

Best Practice I

1. Title of the Practice - Collective Social Responsibility and Creative adaptation during COVID 19 Pandemic

2. Objectives of Practice

- Groom students into proactive citizens.
- Promote awareness on social issues.
- Facilitate holistic development of students, facilitating closer bonds between faculty, students and community
- Adapt to the changed teaching learning scenario

3. The Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19.

4. The Practice

“Kerala Sannadhasena” is an effort by the Kerala Government to create a youth volunteer force to fight COVID-19. Our students (Amal Thomas, Jestin Joy, Jinu Jose, Ida Mathew, Parvathy S, Saritha P.B) and Dr. T.C. Thankachen, Sri. Sunil Thomas faculty of this college also have registered in it to fight against the pandemic along with government.

The students of St. Thomas College of Teacher Education, Pala, made and distributed five thousand masks during the early days of the Covid19, under the leadership of Sri. Sunil Thomas, Asst. Prof. Department of Physical Education, on 27 April, 2020. The initiative was coordinated by student representatives Joffy J Njavallil, Jibin, and Blesslyn Chackson. The cloth materials for the masks were distributed to the students, Josmy Tom, Jinu Jose, Josmi Joseph, Deepa George, Sandra, Sr. Alina, Sr. Bitty, Anitta, Diya (B. Ed. students), Sangeetha S, Jais Jose (M. Ed. students) on 15 April. Each student sew five hundred masks. The masks were collected and distributed to various organisations and frontline Covid warriors of Pala and suburbs. The mask distribution drive was inaugurated by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Mar Jacob Murikken, Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Pala, and the Manager of the college, by handing over the masks to Mr. Shaji Mon Joseph, DYSP, Pala.

Sri.Sunil Thomas, Asst. Prof. Department of Physical Education, also volunteered in the packing of food kits during Corona times at the government stationery store, Maveli store, Thalappalam Panchayat. Sri. Sunil Thomas and Deepa George completed an online course for volunteers for fighting Covid 19 conducted by ‘Diksha’.

Covid 19 has changed the education scenario. With schools and colleges shut down the teaching and learning community were forced to switch over to the online mode. The digital platform was a new area for many of the teachers and students. The college conducted a

weeklong National Online Workshop on “*Creative Adaptation - Reaching out through Digital Classrooms*” in collaboration with the UGC-HRDC Thiruvananthapuram, from 19 May to 25 May, 2020. The web workshop was attended by 525 participants from all over India and a few countries abroad. The workshop conducted right at the outset of the COVID outbreak was beneficial to the teaching community, many of whom were new to the field of digital teaching. The workshop prepared the teachers and students for the online mode of study. The workshop helped the student teachers in their ensuing online internship programme. The workshop laid the base for the online mode of teaching in the semester that followed.

5. Evidence of Success

- Distributed masks to various sections of society
- Forged a link with the beneficiary communities
- Brought the students face to face with social and environmental concerns
- Harnessed youth power for national development
- Prepared the teaching learning community for the online mode of transaction of lessons

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Time-consuming
- Financial involvement
- Safety of the students

7. **Notes:** The practice highlights the social commitment of the college.

2. Best Practice II: Sustainable Campus

1. **Title of the Practice:** Sustainable Campus

2. Objectives of Practice

- Train students to become protectors of Nature.
- Translate classroom – knowledge into life – application
- Participate in the nation – building process

3. The Context:

The earlier ‘Zero Waste Management’ practice has now been expanded into a larger umbrella, ‘Sustainable Campus’, incorporating the initiatives of the Nature Club and Green Protocol Samithi.

4. The Practices

- Conscientisation talks and programmes
- Cleaning campaigns
- Distribution of seeds and saplings
- Encouraging planting kitchen gardens at homes
- Active participation in Swacch Bharat,

- De - plasticized campus
- Observance of 'World Environment Day'
- Vermi Composting
- Sorting biodegradable and non biodegradable wastes for disposal

5. Evidence of Success:

Vegetable cultivation at homes of students and students, composting practices, green campus, environmental awareness programs and well – maintained gardens.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Availability of time.
- Lack of space
- Revenue to be generated.

7. Notes:

• 'Sustainable Campus' is a step towards sustainable environment future. It is a practice that all institutions can adopt, in view of environmental degradation.