

BEST PRACTICE 1

Title: Keeping Alive Indian Art, Culture, and Tradition

Objectives:

The goal of this practice is to keep alive dying arts, culture, and traditions through cultural activities.

To undertake activities focusing upon sensitization of the youth towards the value of rich traditional and cultural heritage.

To arrange cultural programs like classical dance, and classical music at the college level which connects the students with our roots.

To inculcate the qualities of creativity, team spirit, etc.

Context:

In the present era of technology, our youth is losing touch with our culture and traditional values. To help our students to stay connected with their roots and rich heritage, we try to provide all opportunities in a subtle manner. Patiala city is known world over for its heritage status. Music of the Patiala Ghrana, Kathak, Phulkari, and folk art are valuable not just to connoisseurs but to us too. We instill the qualities to acquire proficiency in the same. The college not only reflects the rich artistic history of Patiala but also tries to keep it vibrating amongst the young generation.

The practice:

Cultural, artistic, and folk heritage has been integrated into the curriculum. Punjabi literature, folk music, folk dances, and folk art and culture, painting are part of GCG Patiala. The college was built around a heritage building belonging to the erstwhile Maharaja. At present, this imposing structure houses the departments of Indian Classical Dance, Indian Classical Music, Folk Art, and Culture.

We have Music and Dance clubs in which the students are taught classical music, folk music, and different types of dances like Giddha, Bhangra, and Sammi. The students also learn to play traditional instruments like the Dhol, Tumbi, Matka, etc.

The college can boast of a unique folk art museum and also a sample 'village house' where traditional things like charkha, bridal Doli, phulkari, Bagh, kitchen utensils, boxes, durries, etc are kept and maintained. City students who never had a chance to experience village life are able to learn from the museum or other things displayed there. With the collaboration from the Home Science department cooking of traditional foods is also taught. On festivals like Teej, and Annual Function, we display these items to the students and teach them about cultural and traditional values.

Students are familiarised with traditional motifs and designs, through paintings and craftwork. This is otherwise not a part of the curriculum but taught as a value addition.

Evidence of Success

Our students are winners in the youth festivals. They perform in heritage festivals, have recorded their achievements in the form of albums, and also by posting on YouTube channels.

Our students have been performing Giddha at district-level celebrations of Independence Day and Republic Day for the last 40 years. For the last 10 years, the college has been training students from local schools and colleges free of charge to perform at these functions.

Students of the Dance department have been invited by the famous Bollywood director Imtiaz Ali to perform the traditional 'Sammi' Dance in his movie.

The college has launched its gcg Patiala web TV on YouTube. To instill in the students a sense of responsibility towards their culture, many videos of college activities, fests, and celebrations of special days which are organized by the college are uploaded from time to time.

Problems encountered and resources required:

The addition of new items to the collection and maintenance of the museum is a challenge. Purchase of new artefacts is an expensive affair and donors are rare to find. But the college never stops making efforts. The role of teachers is commendable. They are constantly learning more to teach better. Many times expert artists are invited for technical guidance. Accompanists for music and dance items are specially hired for preparing particular items.

Best Practice No. 2

Title: Facilitating Local Administration

Objective: Outreach activities with the motive of maximizing the practical experience and exposure of the participants

Context:

- Available infrastructure
- Co-operative and Dedicated staff
- Creative and talented students

The practice

Since its inception, GCG has been an educational institution on which the district administration has placed utmost trust. This college has been giving performances in district or state-level functions like Republic Day and Independence Day for the last several decades.

During government-level functions like sports, fairs, cultural programs, heritage functions, and craft fairs, college students participate in programs like music and dance performances, making decorative arrangements through paintings and crafts that are colorful, elegant, and beautiful.

Evidence of Success

The heritage festival of Patiala is an event that is looked forward with eagerness for its gaiety and splendor. The college is proud to be an integral part of this festival in many fields. This festival is divided into many parts such as performances by great performing artists, a Craft fair, a fashion show, etc. The teachers and students are the first choice to assist these artists as accompanists. For announcements, the students of Functional English are always there. The Fine Arts department displays its expertise in decoration, stage setting, etc. Various subject experts contribute to organizing competitions and for judgments. The students from the Dance and Music department are at the forefront of performing in various styles. A teacher from our college is always part of the organizing committee of the administration.

GCG Patiala has always been the first choice of administration as they have full confidence in our potential. Participation in such events equips our students with learning experience, exposure, and confidence. So we look forward to it.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The dates of such festivals may clash with practical exams. Study days are hampered sometimes. The materials/dresses required are not always provided by the administration.