

Best Practice I

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

Lady Irwin College is committed 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 and 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 Ph.D. research studies. Foreseeing potential hurdles in academic endeavours and recommending feasible solutions for the same form an important goal. Learning outcomes of the courses are taken at a higher level and peer evaluation is also done.

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 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 thirteen 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 post graduate students with opportunities through various internship programs and job placements and hold advanced interdisciplinary workshops. During the taskforce meets, post graduate students also have their research poster presentations as a parallel activity.

The associates are frequently notified of the actions taken by the college on their dynamic and fruitful suggestions. *The 13th Annual Task Force Meet of the department was held in February' 2020.*

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 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.

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, MagicBricks to name a few.

Best Practice II

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

Lady Irwin College understands the importance of building momentum for significant contemporary issues. Towards this end, Departments takes pride in empowering the stakeholders through instituted annual lectures and sponsored symposiums. 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 has set up lecture series and sponsored symposiums 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 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 2019, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Hemalatha R, Director, ICMR- National Institute of Nutrition, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Hyderabad on “*The burden of child and maternal malnutrition- The NNM Targets*”.

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.

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 13th Annual Symposium on “Harnessing green energy for the future” in February’ 2020 at Lady Irwin College. The symposium received funding support from Indian Oil Corporation Limited and included eminent speakers from the industry.

First South Asian Conference on Sustainability is a recent initiative organised by Prem Jain Memorial Trust and Michigan State University, USA along with other core partners

School of Planning & Architecture New Delhi, Lady Irwin College-University of Delhi, IDH-the Sustainable Trade Initiative and Ella Pad Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh.. The conference was held on 3rd March, 2020 at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, New Delhi. The main objective of the conference was to address the following concerns of Textile and Apparel Industry:

- Sustainable Facilities
- Workers' Well-being
- Sustainable Products and Resources

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. 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 **National Conference on Learning** annually on various contemporary issues related to education and hold 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 like Prof. Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Prof. Anupam Ahuja, Dr. Subodh Kumar, Dr. Usha Grover and Prof Namita Ranganathan.

A two-day conference was organized on December 6 and 7, 2019 on the theme “Teachers: Effecting Change for a Sustainable Future” sponsored by National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), a statutory body of the Government of India. The conference witnessed eminent speakers such as Professor Shoba Sinha, Head & Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Delhi, Professor Saroj Sharma, USE, GGSIU, New Delhi, Professor R Govinda, Former Vice Chancellor, NUEPA, New Delhi, Professor Namita Ranganathan Faculty of Education, D.U, Professor Paranati Panda, Department of School and Non – Formal Education, NIEPA, Professor Anupam Ahuja, DEGSN, NCERT, Professor Alka Behari, Faculty of Education, D.U and Professor Bharti Baveja, Ambedkar University, New Delhi. It deliberated on the learnings from the journey of Teacher education, the changing trends for the future and how teachers can continue to make a difference and ignite a spark in the generations to come.

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 faculty, UG and PG students and PhD scholars of the University to participate in all lectures/seminars.