

Government College Kasaragod

Two Best Practices of the Institution (2021-2022)

(As per the NAAC Format for Presentation of Best Practices)

Practice I

- **Title of the Practice:** Advancing Communities through Compassion, Empowerment, and Social Services (ACCESS)
- **Duration (year of inception-year of discontinuation):** 2017 - Present
- **Objectives of the Practice**
 - Utilize academic and research knowledge for the betterment of society.
 - Implement its multidisciplinary know-how for the benefit of society at large.
 - Empower its faculty to instil this experience into the curriculum and research practices and empower the students about socially beneficial realities.
- **The Context**

Kasaragod is one of the least developed districts in Kerala. The district has only a few institutions for higher education, which makes it difficult for the common people to access the benefits of education. In this context, as one of the leading colleges in the district, it is our duty to spread our knowledge for the direct benefit of society. This will generate tangible benefits for society and visibility for the college.

The college can spread knowledge by offering quality education at an affordable cost, conducting outreach programs in rural areas, and providing scholarships to deserving students. The college can also collaborate with other organizations to promote education and development in the district.

- **The Practice**

Our departments of Botany, Zoology, Economics, Physics, Arabic, Kannada, and Geology are actively engaged in societal betterment through interdisciplinary academic research and initiatives. For example, they are working to enhance our natural

environment through afforestation projects, bird and butterfly surveys, and resource management.

The physics, zoology, and computer science departments have used their computational and data science knowledge for the public by deploying a COVID-19 Dashboard for Kerala, working with KSDMA for the pandemic prediction and forecasting, and management of the disease in its peak waves. Moreover, the work was highlighted and featured by national and international media including the Nature Journal, British Medical Journal, The Economic Times, The Times of India, and regional media. The work published several research articles and book chapters and was featured in a few podcasts.

The Geology department is instrumental in groundwater surveys, soil piping, and landslide management efforts. Faculty from the department also act as experts in state and district-level bodies in the field of land mining and geology, groundwater usage, and environmental protection.

The Department of Economics hosts a Social Science Research Interactive Forum, which promotes discourse among faculty, students, policymakers, and the public. It serves as a knowledge-sharing forum, encourages the development of research proposals by students, and provides guidance for various projects. These initiatives reflect our commitment to using academic knowledge to improve society and contribute to institutional social responsibility (ISR).

- **Evidence of Success**

The college's success is rooted in its campus, which is home to a well-maintained garden with a variety of valuable plants and trees. The college has 32 acres of land, a portion of which is preserved as a unique biodiversity park. The college also has a garden for medicinal plants, a bamboo forest, and a RET garden that preserves a number of endangered plant species. The Botany department supports public afforestation efforts through the Miyawaki method of planting, which has helped to create a number of forests. Faculty from the Botany department have identified a number of rare plant species. The Zoology department maintains a butterfly park and conducts bird and butterfly surveys every year in the district. Our faculty and students were part of the first-ever bird atlas for Kerala.

One of the highlights of this year's activities was the award of the PLEASE Project, a multidisciplinary project submitted jointly by the departments of Physics, Geology, and Economics. This award is worth Rs. 1.73 crores and is a result of the outstanding work undertaken by the faculty members for data analysis and prediction during the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. The work involves collaboration in the form of a citizen

science collective named CODD-K, and the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. The project has 5 internal and ten external collaborators, including five from abroad. Three research papers and the publication of an Open Data Dashboard resulted from the work. The project establishes an Open Data Lab in the college and offers internships to five full-time students.

In conclusion, the college is a thriving institution with a strong focus on research and innovation. Its commitment to social responsibility is evident in its many initiatives, which are designed to improve the lives of its students, faculty, and the community at large.

- **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Increased funding and resources for off-campus activities are needed. Another issue is the limited campus time available for staff and students. A curricular change with more field trips and activities could improve the situation.

Here are some additional details about the issues and how a curricular change could help:

- Limited campus time: Staff and students often have limited time to participate in off-campus activities due to their busy schedules. A curricular change that includes more field trips and activities could help to make these activities more accessible to everyone.
- Funding and resources: Off-campus activities can be expensive, so increased funding and resources would be needed to make them more feasible. This funding could be used to cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and activities.
- A curricular change that includes more field trips and activities could also help to improve student learning and engagement. Field trips can provide students with hands-on experiences that they would not be able to get in the classroom. Activities can help students to develop important skills such as teamwork and problem-solving.
- Overall, a curricular change that includes more field trips and activities could have a positive impact on students' learning and engagement.

Notes (Optional)

The practice can be improved by working with local organizations and other government and non-governmental agencies.

Practice II

- 1. Title of the Practice: Stewardship, Tradition, Empowerment, and Promoting Culture (STEPS)**
- 2. Duration (year of inception-year of discontinuation): 2020 - Present**
- 3. Objectives of the Practice**

The objectives of this best practice are to preserve traditional knowledge and culture, preserve historic and cultural relics and art forms of the land, and act as a bridge from the past to the future with the help of modern technology and academic knowledge. The underlying principles or concepts of this practice are that traditional knowledge and culture are important for the identity and well-being of communities, that historic and cultural relics and art forms are important for understanding the past, and that modern technology and academic knowledge can be used to preserve and promote traditional knowledge and culture.

4. The Context

Kasaragod is known as the Sapthabhasha Sangama Bhoomi, or the Land of Seven Languages, due to its diverse linguistic landscape. It is also home to a variety of social and cultural minorities who have migrated from different parts of the country. As a result, the college is dedicated to contributing to the socio-cultural fabric of Kasaragod. This includes preserving and promoting historical and cultural knowledge and value systems.

5. The Practice

The college provides special quotas for linguistic minorities in UG programs. Students can choose to study Arabic, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit, Malayalam, and English. Faculty from Kannada and other language departments conduct research and practice in regional languages such as Thulu, Byari, Marathi, Urdu, Kannada, and Malayalam. Faculty from the Kannada department helped develop the modern script for Thulu. Seminars, workshops, and special events are organized to promote regional languages and awareness of traditional knowledge systems. Field trips are conducted to various parts of the region to explore historic monuments and inscriptions.

The Kannada Department has a Yakshagana Research Centre that offers workshops to the public to promote and preserve the traditional form of theatre. The centre trains students in the ancient art form and uses it to reach the local

population. Yakshagana and Puppetry were very effective in raising awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Kannada and Arabic departments also provide a vital public service by assisting with the translation of official documents, which is particularly beneficial for those applying for government-related documents such as passports and visas. Through these and other initiatives, the college is directly helping the community.

6. Evidence of Success

- Our faculty members led several field trips to read local inscriptions and translations of ancient relics. They, and developed a script for the Thulu Language.
- The college was awarded a Yakshagana Research Centre under the Kasaragod Development Package.
- The use of Yakshagana and Puppetry in spreading awareness among the public about the COVID-19 pandemic was well appreciated by the media and public.
- The college is well known as a facilitation centre for translation services for people who speak Kannada, Thulu, Byari, Urdu and Arabic. Our service in assisting the public with Aadhar enrolment, Electoral Roll enrolment, Passport Applications, and other government-related documents is well appreciated.

7. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Staff and students have difficulty enhancing services due to busy academic schedules and tight working hours. The college would benefit from a facilitation centre for STEPS practices. More research and field trips would also be beneficial.

8. Notes (Optional)

A new startup ecosystem facilitation centre could improve the work being done under this practice.




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