

Title of the Practice: SAHAAYA and RURAL IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Objectives of the practice:

In keeping with the tradition, vision and mission of the Founders, the College aims at the integral formation of its students helping them to **become men and women for and with others**. Through this programme, the College seeks to sensitize its students to the needs of the society at large so that they become a powerful force in the **transformation of society**.

The Specific Objectives of SAHAAYA and Rural Immersion Programmes are:

- **To provide an opportunity for all students and staff to witness social reality and understand their responsibilities.**
- **To sensitize the students to be proactive contributors in the maintenance of ecological balance.**
- **To channelise and utilize the creativity and energy of students and staff in bringing about social change.**
- **To contribute to the holistic growth of students by preparing them to convert challenges into opportunities.**

The context:

St Aloysius College (Autonomous) has been catering to the needs of the local and global community for more than a century by providing excellent quality education. In addition to equipping students with the best academic qualifications, the College also endeavours to inculcate in them a **sense of social responsibility** which is essential for their **holistic growth and development**. The College envisions transforming young students into men and women for and with others. In pursuit of fulfilling this vision, the College has introduced **SAHAAYA and Rural Immersion programmes** which aim at creating a **consciousness of the social realities and environmental sensitivity** in the students. The programme gives an opportunity to the students to see and **experience the harsh realities of life**. The inherent energy of our youth is channelized to transform them into contributors who will conserve the local ecology, reach out to the needy **and uplift the marginalized sections of the society**. We ardently believe that this programme will inculcate the necessary values in all students who pass through the portals of our Institution and enable them to bring about policy changes in favour of the marginalized when they rise to such positions in future.

Promotion of Diverse Local Cultures and Traditions

Objectives	Context	The Practice	Evidence of Success
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create awareness regarding various kinds of cultures and traditions 2. To promote and preserve the indigenous regional diversities 3. To document the regional cultural diversity of coastal Karnataka 4. To study the religious diversity of the region 5. To preserve biodiversity of the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The museum and the world-famous chapel are a testimony to the commitment of college. 2. St Aloysius College has a rich tradition of being a cultural leader. 3. The coastal Karnataka is a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multilingual society. 4. The College has a number of associations which organise various cultural fests in the campus. 5. The College has been granted STRIDE grants from UGC. 6. The college is running a 16hrs daily programme through its Radio Sarang, Community Radio. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizing national level workshops on cultures and traditions. 2. Through UGC - STRIDE grants, 14 Research projects are undertaken to study cultural diversity. 3. Annually, Aloysian Literature Festival is conducted. 4. Theatre workshops are conducted. 5. Aloysian Theatre League, Aloysian Dance League, Aloysian Got Talent are conducted. 6. Biodiversity of the campus is preserved by maintaining a biodiversity Arboretum, Al-Vana. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The drama performed won the 1st place both at district and divisional level. 2. Radio Sarang was awarded a national award for its creative programme 'ANTARABELAKU'. 3. 14 research projects on cultures & traditions are undertaken under STRIDE Scheme on cultural diversity. 4. The college is the 1st to offer Konkani as a 2nd language at the UG level. 5. The world-renowned paintings in the College chapel are viewed by thousands of tourists. 6. College campus has a "Tissue Culture Avenue" trees developed in Laboratory of Applied Biology.

The Practice:

The programme initially began as an experiment, but soon realizing the importance and impact it had on the lives of the young students, necessary steps were taken to make it more vibrant. The first step in this regard was evolving '**The Centre for Social Concern**' to facilitate, manage and conduct activities in an organized manner. **The Director** of the programme monitors the functioning of the Centre on a day-to-day basis, with the support and guidance from the management of the College. It is mandatory for every student to put in **40 hours of SAHAAYA** activities (now it has been reduced to twenty hours, due to the prevailing pandemic situation), to complete his/her undergraduate course. Every member of the teaching faculty is appointed as a Mentor, with few students as Mentees assigned to him/her, to monitor the work done and offer necessary guidance and motivation. At the completion of their exposure to the SAHAAYA programme, **Mentors** take the responsibility to make the students **reflect** on the activities done by them, by having a fruitful discussion. Every activity under the programme is duly recorded in a card that is given to each student, which is later validated by the Centre of Social Concern and the Mentor by affixing their signatures.

In the **rural immersion programme**, the post graduate students from various departments are placed in several villages in **Inam Neeralgi, Lakshmipura Bidara, Hanumana Koppa, Saavikeri, Hassanabadi, Chigalli of Mundgod, Hangal WSS Nilgiris, Sahajeevanam-Payyannur**. Groups of PG students are made to stay in designated **houses of the villagers**. Mentors supervise the activities of the students

placed in these households and their daily activities are recorded. Students experience village stay and assist in the local household activities, help the families in their farm and shops and organize various activities such as **'SWARAKSHA – Education on Child Sexual Abuse'**, Transect walk-to analyze the community and resources, **Niyukthi-Training for Job Readiness, Nutrition Assessment, Swachh Shirigod**, Public programmes on **Child Marriage, HIV/AIDS** and Community hygiene, **Rain water harvesting** and many more. Students also visit the local schools and **Anganwadis**, helping them by taking classes on English grammar, teaching action songs and also conducting games and quizzes. The students also organize cultural programmes for the villagers and entertain them. Through this programme, the students learn to socialize with the villagers and learn their way of life. Successful completion of rural immersion is mandatory to receive the post graduate degree from the College.

Evidence of Success:

- The Programme has brought about tremendous change at **two levels**. At the institutional level it has **moulded students** to be better humans by being aware of social realities and at the societal level, **a positive change in the city's social fabric and ecology as evident through plantation of thousands of saplings in the Western Ghats and in the city area**.
- The feedback received from the students demonstrated a **noticeable change in their attitudes and perception**.
- Most of the students were **inspired** to help the **less privileged children** to come up in their life and they pledged themselves that they would help with at least **one child's education**.
- The life of the people in villages gave the students a chance to reflect on their own privileges and made **them more grateful for what they have**.
- Students understood **the effective and efficient use of limited resources** and also learnt to be patient, spend more time with the family and share the little things.
- The success of this practice can be measured by the selection of the College under **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** to cater to the **Someshwar (CT), Kandavara, Mulur (CT), Pilathabettu and Kavalpadu villages in Dakshina Kannada district**.

Problems encountered and resources required:

Though the programme has been a great success and has stabilized its functions in the past five years, it has encountered challenges in the process of its smooth implementation. To mention a few –

- Scarcity of time to complete the activity at a given point of time due to the pandemic and other adversities.
- Lack of cooperation from people/institutions due to ignorance of the objectives of the programme.
- Organizing activities for a large group of students within a stipulated time, without disrupting the academic schedules in a semester system is challenging.
- Retaining student interest consistently and involvement in the practice is a challenge.
- Faculty members need to go beyond the call of duty to engage and mentor the students.

However, notwithstanding all the odds we are proud to report that we have managed to successfully **implement this programme.**

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice:

PROMOTION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND TRADITIONS

Objectives of the Practice:

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts and the intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. **Tangible culture comprises buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artefacts.** While, intangible culture traditions include living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as **oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts as well as culturally significant landscapes and biodiversity.** These are important not only due to the present or possible economic value, but also because they create a certain emotion within us or because they make us feel as though we belong to a country, a tradition and a way of life.

The specific objectives of the practices are:

- To create awareness regarding the various kinds of culture and traditions.
- To promote and preserve the indigenous regional diversities in terms of demography, ethnicities, local languages and ancient folk theatre genres.
- To document the regional cultural diversity of coastal Karnataka and preserve the archives in our museum.

- To study the religious diversity of the region and to prepare grounds to establish a Centre for Interreligious Research and Dialogue.
- To preserve the biodiversity of the region.

The Context

Any evolving contemporary society has a connection with the past and its traditions. The **appreciation of cultural heritage** can be achieved through an integrated education approach.

The College recognizes that to be a **catalyst in facilitating a cohesive, inclusive, holistic and sustainable development of the region, an awareness of our pluralistic society is essential. The museum and the world-famous chapel are a testimony to the commitment of College in preserving culture and traditions.** St Aloysius College has always encouraged its staff and students to participate as well as organize several cultural activities. St. Aloysius College believes that the **acquisition of ideas, attitudes, values, come from culture and that education and culture are mutually interdependent in all the aspects and activities.** The various associations, literary fests and the Campus eye helps our staff and students to reflect and evolve as truly men and women for and with others.

The Practice

The Institution executes different programmes and practices to create insights on the local culture and tradition. Encouragement is given by means of organizing national level workshops highlighting and focusing on themes related to culture and tradition.

- Unique and creative practices of fostering local culture and traditions, consisting of **research projects, case studies, documentaries followed by discussions. Additional programmes consist of folk and indigenous plays, recitation of self-composed multilingual poetry, folk songs, dance, and light music. A series of webinars are also conducted, with the intent of sensitizing local culture and traditions.**
- The College community radio - through its unique programmes attempts to promote local culture and traditions. It broadcasts **Yakshagana** daily throughout the year. The most important weekly live programme is **'Tulu Chavadi'** that highlights the tradition and culture of Tulu folklore. The weekly live programme in **Konkani - 'Tallo Umallo'** introduces the culture and important personalities of Konkani. **'Maikalto Phalaka'** is a weekly live programme in the **Beary** language. **'Radio Sanje'** is another daily live programme in Kannada.
- **The Aloysian Literature Festival (ALF)** on the theme of **'Celebrating Indigenous Cultures'**, succeeded in creating an awareness about marginal cultures and identities among the students, teachers and the public. This fest

brought literature lovers face-to-face, with six plenary sessions by research scholars and writers across India, dramas that transcended ethnic boundaries, a korero of songs, dance, poetries and folklores.

- St Aloysius College, in collaboration with **the Karnataka Yakshagana Academy and UGC-STRIDE Scheme**, has organized a dialogue and workshop on the theme: **'Yakshagana- Rethinking in the Light of the Present'**. A **unique and experimental dance drama based on the Shakespearean play Macbeth was performed by the College Yakshagana team.**
- Students have immensely benefited from the regular **theatre workshops** conducted with eminent theorists like **Mr Chandrahas Ullal, Ninasam Avinash, Mr Shivaram Kalmadka, Mr Natesh Ullal and Ninasam Christopher D'Souza.**
- **The College has 24 co-curricular and 34 extracurricular associations** at the **UG level and 22 associations** at the **PG level**. Every student is part of any one association and the association activities are integrated into the credit system. **The Dramatics Association, Hindi Sangha, Konkani Sangha, Al-Madhyam, Al-Fine Arts, Music Association, Hopkins Literary Association and the Heritage Club** are all very active and much-sought after by our students. It is through these associations that our students develop their interpersonal skills and learn to accept the unity in diversity.
- In addition to having **05 auditoriums** with varying facilities and capacity, the College also has an **open-air theatre** where students gather in large numbers to exhibit their talents and organize various cultural events. Cultural fests are held annually spanning over several days where all departments actively participate.
- St Aloysius College recognises that **forests, marine coasts, water bodies, groundwater and biodiversity are all important prerequisites for life on this planet for sustainable development.** The College is committed to the protection, conservation and sustenance of natural resources. The Biodiversity of the Campus is preserved in **Al-Vana, an Arboretum** – with an expanse of about **1.5 acres** which is maintained as a **mini biodiversity spot** on the Campus with its natural flora and fauna. About **150 plants** belonging to **70 different species** are maintained in this Arboretum. Additionally, there are about **1500 flowering and shade trees** belonging to **152 different species** which are identified and recorded in the **Biodiversity Register** at SAC main centre and there are about **1000 flowering and shade trees** belonging to **132 different species** which are identified and recorded in the **Biodiversity Register at the AIMIT Beeri centre.**

5. Evidence of Success

Our students gain good organizational and communication skills.

- The Dramatics association has staged several plays both inside and outside the College and won several accolades. **The drama troupe bagged the first place in both the district and divisional level held in Mangaluru and Mysuru respectively in 2017.**
- **Radio Sarang 107.8 FM**, the Community Radio reaches out to the surrounding areas of Mangaluru for **16 hours a day** in five different local languages through several programmes promoting and spreading awareness on local culture, language, health and hygiene and the economic and social aspects of life. The community radio has bagged multiple National Awards for promoting local language and culture. The recent one being National Award for its creative programme '**ANTARABELAKU**' from **the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India on 27th August 2019.**
- The students of the Dramatics Association of St Aloysius College (Autonomous) secured **II Place for the Play 'Nattirulaata'** during the 3-day State Level Drama Competition '**Abhinayotsava 2020**' organized by **Abhinaya Sagara (R)** on 30th & 31st January and 1st February 2020 held at the Kagodu Thimmappa Rangamandira, Sagara.
- The College has attempted a '**Critical Evaluation of the origins, evolution and perceptions of Cultural Diversities of coastal Karnataka and their impact on the social, political and religious identities of the people of the Region**'. About **14 major research projects** on culture and traditions are underway sponsored by the prestigious **UGC STRIDE – Component 1 with the grant of Rs. 1 Crore.**
- The College is the **first to offer Konkani** as a second language at the undergraduate level since **1992** in the state.
- The world-renowned paintings in the **College chapel** attract thousands of foreign and domestic tourists.
- The College **museum- Aloysium**, with rare collections, is an added attraction.
- The **Laboratory of Applied Biology** has been constantly working on preservation of endangered red listed plant species through tissue culture techniques and the '**Tissue Culture Avenue**' of test tube trees developed by the doctoral students of the Laboratory of Applied Biology, adorns the Campus.
- **The fern house, an initiative of the department of Botany, has preserved about 40 medicinal plants in the Campus.**
- **The Centre for Environmental Concern** too has contributed immensely towards initiating programmes to popularise and preserve biodiversity.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- The major constraint on finding **adequate resources** has been met with the help of the **UGC -STRIDE project**, which has helped the College to promote the local culture and traditions as well as initiating research into these aspects.
- The problems associated with **the pandemic** have posed major challenges in the implementation of many of these activities. However, the College has transitioned to **digital mode** and tried to overcome these limitations by organizing meaningful webinars and online talent shows.
- Absence of an exclusive department of **Fine and Performing Arts**.
- Absence of students in the Campus during the pandemic.
- Organising activities for students **without disrupting the academic schedules** in a semester system is challenging.