



Lady Irwin College takes pride in its commitment to build momentum for pertinent issues and create opportunities for students through its best practices.

Best Practice I

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

Since 2007, the formation of a Task Force has been a best practice because it focuses on adding rigour to the curriculum through an annual evaluation by National and International academic experts, government policymakers, master non-governmental organisations, and practitioners. This practice supports the College's commitment to build opportunities for students through extensive networking.

Goal

The taskforce's main goal is to synchronise academic input and output in order to bring education and skill levels up to industry standards. It brings a variety of talents and ideas to the table in order to constantly improve the curriculum in light of new prospects. The concepts are discussed in order to highlight the research directions for Masters and Ph.D. research projects. Anticipating probable roadblocks in academic endeavours and offering workable alternatives is an important goal. The course learning outcomes are evaluated at a higher level, and peer evaluation is also done.

The Context

The departments of the college specialise in a variety of fields, with each area focusing on fostering community-specific core abilities in students. Members of the task force come from diverse professional backgrounds including Academia, Government, Non-government organisations, Corporations, and International organisations, all of which are linked to the five areas of Home Science. The members have been active in the college as advisors, mentors and guides for creative initiatives, master's and doctorate researches, 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 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

Taskforce, an annual practice organised by the Department of Resource Management and Design Application, brings together notable experts from various fields. The practice's outstanding nature has been confirmed by its success over the past thirteen years. Experts such as Vice-Chancellors (or their nominees) of national and worldwide academics, CEOs of industry, Master NGOs, Government officials supporting grants and initiatives, and International academicians examine the department's teaching, research, extension, placement and internships. The work force is led by eminent International and National specialists. The seminars centre on in-depth discussions on curriculum evaluation in light of new development prospects, market obstacles and specialised skill requirements. The delegates also look at potential obstacles in academic endeavours and make recommendations for how to overcome them. 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.

Post-graduate students are also given opportunities through internships and employment placements as well as advanced multidisciplinary seminars. Postgraduate students have their research poster presentations as a concurrent activity during the taskforce meetings. The associates are frequently notified of the actions taken by the college on their dynamic and fruitful suggestions. *The 14th Annual Task Force Meet of the department was held in March 2021.*

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 taskforce committee has played an important role in building a holistic framework for curriculum upgradation and community networking. The task force committee's contributions have greatly benefitted the college's teaching and curriculum. As previously stated, the department has been actively involved in updating its curriculum and putting a greater emphasis on specialised areas. When the college's Master's Program switched to a semester format, a paper on project management was added for first-year post-graduate students. To instill specialised skill in the students, the paper is taught using the software "Primavera." Students have also been taught about other software programmes such as SPSS, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, and Dialux, to mention a few. The department developed new LOCF curriculum for the post graduate students and for the 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. Hriiyiphro 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 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, MagicBricks are some of the organizations the students have interned at. During the pandemic in 2020, the students were also given the opportunity to undertake online internships at renowned organisations such as Wordmeister Editorial Services, SR Asia, Sehgal Foundation, RTA Design Pvt. Ltd, Chapter 2 Events and Centre for Science & Environment.

Students have also been placed in prestigious organisations such as the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Skill Development Agency, the Central Pollution Control Board, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, TERI, the Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), Development Alternatives, and MagicBricks, to name a few.

Best Practice II

Title of the practice: Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Lectures & Sponsored Symposiums

Lady Irwin College recognises the importance of gaining traction for significant contemporary issues. Departments takes pride in empowering the stakeholders through instituted annual lectures and sponsored symposiums. Various nationally and globally acclaimed speakers have spoken at these events over the years. The practice is also strongly supported by alumnae of the college.

Goal:

These lectures have been in place for a long time with the goal of keeping faculty and students up to date on the newest research and expertise in the field, as well as developing and strengthening institutional networks for future research and expertise exchange.

The Context:

The College has organised lecture series and sponsored symposiums to bring together alumni, faculty, policymakers, and current students to chart their professional futures. It provides an opportunity for both undergraduate and graduate students to develop organisational skills.

The instituted lectures and sponsored symposiums 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 symposium** on *Sustainability* organized by Department of Resource Management & Design Application
- **Annual Lecture** of Department of Fabric & Apparel Science - *Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Conference*
- **Biennial Alumni Lecture** of Department of Human Development & Childhood Studies
- **Annual Lecture** of Department of Education- *National Conference on Learning*

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. Vinod Paul (Niti Aayog, AIIMS), Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Dr. Sheila Chander Vir, Prof. H. P. S. Sachdev, Dr. Aruna V. Kurpad were invited from the field of Nutrition to commemorate her memory and promote the cause of a healthy lifestyle. In November 2020, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Usha Ramakrishnan, Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA on *“Importance of Maternal Nutrition for Child Health & Development”*.

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 (MSU, USA), Mr. Ashok B. Lall, who have been academicians, practitioners, activists and administrators engaged with the issues of sustainable development and social change. The Departments organized online oration on “ICTs for Rural Learning” in April 2021. Dr. Rico Lie from Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands was the guest speaker for the event.

Annual symposium on Sustainability is organized by Department of Resource Management & Design Application 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 13 years.

The Department convened its 14th Annual Symposium on “Capacity Building for Clean Energy” in March 2021 in online mode. The symposium received funding support from Indian Oil Corporation Limited and included eminent speakers from the industry.

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. In April 2021, the lecture was organized in online mode on '*Garment Production: Moving towards Digitilisation*' with Dr. Deepti Gupta, Professor, Department of Textile & Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi as the guest speaker.

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. To commemorate 50 years of the department, a round table discussion was held on 10th February, 2020 with the Alumnae of the 70's as the panellists whose inspiring stories helped carve the path ahead for the Department.

The Department of Education holds **International Conference on Learning** annually on various contemporary issues related to education with a vision to view 'Learning' from the perspectives of different stakeholders and identifying elements for success in 'Learning'. The conference witnesses eminent speakers from the field of education and allied areas. In December 2020, the Department organised the conference virtually on the theme " Tracing pedagogical trajectory: Emerging educational policies and the new normal". The sub-themes for the event were Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Conceptualizing 21st century skills among learners, Teacher Empowerment/Professional Development of Teachers, Guidance, Counselling and Mental health, Technology and Education, Assessment, Evaluation and Learning outcomes, National Policy on Education-2020, Online Teaching and Impact on Critical Pedagogy, Reflective Practices in Digital Pedagogy, Covid-19 Pandemic and its Impact on Mental Health of CWSNs, Disability Friendly Technologies for Inclusive Education: The New Normal and Vocational Transition, Career Paths and Employment Skills.

Evidence of success

The Lectures have consistently been delivered by illustrious experts in their respective fields. In addition, the departments have hosted national and international scholars for exchange of ideas and research methodologies. The College's multidisciplinary strategy encourages faculty, undergraduate and post-graduate students, and PhD scholars to participate in all lectures and seminars.