or in a class room. Through this, those who are part of it, benefit a lot.

#### ***Benefits:***

The students irrespective of their caste, religion, colour, gender, political affiliation, locality, or social status get a feeling of caring and sharing in the continuous presence and support of the coordinators as mentors.

However, the Centre does not interfere with the activities of the members in their domestic, social, political, and professional realms. We are proud that this family has members from different castes (including SC/ST, where 3 have acquired their MPhil. degrees. Out of them, two are currently doing PhD), different religions, different social statuses, different regions, both the genders and different political affiliations.

- The students/members get active, positive, and sympathetic peer group and the coordinators as listeners.
- They get a space to negotiate the issues that they confront (be it domestic, social, religious, philosophical, political, national, or international) regularly, and to express their views without fear.
- They themselves formulate convictions about various matters/issues related to life.
- The members do not go to unsafe hands or fall victims to evil influences that are lurking in different pockets of the society. They feel a sense of protection beside the coordinators during their crucial stages of growing up.

- The character formation gets influenced remarkably. They have the coordinators to go to during their perilous circumstances, moments if any.
- Informal brain storming take place that gives forth the various activities of the Centre.
- Even anger and despair get channelized to socially relevant thoughts or artistic expressions.

□ Mutually motivate, and, above all, cultivate aesthetic sense blended with humanism, Integrity, Reason, Nationalism, Resolve & Democracy.

## **ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY RENAISSANCE**

### **Academic Focus**

#### **MOOC**

The year 2019 -2020 became a historic one both for the Centre and the College, as the Centre passed another milestone – foraying into the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on the UGC Swayam Portal, the official Online Platform of the MHRD, India. The Centre collaborated with the Central University of Kerala. We thank Dr Joseph Koippally, the HoD of the Department of English, Central University of Kerala for the trust he reposed on us and to have made the Centre, part of the MOOC programme launched this year. Dr Sujeesh C K gave a session in the Course “Shakespeare Across Cultures” along with the other eminent English scholars from different parts of the country.

#### **Teaching Innovations**

In the academic scene of higher education in Kerala, Renaissance continues to foster quality benchmarks with its programmes, which include the innovative teaching learning platforms accessible to students across the State:

#### **Synergy: The Classroom Theatre (Two were done in other campuses)**

- The Classroom Theatre on Shakespeare's Hamlet In collaboration with Dept of English, UC College Aluva in October 2019.
- The Classroom Theatre on Albert Camus' Caligula At UC College, Aluva in March 2020.

#### **RenaissancePatasala for theories of Humanities (Two were done in our college)**

- 2 Day Theory Workshop exclusively for the Faculty of Humanities of Sree Sankara College Kalady in March 2020
- 2 Day State Level Workshop on ‘**Thinking theory**’ in January 2020.

**Keraleeyam:** Learning Programme for Kerala Art Forms 'Keraleeyam' held for Students of Fathima Matha College, Kollam in December 2019.

#### **Remembering GireeshKarnad (June 2019)**

Renowned playwright, actor and activist **Girish Karnad** passed away on June 10 at the age of 81 was recalled . His plays were a mix of myth and history, but they always spoke of the contemporary reality and there lay the importance of Girish Karnad, a multi-hyphenate cultural icon who championed the freedom of expression and inclusive idea of India through his life and work.

### **Reading Yajna (June, July & August 2019)**

Reading Yajna is an annual space of Renaissance where the members discuss and experience the joy of reading and introduce new books that they read. Reading Yajna aims to encourage reading skills of our dear students. It starts from June every year and continues till the 1<sup>st</sup> semester break. This year's reading yajna was initiated online due to the pandemic and Renaissance celebrated 100 days of reading yajna.

### **Compass (Monthly Colloquium of research presentations)**

Three departments actively participated in the colloquium - Dept. of Physics (June 2019) Dept. of History (July 2019) and Dept. of Economics (January 2020)

Renaissance sponsored One day Symposium “Modern trends in Chemical Sciences” by Department of Chemistry, January 2020

### **Cross Campus Classroom (C3)**

The Centre launched another innovative teaching learning programme this year – Cross Campus Classroom (C3), where select sessions from the syllabus by the teachers at our college are opened to the young, enthusiastic scholars from the other disciplines and other institutions.

1. C3 on “Arthur Miller’s the Crucible” by Dr Sujeesh C. K. (which was attended by 9 students from other campuses also)
2. C3 on “Players of the Immune System” By Dr S. Mohan (which was attended by around 30 students from other disciplines) were held during the year.

### **Societal Episode**

**Winning the Wall:** The art painting on walls series became a social event this year as Team Renaissance was invited by the Tahsildar of the Mini Civil Station at Perumbavoor to clean and beautify the compound wall of the Mini Civil Station. Renaissance conducted a 5 Day Winning the Wall event in which 180 M long part of the Compound Wall was cleaned and beautified with paintings by a team of twenty students led by the Coordinators, Prof. Sreedevi N. S., and Dr Aparna Nangiar. Defying the blistering heat of February and March, other teachers from the college, school students from the locality and some enthusiastic people from the locality including the auto drivers also took part in the event.

Winning the Wall at Experts International Educational Consultancy, Angamaly was also conducted in March 2020.

### **Social Commitment**

Philanthropic Initiatives: Kerala Flood 2019 Contributed dress materials & food stuff to the affected of Malappuram district.

### **Other Activities**

Renaissance Archeological Visit 2019 – 2020 Thanjavur. Members spent one whole day in Brahadeeswara, one of the largest Shivalingas in India. It is also famed for the quality of its sculpture, as well as being the location that commissioned the brass Nataraja – Shiva as the lord of dance, in 11th century. Really a memorable episode of experiencing art & architecture.

Nature Visit to Ezhattumugham in July 2019. ( Mazhanadatham) An yearly programme where the members took a walk in the rain – wailing with nature

## **2. SMART**

### **1. Title of the Practice**

SMART – Sree Sankara Management Aid for Research and Transformation

### **2. Goal**

To enhance research aptitude in the institution through presentations and publications, leading to self-actualization and academic enrichment of the college.

### **3. The context: -**

Achieving excellence in higher education is a vision of this institute. The changing education scenario mandates

- Stimulating academic environment for promotion of quality in teaching, learning and research
- Enhancing critical skills and to gain experience in the critical assessment of available scientific literature
- To interact with experts from the specific field.
- To update with latest information and new skills relevant to the respective disciplines
- Exploring new area of study
- Updation of research activities across the globe

### **4. The practice: -**

The SMART Scheme, aimed at stimulating the institution's academic environment, provides financial assistance to departments to organize conferences/Seminars/Webinars/Workshop/Symposium at International/National and State level on various subjects of academic relevance.

Funding: Financial support, to a maximum of 20,000 /- each is sanctioned to select ten departments of the college.

IQAC calls for proposal from all departments of the college for conducting Seminars/Webinars/ conferences. A selection committee scrutinises the proposals and ten departments are selected based on the following criterion: -

- Completeness of the proposal in every report
- Innovation/Relevance
- External funding
- Level of the programme

Based on the scrutiny, the selected departments are sent acceptance letters.

### Departments organized Seminars

Sl.No	Department	Topic	Date
1	Physics	Trends in Physical Sciences – TriPS	26.07.2019
2	Biosciences	Bioactive Compounds: Emerging Trends, and Challenges	13/12/2019
3	Zoology	Teaching Science amidst calamities	31/12/2019 – 1/1/2020
4	Commerce	Reorganization of Public Sector Banks: Boon or A Bane	6/1/2020 – 7/1/2020
5	B. Voc.	Broadcasting and Journalism Innovative Media Pedagogy and Effective Skill Training	23/1/2020
6	English	Autopathography: Disease	10/2/2020 –

		and Literary Imagination	11/2/2020	
5.	7	Sanskrit	Natyam	19/2/2020 – 20/2/2020
	8	History	Reconceptualising Women in Colonial Kerala: Issues and Paradigms	24/2/2020 – 25/2/2020
	9	Microbiology	Biospectrum 2020 Genomics	27/2/2020 – 28/2/2020

### **Evidence of success**

The SMART Scheme has resulted in enthusing the staff to engage in quality academic pursuits which could provide a chance to interact with experts from the specific fields. Discussing about the relevant topics of the particular subject, students tend to learn about the latest information and new skills related to the concerned subject.