

Best Practice I

Title of the practice: Constitution of Taskforce in Department of Resource Management and Design Application

Lady Irwin College takes pride in its commitment to build opportunities for students through extensive networking. Constitution of Task Force has been a best practice since 2007 as it focuses on adding rigor into the curriculum through annual review by National and International academic leaders, Government policy makers, Master NGO's and practitioners.

Goal

The primary objective of taskforce is to harmonize the academic input and the resulting output with a view to bring education and skill at par with the industry. It brings to the table a range of skills & ideas to constantly upgrade the curriculum in the light of new opportunities. The ideas are deliberated upon for highlighting the research thrusts for Masters and PhD research studies. Foreseeing potential hurdles in academic endeavours and recommending feasible solutions for the same also form an important goal.

The Context

The departments of the college offer specialization in diverse areas wherein each area focuses on developing community specific core competencies in the students. The task force members are from diverse professional backgrounds including academic, government, non-government, corporates, international organizations working in domains related to the five specializations within Home Science. The members have been actively involved with the college as advisors, mentors and guides for various innovative projects, masters' and doctoral researches, starting short term courses and other academic activities of the departments. The taskforce members have been successful in finding ways to synergize theoretical educational transactions with practical exposure. They have also been instrumental in establishing relationships to provide experiential and enriching learning experiences to our students through various internship programs and job placements. The focus of the practice lies in making the curriculum market-oriented and encouraging the Masters students to undertake need-based researches.

The Practice

An annual event of Department of Resource Management and Design Application, taskforce brings together eminent specialists from their respective fields. The exemplary nature of the

practice has been validated by its success over the past twelve years. The department reviews its teaching, research, extension, placement and internships with experts like Vice-Chancellors (or their nominee) of National and International academia, CEOs of industry, Master NGOs, Government officials supporting grants and initiatives and international academicians. The task force is chaired by International and National experts of eminence. The sessions focus on comprehensive discussions circling around review of curriculum in the light of new growth opportunities, challenges in the industry & specific skill requirement. The delegates also examine potential challenges in academic endeavours and recommend solutions for the same. Brainstorming for potential research areas requisite in the industry plays a key role in the development and advancement of the set of courses offered by the college.

They also provide students with opportunities through various internship programs and job placements or hold advanced interdisciplinary workshops.

The associates are frequently notified of the actions taken by the college on their dynamic and fruitful suggestions.

Evidence of success

The taskforce committee has played an instrumental role in developing a holistic framework for curriculum up gradation and community networking through the following activities:

Upgrading curriculum: The teaching and curriculum of the college has immensely benefitted with inputs from the task force committee. As mentioned before, the department has been actively involved in upgrading its curriculum and bringing more focus to the specialization areas. When the semester system mode was instituted in the Master's Program of the college, a paper on Project Management was introduced for first year post-graduate students. The paper is taught using software "Primavera" in order to inculcate specialized skills in the students. Furthermore, students have been given an understanding of other softwares like SPSS, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, Dialux to name a few in order to refine their technical skills. The department recently developed new curriculum for the post graduate students and revised the curriculum for under graduate students in light of the suggestions given during the taskforce meeting held in March 2019.

Collaborative researches: Numerous need based researches have been undertaken with the taskforce members, some of which are as follows:

- Assessment of Government Initiatives in Off-Grid Solar Applications for Commercial Establishments in selected States of India: A Stakeholders' Perspective (Ms. Meenal Jain, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Capacity Building of Youth for Energy Management (Ms. Gagan Preet Kaur, Supervisors: Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Relationship between emotional value and retention of products: A study with reference to chair and wedding attire (Ms. Hriiyphro Kayina, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Prof. Lalit Kumar Das)
- Assessment of Occupational Health and safety of construction workers (Ms. Maneesha Gaur, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Dr. A.K Singh)
- Assessment of Solar Government Initiatives in residential areas in India (Ms. Neha Makol, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital, Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Role of stakeholders in eco-efficient practices towards packaging materials used for fast moving consumer goods (Ms. Surbhi Chitkara, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Prof. Lalit Kumar Das)
- Assessment of Solar Skill Development Programs: A multi-stakeholder perspective (Ms. Chetna Singh, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital, Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)

One of the PhD scholars received the prestigious Anupa Sahi Siddhu award and gold medal for her exemplary research work in the field of solar energy.

Student counseling: The taskforce members are called for numerous lectures and seminars in the college to counsel the students and sensitize them on new developments in their respective fields.

Annual symposium on sustainability is organized in collaboration with School of Planning, Design and Construction, Michigan State University, USA. The symposium has been funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), Government of India since its inception in 2008. The focus is to address different aspects of environment and sustainability like green buildings, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Eminent speakers from the industry, government and academia have been on the panel for the past 11 years.

The department also organizes National Innovation Day each year to commemorate Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary. The event comprises various inter-college competitions and a symposium wherein eminent speakers from various backgrounds give presentations on the importance of innovation, the shortlisted candidates of the various competitions present their ideas and winners are honored and awarded.

Student internships and placements: Taskforce members have been instrumental in providing internships and job placements to the students. The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), IIT-Delhi, AECOM, Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Development Alternatives, Central Pollution Control Board, Indian pollution Control Association, Design Innovation Centre, Magic bricks are some of the organizations the students have interned at.

The students have also been placed at renowned organizations such as Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Agency, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, TERI, Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), Development Alternatives, Magic bricks to name a few.

Best Practice II

Title of the practice: Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Annual Lectures

Lady Irwin College understands the importance of building momentum for pertinent and contemporary issues. Towards this end, every Department takes pride in empowering the stakeholders through instituted annual lectures. Over the years, these events have witnessed various nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers. The practice is also strongly supported by alumnae of the college.

Goal:

These have been instituted since a long time with a vision to keep the faculty and the students updated with the latest knowledge in the field and develop and strengthen institutional networks for further research and exchange of expertise.

The Context:

The College, through its distinguished alumni, has set up lecture series in every department to mobilize alumni, academia, policy makers and ignite present students to etch their professional paths. It gives both under-graduate and post-graduate students an opportunity of organizational skill.

The instituted lectures are:

- Annual Lecture of the Department of Food & Nutrition – Kamla Puri Sabbharwal Memorial Lecture
- Annual Lecture of the Department of Resource Management & Design Application and Department of Development Communication & Extension– Raushni Deshpande Memorial Oration
- Annual Lecture of the Departments of Fabric & Apparel Science - Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Conference
- Biennial Alumni Lecture of the Departments of Human Development & Childhood Studies
- Annual Lecture of the Department of Education

Department of Food & Nutrition organizes **Kamla Puri Sabharwal Memorial Lecture** in memory of Ms. Kamla Puri Sabharwal who was a nutritionist by profession.

Eminent specialists like Dr. C. Gopalan, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Dr. Sheila Chander Vir, Prof. H. P. S. Sachdev, Dr. Aruna V. Kurpad are invited from the field of Nutrition to commemorate her memory and promote the cause of a healthy lifestyle. In 2019, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health & Nutrition), NITI Aayog, Government of India on “*POSHAN Abhiyaan: Toward a kuposhan mukt Bharat*”.

Departments of Development Communication and Extension and Resource Management and Design Application jointly host **The Raushni Deshpande Memorial Oration**, an annual lecture. This Oration was initiated in the academic year 1999-2000 in memory of Ms. Raushni Deshpande. She was also the former Director of Lady Irwin College. The Oration has been delivered by eminent speakers like Dr. Abdul Wahid Khan, Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Mary P. Andrews, Mr. Ashok B. Lall, who have been academicians, practitioners, activists and administrators engaged with the issues of sustainable development and social change.

Each year, the Department of Fabric and Apparel Science holds a seminar in the memory of Mrs. Sanjam Randhawa, the founder faculty member of the Department of Fabric and Apparel Science. The first **Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Conference** was held in the year 2002 on the theme, ‘Textile Traditions of India’. Since then, it has become an annual event of the department. The Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Seminar is a one day event for the students of the department. Every year, a theme related to various aspects of textiles is taken up and eminent resource persons in those areas are invited like Dr. M. L. Gulrajani, Dr. M.S. Parmar, Ms Iva Sareen, Mr. Amarjit Singh, Ms. Shveta Gujral. The theme of the seminars have been varied ranging from ‘natural dyes’ to ‘sizing in clothing’ to ‘clothing for specially challenged people’, ‘Technical textiles’, ‘Green Fashion’ and so on.

The Department of Human Development and Childhood Studies hosts **Biennial Alumni Lectures** in the Department. The main feature of this event is to initiate student faculty-alumnae academic interaction to reflect on the department’s role in contributing to human development with special cognizance to human rights.

The Department of Education holds an **Annual National Conference** on various contemporary issues related to education and learning. The conference witnesses eminent

speakers from the field of education and allied areas like Prof. Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Prof. Anupam Ahuja, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Dr. Usha Grover, Prof Namita Ranganathan.

Evidence of success

The Lectures have consistently been delivered by the eminent persons in their fields. In addition to these, national and international scholars have been hosted by the departments for exchange of ideas and methods of research. The interdisciplinary approach of the institution encourages the College community to participate in all lectures/seminars.