

LADY IRWIN COLLEGE

BEST PRACTICES



Lady Irwin College takes pride in its commitment to leverage its best practices to advance pertinent causes and widen opportunities for students. Some of them are as follows:

International Linkages and Study Abroad Programmes since 1952 – Lady Irwin College started study abroad programme in the year 1952 with Sarah Lawrence and Briarcliff College U.S.A. Subsequently, in the year 1955, Exchange programme was instituted with the University of Tennessee, U.S.A. for faculty. The study abroad programme with the Michigan State University, College of Human Ecology, USA was initiated in the year 1998. Later on, in 2007, an MoU was signed with the School of Planning, Design and Construction, Michigan State University, USA. Another MOU was signed with Syracuse University, New York in 2016. MoU was signed with University of Portland in the year 2017. In 2018, twinning programme with Humboldt State University, USA was started.

Extension and Outreach Activities - Extension and outreach have been among Lady Irwin College's most lauded best practices. Reaching out to marginalised populations is a key component of the college's educational philosophy, with special focus on research and extension. The institution firmly believes in applying classroom training and instruction to the outside community to improve their quality of life, which has been accomplished by

conducting numerous extension and outreach activities at both the UG and PG level in the form of technical assistance, applied research, non-credit as well as credit-based instruction, distance learning, and technology transfer.

Knowledge sharing through Technical Series - Lady Irwin College has a unique practice of documenting M.Sc, PhD and faculty research in focused areas. The College has been performing ground-breaking research in the field of home science. These Technical series have been created to highlight the diversity of research being carried out at Lady Irwin College and have enabled the sharing of research methodologies and trends with interested professionals, policy makers and corporates.

Experiential learning through Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre (RAK) - One of the College's best practice is the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre (RAK), which has developed into a model laboratory nursery centre and provides a rich academic and programmatic context for graduate students as well as young children, their parents, and early childhood education professionals. It serves as a research foundation where students can acquire technique and develop culturally competent understanding of early childhood development. A crucial component of the programme is inclusion. The Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre is the sole ECCE facility at Delhi University that provides students with experiential learning opportunities.

Constitution of Task Force - Constitution of task force has been a best practice as it interjects rigor into the curriculum by fostering creative thinking and problem-solving skills. The success of the practice has been validated by its success over the past 15 years. Relationships are built through opportunities for communication and networking. Each Department reviews its teaching, research, extension, placement and internships with experts like Vice-Chancellor (or their nominee) of neighboring universities, 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.

Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Lectures & Sponsored Symposiums - Lady Irwin College understands the importance of building momentum for pertinent and contemporary issues. To achieve this, every Department takes pride in empowering the stakeholders through established 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.

Data Management – Faculty and employees of academic institutions use assistance of softwares for streamlining their processes and enhancing organizational administrative work. To this end, Lady Irwin College has installed comprehensive data management systems with simple user interfaces to record data for student attendance and internal assessments. These systems facilitate storage, processing and compilation of relevant data to ensure efficient running of the Institution.



**International Linkages & Study
Abroad Programs:**

- Michigan State University, USA since 1998 till date
- Twinning Programme with Humboldt State University, USA, 2018
- Portland University, USA, 2017
- Syracuse University, USA, 2016
- UNICEF-C4D
- University of Tennessee, (1955)
- Sarah Lawrence and Briarcliff College USA, (1952)

Best Practices:

- Community Outreach & Extension
- National Centres with Ministries housed at Lady Irwin
- Research & Innovation
- Policy Guidance
- Internal Quality Assurance
- RAK Child Study Centre
- Task Force Constitution
- Gender & Environmental Sensitization

Lady Irwin College

I

Title of the practice

Constitution of Taskforce in Department of Resource Management and Design

Application

Lady Irwin College has an established taskforce to focus on giving the curriculum more rigour through an annual evaluation by national and international academic experts, decision-makers in government policy, leading non-governmental organisations and practitioners. The College's dedication to creating possibilities for students through broad networking is supported by this practice.

Goal

The primary objective of the taskforce is to coordinate academic input and output in order to bring education and skill levels at par with the industry. A variety of concepts and competencies are brought to the table in order to continuously enhance the curriculum in light of fresh opportunities. To emphasise the research directions for Masters and Ph.D. research projects, the topics are presented during the taskforce. A key objective is to foresee potential obstacles in academic endeavours and provide effective solutions. A higher level evaluation of the course learning outcomes is also conducted, along with peer review.

The Context

Each department has a specific area of expertise and focuses on developing in students the fundamental skills required by that community. The five domains of home science are represented by members of the task force who come from a variety of professional backgrounds including academia, Government, Non-government organisations, Corporations, and International organisations. The members have contributed to the college as mentors, advisors and guides for master's and doctoral theses, short-term courses and other academic endeavours. They have been successful in synergizing theoretical educational activities with practical exposure. They have also been crucial in developing industry connections that allow students to participate in a variety of internship programmes and gain employment. Making the curriculum market-oriented and encouraging master's students to do need-based researches are the main goals of the practice.

The Practice

Department of Resource Management and Design Application organises the Taskforce annually to gather eminent authorities from diverse domains together. The success of the practice over the past fourteen years is evidence of its exceptional standard. The department's teaching, research, extension, placement and internships are evaluated by experts including Vice-Chancellors (or their nominees) of national and international academic institutions, CEOs of enterprises, Master NGOs, Government officials supporting grants and initiatives and International academicians. Eminent International and National specialists are in charge of the taskforce. The seminars' main focus is on in-depth discussions on curriculum assessment in light of new development prospects, market challenges, and specialised skill requirements. The delegates also consider potential roadblocks to academic success and offer suggestions for overcoming these. The growth and improvement of the courses the college offers is greatly aided by brainstorming prospective research areas required in the industry.

In addition to advanced multidisciplinary lectures, post-graduate students are also given opportunities through internships and job placements. During the taskforce sessions, these students present their research findings in the form of research posters. The college keeps the associates regularly informed of the activities it has taken in response to their insightful and useful ideas. ***The following illustrious dignitaries were a part of the 15th Annual Task Force Meet of the department held in 2022:***

Chairpersons

- Prof. Matt Syal, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Planning Design & Construction, Michigan State University, USA
- Prof. Lalit Das, Professor Emeritus, School of Creativity

Members

- Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Advisor, MNRE
- Mr. Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, TERI & CEO, GRIHA Council
- Dr. Praveen Saxena, CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs
- Mr. Raghav Aggarwal, Independent Consultant in Solar Energy for Agriculture
- Mr. George Varughese, Independent Strategic Advisor
- Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, Preident, M3M Foundation
- Dr. Sita Syal, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan

- Prof. Bibhu Biswal, Professor, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi
- Ms. Arpita Ranjan, H.O.D. Interior Design Department, IVS School of Design
- Mr. Parag Anand, Associate Professor, School of Planning and Architecture
- Mr. Akhilesh Leekha, CEO, Divine Innovation
- Ms. Heena K. Bijli, Professor, School of Continuing Education, at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- Ms. Jayashree Kurup, Director, Real Estate & Cities at Wordmeister Editorial Services LLP
- Dr. Bindoo Ranjan, NID, Delhi

Evidence of success

Through the following initiatives, the taskforce committee has significantly contributed to the creation of a comprehensive framework for curricular improvement and community networking:

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 efforts have significantly improved the teaching and curriculum at the college. The department has been actively involved in revising its curriculum and placing a stronger emphasis on specialised areas, as was previously mentioned. For first-year post-graduate students, a paper on project management was added when the college's master's programme changed to a semester structure. The "Primavera" programme is used to teach the paper in order to implant specialised knowledge in the students. Additionally, other software programmes like SPSS, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, Dialux and Googlesketchup, to name a few, have been taught to the students. In light of the recommendations made regularly at the taskforce meetings, the department has created new curricula for postgraduate and undergraduate students as per NEP 2020.

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)

Dr. Meenal Jain 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: Members of the taskforce have been crucial in placing students in various internships and jobs. 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), Amazon, Asian paints, Development Alternatives, Green prescription, MagicBricks, The BEEHIVE INDIA, AECOM to name a few.

Lady Irwin College

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 Sabharwal 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*

The Practice

Department of Food & Nutrition organizes **Kamla Puri Sabharwal Memorial Lecture** in memory of Ms. Kamla Puri Sabharwal who was a nutritionist by profession. Over the past years, eminent specialists such as 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 have been invited from the field of Nutrition to commemorate her memory and promote the cause of a healthy lifestyle. In November 2021, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Meera Shekar, the Global Lead for nutrition and Lead HNP Specialist with World Bank on ‘Addressing all forms of Malnutrition: Lessons from global experience’.

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 emphasis is on addressing various environmental and sustainability issues, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and green buildings. The panel has featured eminent speakers from business, politics, and academia for the past 14 years.

The Department convened its 15th Annual Symposium on “Green Energy & Sustainable Habitat: Policies & Prospects” in June 2022 in online mode. The symposium received support from Energy Efficiency Services 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. Each year, a theme related to various aspects of textiles is taken up and distinguished resource persons 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 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 November 2021, the Department organized the National Conference on Learning (NCL 2021) through virtual mode. The theme of the conference was Gender and Education. The conference explored gender related issues and considers a broader vision of how investing in education can promote gender equality, gender equity as well as sensitivity and empathy. A tribute was given to Ms. Kamla Bhasin, an Indian feminist, activist, poet, author, and social scientist.

Evidence of success

These lectures have been consistently delivered by eminent experts in their respective professions. The departments have also welcomed national and international scholars to facilitate an interchange of thoughts and research techniques. The multidisciplinary approach used by the college encourages teachers, graduate and undergraduate students and PhD candidates to attend all lectures and seminars.