

Two best practices of our Institution

PRACTICE I - Saints' Centre for Outreach, Research and Extension (SCORE)

1. Title of the practice

Saints' Centre for Outreach, Research and Extension (SCORE)

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words)

In order to ensure clarity and set definitive paradigms for the ways in which the activities of the college translate into meaningful academic and socially effective endeavours, the institution has established the “Saints' Centre for Outreach, Research and Extension (SCORE)”. SCORE provides scope for personal innovation by ensuring competence, stimulating critical as well as creative thinking, thereby provoking excellence.

SCORE strives to promote multi-disciplinary learning and research as well as envisions making core competencies socially and environmental conscious. The institution advocates social inclusion and SCORE strengthens the appreciation of cultural pluralism and diversity by all its stakeholders and urges them to strive for social justice, harmony and solidarity.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words)

The main objectives of the SCORE include:

- To encourage faculty to take up research projects of inter-disciplinary nature that are socially relevant and initiate collaborations with institutions of national and international repute.
- To guide and motivate the research scholars and PG students for publishing papers in SCOPUS indexed journals and participate in national and international seminars.
- To reach out the deprived groups and vulnerable sections of society and create opportunities for education, awareness and skill enhancement.
- To orient the students with the skills required in community development and sensitize them towards various issues of the marginalized groups.
- To facilitate networking and linkages of the community with NGOs, institutions, and government agencies for the effective service delivery.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words)

SCORE is headed by the Principal and is under the direct purview of the IQAC and further delegated to the Outreach Committee, Research Committee and Extension Committee.

The Departments and agencies like SCORE prepare an action plan for the year and the same is forwarded to the Central Planning Committee that makes its recommendations to the Core Committee.

The **Research Committee** is entrusted with the task of developing quality research in a broad range of areas with diverse approaches; where appropriate, this may be reflected in the creation of sub-committees with sufficient autonomy to pursue their more specialized research interests. The Research Committee also organizes and maintains personal contacts among researchers with common interests and also provides a framework of interaction between individuals and organizations concerned with teaching and research in physical sciences, earth sciences, life sciences and social sciences. The committee brings together scholars who wish to pursue comparative research on a trans-disciplinary basis and they constitute basic networks of scientific research, intellectual debate and professional exchange. The committee ensures dissemination of research information and subsequent publication of scholarly research. The Committee and sub-committees meet on a quarterly basis to review the activities.

The **Outreach Committee** focuses on the cross-discipline integration/ programmatic and societal interface/ outreach areas of interest of the Institute, and often spans more than one technical discipline. The committee fosters relationships and partnerships with individuals within our target audience (emphasis on our student community and residents of our adopted village), organizations and others to evaluate internship and job placement opportunities; organizing awareness programmes to address issues of diverse natures and extend aid in cash or kind (within the limitations of the institution) when need arises.

The **Extension Committee** connects community needs and institutional resources. Extension is an outreach arm of the institution. Extension provides its research and education outreach in the neighbouring rural communities. The committee identifies the needs of the community and matches or empowers the institutional human resources to meet those needs. The Committee also organises fund raisers and identifies potential sponsors to approach for obtaining the necessary local financial support when the need arises.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them

Time constraint was the only hurdle we faced while implementing plans for research or outreach and extension activities. The core team heading the SCORE has decided to form smaller and more number of task forces to carry out the various activities within the limited time available.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

There has been considerable increase in the number of quality research projects taken up and successfully completed by students and faculty. SCORE has facilitated the creation and integration of innovative concepts and practices as well as effective interdisciplinary networking within the institution. From the research point of view there has been a significant contribution to existing literature in the form of presentations and publications in accepted journals with good impact factor. From the outreach and extension perspective SCORE has enabled students to approach service in depth by researching, volunteering and working together various issues: environmental concerns and needs of the poor and marginalized residing in/around the institution.

7. Resources required

Dedicated and qualified faculty ensures quality research and addresses various social concerns. Motivated students are oriented and guided by the faculties-in-charge for the implementation of formulated plans and completion of activities within a reasonable time frame. Financial support for enhancing research and library facilities are one of the prime concerns.

8. Contact Persons for further details

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PRACTICE II - Reaching Out: Community Outreach in the new Millennium

1. Title of the practice

“Reaching Out: Community Outreach in the new Millennium”

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Our college inculcates social value and responsibilities to the faculty members and students by imparting extension activities in the neighborhood for holistic development of the society. Every year, the institution identifies a particular region based on indices such as health, education, income, occupation and standard of living. Then the institution renders need based services using the human, material and social resources at its disposal. All Second Year Students are engaged in the extension activity which comes under the curriculum. Apart from them, National Service Scheme and National Cadet Corp also serve the society through One-day and Special Camps. In addition, outreach programs and invited lectures are also given to the community.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words)

- To train minds, bodies and hearts for the work of life, and to carry into all we do the highest ideals of character and service.
- To expose our students to the issues and problems that many communities face, especially in our adopted villages in order to embolden their hearts and work with zeal and compassion to alleviate the sufferings of the needy.
- To organize fundraisers and identify potential sponsors on a year-to-year basis depending on immediate needs.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words)

The College is committed to moulding a generation who would utilize their skills for the betterment of society. With this aim in view, extension services are made available to nearby schools, villages and communities. It is mandatory for a student to participate in any one of the following extension activities prescribed by the University of Kerala for not less than 40 hours in the third and fourth semesters.

The students and faculty voluntarily offer their time and other resources to address immediate issues. This was evident during the 2018 floods when our institution served as a **Flood Relief Camp** with the help of 50 staff and 150 students. The affected community of around 225 people was rehabilitated in our college for 6 days. The victims were given food, dress, medicine and various needy relief materials in the camp. The institution also served as one of the collection centres of the government. The management donated Rs. 200000/- to the State Government towards the flood relief. 65% of the teaching faculty and 3 of the administrative staff donated their one month salary to the Chief Minister's Relief and Distress Fund. The management, staff and students also donated money and relief materials for the flood victims to the various collection centres.

This year the college identified the **Karikkakom Village** to organize activities such as clean up drives, green initiatives in the form of sapling distribution, waste management etc. As the area is deficient in potable water, the college organized a drinking water analysis campaign. The students also have taken classes on topics of general interest to the students of nearby schools.

A house worth **Rs. 5 lakhs** was built under the “**Snehaveedu**” scheme for one student of our college. NSS provides an excellent opportunity to the students who desire to serve the community and to develop interpersonal relationships and skills. Engaging in social activity to bridge the gap between the fortunate and the less fortunate through empowerment is the main focus of NSS activity. The activities of the NSS extend to organizing regular blood donation drives, free medical and eye camps for the members of the institution and local community, conducting tree planting campaigns as well as regularly participating in cleaning drives under the initiatives of the institution and the state government.

Considering the inherent aptitudes and inclinations of NSS volunteers they are given the opportunity to work in close collaboration with some voluntary and statutory welfare agencies such as Community Centres, Residential Institutions for children/women, the Aged and Institutions for physically handicapped and disabled. This helps the NSS volunteers in understanding the problems of a vulnerable section of the society.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them

Finances are the main concern for which various fund raising events are considered and sponsors (alumni, parents, present and retired staff and other organizations) are identified and

approached according to the needs that arise. Time constraint due to semester system is a major problem.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Through extension and outreach programs, we sensitize the students to develop social values, widespread their responsibilities and knowledge in societal issues and problems by making them to involve with the community people. Through this, we establish a good relationship with the society. The college has tie up with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to serve the community. Students with profound interest attain the social values and responsibility. Above all, the students get hold of social justice, value, responsibility and sustainability.

6. Resources required

Adequate finances are required to ensure the successful completion of all the activities undertaken by the institution. Moreover parental support and participation is to be ensured.

7. Contact Persons for further details

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