

Thavathiru Santhalinga Adigalar Arts Science and Tamil College
Perur, Coimbatore - 641 010.

Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Approved by UGC under section 2(f) & 12(B)
Accredited With B Grade by NAAC

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7.2.1: Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual

Best Practice 1

BEST PRACTICE 1 – Revive the Past for Future

Title : Digitizing the Ancient Palmleave Manuscripts

India's rich repository of knowledge has been passed down for generations through oral and written traditions through a variety of writing materials such as stones, copperplates, birch bark, palm leaves, parchments and paper. The form of Palm leaf manuscripts are an invaluable part of India's documented heritage. Written in different Indian Languages, these manuscripts are scattered all over the country in monasteries, temples, libraries, museums, with individuals and in several private collections.

Objectives of the Practice

- To develop the knowledge about literary heritage available in the manuscripts.
- Digitization of these manuscripts for passing on their wealth of wisdom to future generations.
- To bring out the present generation into give support to the heritage by giving hands in the mission of digitizing the manuscripts.
- To stimulate the development of providing better education and training about the significant of ancient knowledge treasure.

Context

our college is located in a semi urban area where majority of the students who admitted are from tamil medium and they know the value of tamil culture and ancient tradition. They show keen interest in knowing our history of tamil language and old manuscripts. The library conducts many programs on how to maintain, preserve and digitizing the palmira leave manuscripts. Not only the Tamil department students but also the non-tamil department students also ready to get the awareness on the same.

Practice

Volunteers and experts in this field of archaeological department, professional trainers, trained alumni, final year tamil UG students and final year PG tamil students, few professors are specialized

in certain areas are invited to train them. Several interaction sessions are conducted based on their questions raised the experts clarify their queries. They also receive rigorous training to enhance their knowledge in this field. After the completion of the training programs, the students volunteers give training to the other students who shows interest in the same.

Evidence of success

The Palmira Leave manuscripts has classified as two types. From 16th to 19th century AD – 426 manuscripts have been compiled. With this collection, 29 grammar manuscripts and 17 Tamil transliteration manuscripts, more than 15 Purana manuscripts and 40 numbers of Siddha medicines. Few of them are historical documents, caste-related documents have been found. Siddha doctors, historians and editors have done research on palmleave manuscripts. In this batch 4 people have got MPhil degree.

Sundarapandyam and Thakka Ramayana are the only copies in the Tamil world that are unique in our library. It is also noteworthy that we have only got a copy of the Sanga period music book called Panchamarabu. With material assistance from French Institute we took maintenance process in 2015. In the year 2021, with the support of archaeological department Chennai the digitizing process have been completed.

Problem encountered and resources required

The palm leaves become brittle and get easily broken. there may be flexibility damages or losses near the margin, damages around the central hole breaking of the sheets into fragments. In tropical countries, biological agents cause great damages to palm leaves manuscripts. the most important biological organism are fungi, bacterial, algae, yeast and protoza. insects such as cockroaches, silverfish, termites damage the manuscripts.

It is difficult to make a distinction between physical and chemical deterioration of palm leave manuscripts. Light, heat and humidity have been included physical deterioration. Agencies also cause chemical action like oxidation, hydrolysis etc.,

An anti-fungal agent camphor and eucalyptus oils may be used to maintain the leaves. it has been suggested that leaves should be cleaned with distilled warm or cold water. Once done the leaves can rubbed dry with cloths for cleaning the surface of written and illuminated foils. In most cases it is damaged by handling therefore the leaves should be stored between two stiff boards slightly larger in size than the leaves.

BEST PRACTICE 2

Title – Introspection of Individuals

Objective

- To promote and developing communicative skills among students, teachers and subject experts.
- To provide opportunity to learn about the unknown things.
- To get rid of stage fear and to become bold enough.

Context

Harmony Within Us (Nammul Innakkam)

His Holiness our Swamiji, ThavathiruMaruthachalaAdihalar (President of our college) guided us to start a session titled - Harmony within us (NammulInnakkam) to develop a stress free environment. The programme is organized on every Fridays at 4.30pm. Teachers, professors and officials from all our institutions (ThaaiThamizhPalli, ThavathiruSanthalingaAdigalar Higher Secondary School, GnanambikaiMatricualtion School, Community College) coordinate together and share the happenings of the week and the upcoming programmes for next week. The programme starts with Invocation, followed by Meditation. Happenings of the concluded programmes and Agendas of forthcomingprogrammes are shared and discussed in this meetings.

Harmony with Scholars (NallaarInakkam)

This programme was initiated to create a healthy and wealthy world during the pandemic period. This is an online programme organized on every Fridays, from 6:15pm to 8pm. Scholars from various parts of Tamilnadu participated and delivered their lectures on wellness, how to overcome the fear, lending hands to needy, values of life, literature, temples, festivals, biographies and sculptures. Students of our institution, staff members, resource persons from various parts of Tamilnadu participated and delivered their lectures and shared their views. Students, staff members of our institution and foreigners participate in these lectures.

Connoisseur Circuit (SuvaingarSutram)

To exhibit the talents from our students this program is organized and conducted through online. Students prepare the topic of their own interest on literature, films, songs, plays or novels and day to day activities etc., and share their views on the above, through this program. These programs are conducted on Saturday evening in our college at 6:00pm to 6:30pm and organized by the college Librarian and her team. Our students exhibit their talent through oratorical, singing, debates, recitation etc.

Problem encountered and resources required

- Now-a-days audience lack of interest in value added programs.
- Lack of listening skill for audio programs.
- People expects for street play/short film.

Separate audio-visual room with congenial atmosphere.