

BEST PRACTICE 1

1. Title of the Practice

Commemorative Academic Endeavours – Reminiscing the Stalwarts of Yesteryears

2. Objectives of the Practice: The objectives are as follows

- The objective is to keep alive the memory of the academic contributions of the former teachers of the college by engaging in a suitable academic activity that is beneficial for the students of the present.
- It aims to bridge the gap between the past and the present, which is not just located in the realm of the personal, but discursive as well.
- It aims to transmit the values of the past to the present for formation and reformation.
- It serves an occasion to bring persons of eminence and excellence to the campus.
- It serves as a dialogic and dialectic forum.

3. The Context

Baselius College has always been proud of the luminaries of the yesteryears and their contribution to knowledge and to the development of the institution. The best way to acknowledge their contribution at the time of the initial formative years of the institution is by reminiscing them in the present and also by using it as an opportunity to nourish the tradition of academic brilliance and other commendable service, bequeathed by them. This commemorative space serves as an occasion for organizing academic lectures, competitions and worthy programmes wherein eminent teachers, philosophers, thinkers, writers etc. visit the institution and help in enhancing the epistemological content of the community. So, the college conducts Memorial Lecture series, quiz or presentation competitions in the memory of the departed stalwarts which serve the academic purpose of enlightening the next generation.

4. The Practice

The institution has taken impressive strides in etching the memory of the values and the academic contributions of its past teachers, thereby tiding over the past-future

divide. The commemorative academic endeavours are organized in diverse ways. There are academic lectures annually arranged serving as a good platform for the students and the faculty to get acquainted with the former teachers and their contributions and also to brush up their memories of the past. Many academicians and writers of importance are invited to deliver the lectures where it becomes an enriching experience of knowledge sharing. Many departments organize such commemorative lectures. Another way in which the reminiscence is done is in the form of paper presentation competitions. This will contribute to the development of research skills in students as they are expected to present original research papers and defend their position. The competitions thus held becomes a fitting forum for the academician in whose name it is held. Inter collegiate Quiz competitions are held as a mode of commemoration in which students from various institutions take part. The competitions are preceded by lectures given by experts in the relevant subjects. PowerPoint presentation competitions are another method of commemorative academic endeavour. This is also an intercollegiate one in which teams from across the state of Kerala participate and manifest their scientific knowledge and presentation skill. Endowments are another mode of commemoration wherein family members of the dear departed institute endowments to be given to meritorious students. These are distributed on the Merit Day thus bringing the past in conjunction with the present. Before handing over the endowment, a reminiscent note on the teacher is rendered. The programmes include two annual memorial lectures, a student seminar, a paper presentation competition titled Prajna by the Department of English, two commemorative academic programmes a power point presentation competition and an intercollegiate quiz competition by the Department of Physics, an intercollegiate quiz competition by the Department of Botany, a memorial lecture by the Postgraduate Department of Commerce, Quiz competition by the Department of Mathematics, quiz competition by the Department of Economics and Intercollegiate competition by the Department of Political Science etc. The knowledge content thus produced elevate these academic programmes from personal reminiscence to an academically productive one.

5. Evidence of Success The success of this best practice is evidenced by the unbroken continuity of these programmes which go on inspiring young minds instilling in them memories and values of the great masters. The choice of resource persons for the memorial lectures is designed to bring the best in the industry to the campus which can reap larger results benefitting humanity at large. The interaction and dialogue

which these programmes have brought about indicate its success. Apart from that, the participation and attendance of students in these programmes indicate the interest it generates. Retired staff members also partake in these events and thus it becomes an occasion when the old and the new, the past and the present come together. The increasing number of recipients of the endowments as the years go by also indicate the success of the programme.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Being an affiliated college, placing these programmes within the tight academic schedules and the untimely conduct of university examinations is sometimes difficult.
- Arranging the financial resources for the same can also be an obstacle at times. But efforts are made to cover it using sponsorships
- Finding the right resource person who can contribute to the epistemological content in a value laden way is also a strenuous task. Efforts are made to choose the human resource wisely.
- Selecting suitable judges for competitions and quiz masters have also proved to be difficult. Judges and Quiz masters with impeccable reputation have to be found out.

6. Notes (Optional)

The eminent academicians, writers, artists etc. who visited the institution during the last five years as a part of this endeavour include Sri. R. Mohan IRS, Dr. Saji Gopinath, Sri. Santhosh George Kulangara, Sri. N. S. Madhavan, Dr. Suja Karthika, Sri. Unni R., Sri. Madhupal, Dr. Ambikasudhan Mangad etc. The stalwarts whose services are reminisced through lectures and talks include Dr. A. P. Mani, Prof. M. J. Thomas, Prof. P. C. Alias – all former Principals, former HoDs - Prof. Rajaram Menon, Prof. M. C. Jacob, Prof. C. K. Kuriakose, Prof. O. P. Kurian and teachers Prof. V. John, Prof. Susan John, Prof. K. J. Cherian and Prof. Manju Mathews. Besides, endowments are instituted in the name of number of other teachers also.