

Best Practice 2: Inclusivity in Diversity

Objectives of the Practice: Diversity is the ethos of the community life at Maharaja Agrasen College. Nevertheless, this diversity is not devoid of the sense of inclusion. The college has evolved multiple facets in order to create a learning environment which is inclusive and holistic. This practice, therefore, will go on to provide a more tolerant and sensitive future to the nation. The introduction of the NEP, pivoting around the aspect of inclusivity in learning, has further boosted the efforts of the college on this front.

All the machineries of the college function keeping the following motives in perspective to embed the diversities into one and thereby provide ‘inclusivity in diversity’:

- involving
- respecting
- providing equal opportunities

The Context: The practice of ‘Inclusivity in Diversity’ is exercised with the collective help of the departments, committees, cells, centers, clubs etc. of the college.

The Practice: Students and faculty members are encouraged to organize and participate various activities to inculcate the value of ‘Inclusivity in Diversity’:

- **NCC 2 Delhi Girls Battalion:** As a part of the PM Rally camp organized on 29 January 2021 commemorating India’s 73rd Republic Day, the cadets participated in the folk dance tableau. The cadets enthusiastically learnt and performed folk dances of various regions. This experience was extremely enlightening for them as they became aware of the rich cultural heritage of the land and its unique diversity.

Under the EBSB camp organised by NCC, our cadets participated in student exchange programmes with the Orissa Directorate (19-23 April 2021), Maharashtra Directorate (23-28 August 2021) and Kerala and Lakshwadeep Directorate (25-31 October). These programmes helped the students learn about the unique nature of each of the hosting states.

- **SPIC MACAY Virasat:** SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) is a voluntary youth movement that promotes multiple dimensions of Indian and World heritage by organizing programs of Classical Music, Classical Dance, Folk, Arts and Crafts, Theatre, Yoga, Meditation, Talks, Cinema Classics and Walks.

As a part of the regular activities under the aegis of SPIC MACAY, the college organizes weekly meetings of SPIC MACAY volunteers from all age groups and from any background to exchange their knowledge about the rich and diverse heritage of India.

At Maharaja Agrasen College, workshops in the field of art and craft, dance and music, representing various cultures of India have been organised on a routine basis under the aegis of SPIC MACAY. This include workshops on Kangra Miniature painting (28.2.2019-4.3.2019), Maithili painting (17-21.2.2021), Calligraphy (28.2.2020-4.2.2020), Kathak (24-26.2.2021) and many more.

The heritage walk to Humayun’s Tomb (2.2.2020) taught the students about the rich historical past of India while the tour of NGMA (4.3.2019), was taken up to enlighten them about the richness that India has in terms of art and aesthetics.

Film Screenings and discussion forums guided by experts help the young students come in close contact with multifarious aspects of cultural worldwide while teaching them about the art of film making. Keeping this motive in mind, screening of films like Shyam Benegal’s “The Making of

the Mahatma” (1.10.2020), Satyajit Ray’s “Sonar Kella” (8.11.2020) and Ingmar Bergman’s “Autumn Sonata” (30.7.2021) have been organized for the students of the college.

As a part of the Virasat series, lecture-demonstration sessions by noted artists and experts in the various fields of Indian art and culture are organized annually. The long and prestigious list of performances include names like Vidushi Shovana Narayan (5.5.2020), Dr Kapila Venu (16.2.2020), Pt. Viswamohan Bhatt (28.2.19), puppet artist Sh. Dadi Padumjee (2.2.2019) amongst many others. Not only do the students get a chance to watch the artists perform and explain the art forms in these forums, they also get a chance to interact with them directly and enrich themselves with knowledge about the diverse cultural heritage of India.

The activities held with the support of SPIC MACAY helps in imbuing in the youth a sense of pride about the diversity in India. They are able to inculcate values and knowledge that the diverse cultures provide, thereby, helping in creating more inclusive, tolerant and sensitive individuals of the future.

- **ECA Committee:** The Extra Curricular Activities Committee of the college is a teachers’ body which works with the mission of providing students with the opportunity to hone their creative talents and organizational talents. The students’ societies under its aegis organize and participate in workshops, programmes etc where they understand and execute inclusivity while engaging with the diverse texture of the world around them.
- ✓ **North East Society:** The society, comprising of students of the North East, has organized programmes to showcase the diverse cultural heritage of the NER. The society has organised food fests and performed folk dances from the North East during several cultural events in the college in the past. In the year 2019, the North East Society organised a day long cultural and food fest and an inter-college North East Folk Dance Competition themed “Home and Beyond”. The students of the society got support from all the other ECA societies, in other words from students belonging to the Indian mainland, in organizing the fest.
- ✓ **Nataraj Society-North East Society fusion dance performance:** The dance society of the college, working under the aegis of the ECA Committee, collaborated with the North East Society and performed a fusion folk dance on 5.9.2018 on the occasion of Teachers Day and Prarambh. They combined the Liangmai dance of Nagaland and Haryanvi folk dance in their performance, making the students of NER and ROI aware about the diverse cultures present in India.
- ✓ **Markos Society initiative:** In the year 2020, amidst the lockdown the students of the Markos society stated a month long internship programme (20.9.2020-20.20.2020). This programme used the peer-learning methodology to train students from colleges across DU on marketing techniques. This initiative created a congenial and inclusive learning environment for students from the college and also outside it during the most testing pandemic period.
- **Young India Know Thyself:** This leadership programme organized by Vivekananda Kendra is inspired by the principles of the youth icon Swami Vivekananda. In the year 2018-19, this camp was hosted by the college where students from various institutions from Delhi participated along with students of Maharaja Agrasen College. Through the concept of “Back to Basics”, the YIKT camp was successful in inculcating awareness and inclusivity amongst the students.
- **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Club:** As per the guidelines from the government, under the flagship initiative of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Maharaja Agrasen College of Delhi University launched the MAC-EBSB club in 2019. This club has students from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. As the per the directives of the Government of India, the club organised several activities focusing on the North Eastern state of Sikkim, with the aim of creating an awareness about cultural heritage and people of the state. In the inaugural orientation programme of the club,

the students made a presentation about Sikkim and also performed a folk dance from the state. This was followed by the screening of the documentary on Sikkim directed by Satyajit Ray. A National Level Article Writing competition was conducted on 27th May 2020, on the topic "The Soul of Sikkim". The EBSB club collaborated with the Department of Mass Communication of Sikkim University and organised a "Delhi & Sikkim E-tour" on 11 November, 2020. On April 24, 2020, the club organised Mandala art competition, an art form from Sikkim. The competition received overwhelming response from students from and outside the college, thereby, helping creating awareness of this aspect of the cultural fabric of Sikkim.

- **Sanskriti Kala Kendra:** The Kendra encourages culture-centric researches and activities to help generate knowledge about the diverse cultures existing all over the world. One of the regular practices of the Sanskriti Kala Kendra is the annual celebration of 'Vasantotsav' a festival is considered to be an intrinsic part of most cultures globally. In the year 2020, Sanskriti Kala Kendra in association with the Hindi department students' body, Navchetana Parishad organised inter-college folk song competition as a part of the departmental annual festival. The competition helped students coming from various cultural diversities learn about the richness of the other as they engaged and learnt forms that were so far alien to them.
- **Silver Jubilee Center for North East India:** The Silver Jubilee Centre for North East India is a body of students and teachers from the North East region of India and aims to provide a wider platform to the students to display the essence of their region culturally, academically and through other modes and thereby, continue with its endeavour to sensitise the people of the Indian mainland about the oblivious North East. The center organized a national seminar on "Migration of the Youth from the North East to Urban Metros" in the year 2019 in collaboration with V. V Giri National Labour Institute to deliberate upon causes and effects of the problem of migration of the youth from the North East Region. The seminar received tumultuous response from a cross section of the academic world. It was a confluence of renowned academics and young research scholars from all across India.
- **Center for Performance Arts and Cultural Studies (CPACS):** In 2017-18, the Centre did a two months long activity of scripting, shooting, editing and distribution of a short anti-ragging feature film entitled 'Shabad Sambhale Boliye' to create awareness against verbal abuse, micro-aggression and discrimination on the campuses of higher education in India. In 2018-19, the students and faculty visited Ambedkar University to be part of a performance directed by Deepan Sivaraman, a world renowned scenographer. The performance here underlined a design of play turning audiences into spect-actors who had to be part of nation-making actively.
- **National Conference on "Representation of the Disabled in Literature and Cinema" by Department of English:** In order to exercise the best practice of inclusivity, the department of English in association with Equal Opportunity Cell, organized a 5 day long National Conference focusing around the issue of disability between 15 June and 20 June 2020. The motive was to deliberate on the issues related to disability with policy makers, academics, as well as disabled people who have excelled in the fields on sports, art and literature. The conference was a great success as it managed to project some practical solutions, highlight important issues and become an inspiration for many.
- **Equal Opportunity Cell:** The Equal Opportunity Cell acts as a mediation channel between the persons with disability in the college fraternity and the able ones. It works with the mission of providing to the persons with disability an inclusive environment within the college while also training them to adapt to the demands of the outside world. An important

step in this regard is the exercise of organizing disability sensitizing workshops in the college premises every year. On 28-02-17 and on the occasion of National Science Day, the Equal Opportunity Cell collaborated with Saksham Trust [NGO based in Delhi working for multiple disabilities] to apprise the PwD students about the various technological assistive devices for an efficient functioning. Simulation activities for able students were also conducted to give them a real time practical experience of the difficulties that a person with disabilities may experience in his/her life. A workshop on 'Community sensitization on Visual Impairment and ITS Challenges' was organized in the following year (04 April 2018) in collaboration with NSS, MAC and Saksham Trust India. On 8 March 2021, a National Workshop on "Digital Accessibility as a Right" was organized by EOC and saw active participation by PwD students as well as able students. The Equal Opportunity Cell submitted its recommendations to the college and hostel for the formulation of policy guidelines for students with disabilities. Kibo OCR, an assistive technology used in creating digital books in English and other regional Indian languages, was installed in the college library under the recommendation of the EOC in 2019, thus making the library and text books more accessible to the visually impaired students.

- **SC/ ST Cell:** This cell has been set up to support the faculty and students from SC/ST categories and functions with the Liaison Officer SC/ST as its coordinator. The cell addresses the grievances of the students and faculty of the mentioned categories and thereby provide a congenial and inclusive learning environment for the socially marginalized community. To help the underprivileged students cope-up with the college curricula, the cell organizes remedial classes with the help of the college faculty members. In 2019, an interactive session was organized for students where they were informed about the scholarships provided by Ministry of Social Justice and scholarships for coaching classes for SSC and Civil Services exams.

The cell organised the inaugural Dr Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on April 16, 2019, the Guest Speaker being Prof Rajkumar, Head, Department of English, University of Delhi. To further nurture the ideologies of social equity as preached by Dr Ambedkar, a National Article Writing Competition was organized by the cell which saw participation from students cutting across the regional and social divide.

Evidences of Success:

The efforts put together via all available fronts of the college has started showing its dividends. Several collaborative programmes are being organized, these days, which are a proof of the growing sense of respect, knowledge and bonhomie that diverse communities in the college are showing towards each other.

- Markos, The Marketing Society of Maharaja Agrasen College, organized its flagship event "Markombat 4.0" with the theme of 'Celebrating the Eight Sisters of India' in January 2021. The event was conducted in online mode where students from different colleges across India participated, as the students of the college took the initiative of spreading awareness about the college.
- The North East Society is going to make its debut in the annual college fest, Yuvaan, as it will organize inter-college competitions on the topics related to the NER.

- The efforts by the Equal Opportunity Cell is paying off as the department of Sports is opening its doors open for PwD students, an area mainly inaccessible to them. The Sports Committee is in the process of procuring Tandem Bikes and accessible chess boards with Braille markers.
- The ideals of Swami Vivekananda propagated through the YIKT programme has inspired our students to form the Vivekananda Study Circle under the ECA Committee. The aim of the society is to inculcate the values of Swamiji amongst the youth and create an inclusive nation. The society has conducted online Yoga workshop for the students, faculty members of the college as well as enthusiast from outside the college. On March 10, 2021, the society organized a Personality Development Programme for all studnets of the college led by Mr Satish Kumar from Vivekananda Kendra.

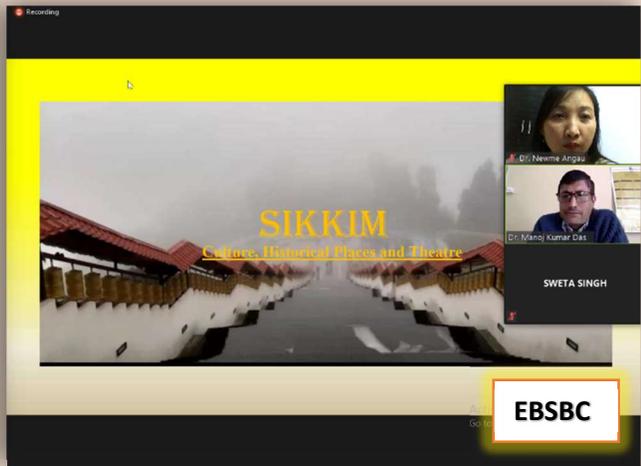
Problems Encountered and Resources Required

1. Better networking of all the machineries of college for more efficient implementation of the mentioned best practice
2. Accessible sources of funding to help organize sensitization drives and programmes addressing issues of all marginalised sections.





North East Society



EBSBC

National Conference by English Department

INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
bit.ly/2XQzluE
 IN COLLABORATION WITH

REPRESENTATION OF DISABILITY IN LITERATURE AND CINEMA

JUNE 15-20, 2020

A CONFERENCE IN WEBINAR MODE

INVITED SPEAKERS

PROF. RISHI SINGH UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DEPT. OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI	PROF. ANITA SINGH PROFESSOR, SECTION OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AMBRIER UNIVERSITY	PROF. SHAMPA GHOSH DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE BLIND, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA	MS. NEENA DATTA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MAHARAJA AGRAJEN COLLEGE
PROF. ANIL KUMAR UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DEPT. OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI	PROF. SHAMPA GHOSH DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE BLIND, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA	MS. NEENA DATTA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MAHARAJA AGRAJEN COLLEGE	MS. NEENA DATTA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MAHARAJA AGRAJEN COLLEGE



Center for North East



SC/ST

EOC **AHARAJA AGRASEN COLLEGE**
 UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
 Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi -110096

MAC-NSS
 (Equal Opportunity Cell)
 Presents

Community sensitization towards visual Impairment and its challenges

Conducted by : **SAKSHAM(NGO)**

4th April, 2018 (Wednesday)

Time : 11AM to 1PM Venue : Room no. 208

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Center for Performing Arts

SHABAD SAMBHALE DOLIYE
 Direction Prof. Vinod Varma

Center for Performing Arts

