



# THE NEW COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Sponsored by the Muslim Educational Association of southern India (MEASI)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)

Affiliated to the University of Madras

CHENNAI - 600 014. TAMIL NADU. INDIA

## 7.2.1 Describe at least two institutional best practices (as per NAAC Format)

### Practice – I

#### 1. Title: Experiential Learning through Social Engagement (ELSE)

#### 2. Objective of the Practice:

The main objective of the practice is to involve all students in socially useful productive work, thus enabling experiential learning through social engagement. The college believes that learning by doing can be best experimented by making the students engage in social work. This would also make them participate in the nation building process. The practice was also fuelled by the realisation of the underdevelopment and social backwardness of the neighbourhood areas of the college that require consistent engagement.

#### 3. The Context:

As an institution with a proven track record of social commitment, the students and staff of The New College have been in the forefront of several social missions in the neighbourhood and adopted villages for the past several decades. Every student is made to join one of the extension clubs, and it is mandatory for them to participate in some form of compulsory social service. The college has four units of NSS, two units of NCC, a Rotaract Club, a Youth Red Cross unit, a Red Ribbon Club, an eco club named NEST, and a Citizen Consumer Club. In addition, there are extension clubs and sectional associations in the departments that organise social service activities using the expertise and resources available within the department. These Clubs include

- i) CSR Club, Department of Corporate Secretaryship,
- ii) Environmental Activity Club, Department of Economics,
- iii) Achievers' Club, Department of Commerce,
- iv) New Phy Club, Department of Physics,
- v) E-Society, Department of Sociology,



## THE NEW COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Sponsored by the Muslim Educational Association of southern India (MEASI)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)

Affiliated to the University of Madras

CHENNAI - 600 014. TAMIL NADU. INDIA

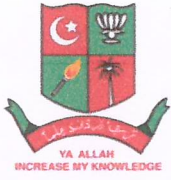
- vi) Crypto-Tech Club, Department of Computer Science,
- vii) Humanitarian Club, Department of English,
- viii) Khidma Club, Department of Mathematics,
- ix) Green Warrior's Club, Department of Botany,
- x) Enablers' League, Department of Business Administration,
- xi) Association of Ignited Minds, Department of Accounting and Finance, and
- xii) Newgen Enviro Club, Department of Biotechnology.

The social service wings of the college have significantly contributed to the development of the neighbouring areas and the adopted villages. Every NSS volunteer is expected to carry out 120 hours of social work in a year; besides, they participate in annual NSS camps conducted in villages. Besides, during occasions of natural calamities and disasters, the college community as a whole comes forward to help the affected by providing food, and other basic needs, and contributing generously for improving their conditions after the calamities. in all possible ways. The college used the services of the students in carrying out its village adoption programme funded by the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

All the activities of the extension clubs are streamlined under the New College Social Service Centre (NCSSC), to ensure that the social service activities provide the students opportunities for experiential learning.

#### 4. The Practice:

Every student involved in social work gets opportunities to develop core skills like leadership qualities, interpersonal skills, communication skills, team work skills and presentation skills while engaging in extension works. As the social work initiatives include such activities as assisting weaker students from the neighbourhood schools, the activities are likely to prune the academic skills of students involved in such activities.



## THE NEW COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Sponsored by the Muslim Educational Association of southern India (MEASI)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)

Affiliated to the University of Madras

CHENNAI - 600 014. TAMIL NADU, INDIA

### 5. Evidence of Success:

Students who were actively involved in social service excelled in their academics, and their attachment to the society and their practical learning enhanced their maturity. Besides, the smartness and the skills acquired by the student leaders, enabled them to crack placement interviews easily. Another significant outcome of the programme was that the social service initiatives in general and the activity oriented learning involved in social work, in particular improved the attendance of students and the overall examination results of the college.

### 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Involving the entire students of the college in social work was challenging, as well. Primarily, the number restrictions in the clubs available in the college was the main obstacle to accommodate all the students in social work. The problem was resolved by strengthening departmental extension wings. Secondly, not all the students were sincere and active in their involvement in social work. There were students who took the social service visits and campaigns as mere excursions. Continuous monitoring and performance based incentives made improvements in the scenario, although the problem is yet to be tackled to the satisfactory level.

### 7. Notes:

Experiential Learning through Social Engagement was beneficial in two ways: students became socially sensitive, and they learned certain key skills while doing their mandatory social service. Field visits enhanced their empathy, and consciousness of the living conditions of such groups as urban poor. The problems encountered by the children of neighbouring government schools and aided schools were recognised during field works conducted by certain clubs, and many departments in the college came forward to help them by involving their students in teaching the basics to the schools children.



## Practice – II

### 1. Title of the Practice: Common Course in Employability Skills for All UG Students

### 2. Objective of the Practice:

To enable all UG students to plan their career and to prepare them to face campus placement and other employment tests and interviews.

### 3. The Context:

Employability is a matter of grave concern for today's graduates. The New College has also been facing the challenge of making all its graduates ready for employment by developing transferable skills, life skills and employability skills. In spite of their impressive performance in their studies, many graduates were unable to get hired in campus interviews and other employment examinations. In this scenario, the college realised the existence of a disconnection between the academic attainments and the employability of students. Among the initiatives taken to address this problem, prescribing a compulsory two-part course in Employability Skills from 2017-18 academic year stands out as one of the best practices in the college. The college introduced Employability Skills as a common course under Part IV in the first two semesters of all UG programmes.

### 4. The Practice:

The course in Employability Skills is designed as a skills-based course and it is imparted following the principles of activity-oriented teaching. The course covers such aspects as planning for career, developing essential interpersonal and soft skills, developing technical competency, preparing for aptitude tests, interview and group discussion skills, understanding the expectations of the employers in the changing times, and preparing for campus placement. The college developed its own textbook for teaching employability skills, keeping in mind the specific requirements of the types of students admitted in the college. The textbook included information sections, classroom activities, and QR code links for further self study. The responsibility of



# THE NEW COLLEGE (Autonomous)

Sponsored by the Muslim Educational Association of southern India (MEASI)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)

Affiliated to the University of Madras

CHENNAI - 600 014. TAMIL NADU. INDIA

teaching this course has been entrusted to the English Department. The syllabus and the book used to teach the course was periodically updated to address the employability requirements of the changing times. The course has two assessment methods - i) practical viva voce (oral) examination involving interview skills, test of communication skills, resume writing and presenting, and Group discussion; and ii) end semester written examination.

## 5. Evidence of Success:

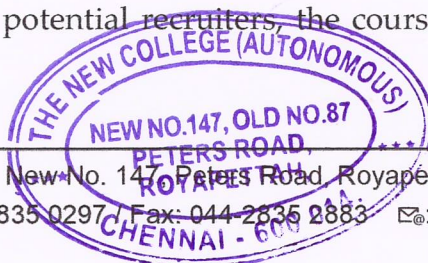
The first batch that received the Employability Skills course completed their UG programme during the 2019-20 academic year. The batch witnessed tremendous improvements in the campus placements in general and the number of students appearing for campus placement drives, in particular. The same trend was witnessed the next academic year (2020-21), as well. The general outcome of the course included making all students learn to plan their career, prepare their own resumes, acquire the necessary informatics skills to apply for jobs online, and prepare themselves for online aptitude tests, interviews and group discussion.

## 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The initial difficulties in implementing the programme included training the teachers to deliver the lessons following activity-oriented teaching methods. This was overcome by conducting a series of informal interactive meetings with the teachers in the presence of the author of the book to discuss the methodology followed in teaching the course. Another important challenge was updating the course material every year, considering the fact that frequent changes take place in the employment scenario in general and the skill expectations of employers in particular. The problem was resolved by bringing out fresh editions of the book with additions and modifications.

## 7. Notes

As the college enjoyed the locational advantage of being in a metropolitan city with hundreds of MNCs and other potential recruiters, the course enabled the college to invite more recruiters to select its students.



  
PRINCIPAL

"Association Gardens", Old No. 87, New No. 147, Peters Road, Royapettah, Chennai-600 014, Tamil Nadu, India.

☎: 044-2835 1269, 2835 0297 / Fax: 044-2835 2883 ✉: iqac@thenewcollege.edu.in