

## **i. Inter Departmental Seminar**

### **Objectives of the Practice**

With an intend to foster collaborative experiences in program from different fields of expertise, the IQAC has played a vital role in organizing inter departmental seminar on annual basis with the following aspirations.

- To provide a platform to teachers of all departments to share expertise and resources.
- To foment research culture among both students and teachers.
- To enable teachers to venture into subject matters such as local politics, economics, literature, history etc.and topics outside of the existing structure of syllabi which can be effectively used as a source of reference in future.

### **The Context**

The present system of imparting education to undergraduate students in Nagaland is chiefly through transfer of established text book based knowledge and information, which leaves very little room for teachers to go for investigative and explorative study. This is one of the reasons why the teachers for the most part are indifferent towards research and lack experience and procedural know-how of conducting seminars, workshop, conferences etc.

One of the ways in which institutions of higher education can meet the challenges thus posed is through research based knowledge which be derived from research works carried out within the academic circles and this must be made an integral part of the education system. If students' minds are to be opened up and be encouraged to have a spirit of enquiry, teachers needed to first prepare themselves

to guide them. Thus this practice has been as one of the best practices of the college.

### **The practice.**

The Research Cell is the parent cell of the Inter departmental seminar and has taken responsibility for creating the roster of the program for all the departments presenting papers. Inter departmental seminar is an annual cycle and is conducted on every third Saturday of the month.

The topics of the seminar are inter-disciplinary and are wide ranging which have relevance and is of common interest to all the existing departments of the college, which are Economics, Education, English, Functional English, History, Political Science, Sociology and Tenyidie in Arts stream and Environmental Science and the Commerce stream. Teachers not only cover syllabus based themes, but takes up varied topics such as culture studies, international Political scenarios, financial issues, Research methodologies etc. All logistic preparations of the seminar are undertaken by the concerned department whose turn it is to conduct the seminar on the appointed day. It is the endeavor of the college that such practices will encourage and motivate more faculty members to take up research in inter-disciplinary areas. The interactive discussions are recorded and the papers are catalogued by the Research Cell for publication in the annual journal of the college- 'Impressions'. These papers are also used as reference materials for the teachers as well as students. Acknowledging the success of this exercise amongst the faculty it was also introduced to the students as part of their internal assessment process where they are made to present papers on a given topic and marks are allotted based on their performance.

As a part of this practice on a larger scale, the college has organized and conducted a National workshop in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Youth ... on the theme ‘.....’ on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and an International Webinar on ‘ Violence Against Women and Women’s Writing in English in Nagaland’ on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

### **Evidence of success**

The success of the inter-departmental seminar amongst the faculty has led to its introduction among the students as part of their internal assessment process. This practice is proving very beneficial for the students as it is giving them the experience of researching and it is hoped that such experience will definitely empower them to tackle their research works with more confidence as they go for higher studies. Since it’s introduction, the inter departmental seminars have evolved as a dynamic force, yielding more innovative ideas among the faculty members in collaborating on topics of mutual interest. Such activities are helping foster better intellectual as also social relationships between teachers. Paper presentations in national seminars, successful publication of books and participation as resource persons in district level seminars are indicators of the stimulating seminar series of the college. Two faculty published research papers in Journals notified on UGC website, five faculty members presented papers in National and International seminars during this academic session.

### **Problems encountered and Resources required.**

The greatest challenge was to remove intellectual fogging among majority of the faculty members. The languid atmosphere has now given way to something promising and intellectually fruitful.

Financial resources entailed by this practice by way of printing certificates, programmes and refreshments were initially borne by the institution. The IQAC of the college started operating its own bank account from 2016, henceforth all research related expenses are sponsored through this source.

At the student level conduct of seminars in general classes is not feasible due to the magnitude of student numbers. But in smaller honours classes, paper presentations are done.

## **ii. Cultural Conservation**

### **Objective of the Practice**

As Nagas settle into modern lives, it is necessary for us to conserve our traditional culture, be it in the form of continuing positive practices or conserving our material culture and art forms. Traditionally, dormitory systems were practiced by most tribes and performed the roles schools and colleges play today. The practice of cultural conservation attempts to bring together the functions of our traditional dormitory systems with modern pedagogy.

Culture is our identity while education is the instrument of transmitting culture from one generation to the next. Traditionally, learning is done orally and through various activities especially through the institution of boys dormitories or morungs. Traditional learning and teaching was seen as an act of disseminating knowledge and information to the learners through storytelling, folklores, singing, dancing and several activities related with the village and its protection. Today this function of socialization and community education has been shifted to the formal educational institutions. This brings us to the realization that, colleges and other educational institutions can be agents of not only formal education but also community education by adopting a practice of incorporating cultural values, ethics and rich cultural heritage through various activities

### **The Context**

In Nagaland, like elsewhere, the current system of education is by and large a colonial legacy. While it imparts 'modern' education aimed at equipping students to compete with the rest of the world, it has done so at the expense of alienating students from their indigenous roots. While an overhaul of the education system is beyond our powers, exploring ways to incorporate some forms of inculcating traditional knowledge was within our capacities.

Keeping these in mind, the college decided to adopt cultural conservation as one of the best practices of the college to cultivate, inculcate, disseminate awareness and conserve our rich culture and tradition through the following:-

1. Hands on activity through celebration of festivals and showcase our attires, art, craft, dance and music.

2. Revisit our narratives, story - telling, preserving and study of mother tongue.
3. To give importance to traditional sports and recreation forms.
4. Documentations and pilot studies which also form an important part of the students' internal assessments.
5. It attempts to encourage interest in the field of research both among the teachers and students.
6. It is also an attempt to learn our diverse traditional knowledge and give equal opportunity to every student to unearth their hidden talents, explore their past glories and cultivate the good values back into the present times.

### **The Practice:**

1. In their lesson plans, lectures and assignments, faculty is encouraged to integrate local and traditional examples or applications where relevant.
2. Kohima College is the first college in Nagaland to introduce the Tenyidie department, a vibrant vernacular undergraduate program, having produced litterateurs and academic. The existence of this subject has been an added advantage in our objective of introducing cultural conservation as one of our best practices.
3. Realising the role vernacular languages play in the conservation of tribal cultures, the college magazine was the first and is currently the only one in the state that encourages and publishes writing in all Naga vernacular languages.
4. On the occasion of Annual Cultural Day, students and faculty are instructed to wear their traditional garments and jewellery. Traditional folk dances, songs, games are performed and played. Traditional food is partaken following the format of a traditional communal feast. The meanings and symbolism of all these are shared both in personal interactions as well in the form of public instruction.

5. Food fest - Food is the source of our life and growth. Good and healthy food gives us physical strength, protection from diseases and mental development. It is one of the most important elements in our healthy living.

Therefore, the main objectives of **food fest** include, promotion of the idea of healthy food in our diet and the conservation of our unique tribal food. Nagas comprises of 18 major tribes and every tribe is known for their special treats. These delicacies and different food does not end at our taste buds but it has a little story to tell about its origin, nutritional values and its special occasions. Having such food fest opens up a window into our cultural practices and traditions that not only defines us but gives meaning to our lives.

6. One of the objectives of the cultural museum was to make our material culture more accessible to both students and faculty. Collectively, many have contributed textiles, crafts, artifacts as well as traditional tools and objects to our collection. In the process of participating in collection and curation, students are able to collect oral histories and narratives. They are able to learn about the history, significance and uses of the materials they collect and innovate ways to conserve and transmit this knowledge, be it in the space of the museum or beyond.

### **Evidence of Success:**

The declaration of Wednesdays as cultural attire day has further facilitated and enhanced our best practice. In fact our college can claim some credit for setting an example found worthy of replicating across the department. Though many faculty and students were already in the habit of wearing their cultural attire prior to this declaration, having a day set apart for wearing cultural attire has only confirmed that we are on the right path.

Students are happy to wear a traditional item once a week and they are also obligated to learn more about the items they are wearing. They also learn to appreciate the culture and tradition of other tribes.

As part of skill development activity, students are encouraged to make traditional and cultural handicraft items and during the 'Food Fest' special stalls are set up where the products are displayed and sold.

During the College week, Naga wrestling is the main feature of attraction, with many students enthusiastically participating, vying for the coveted title. Many of our students have participated in various wrestling tournaments and in fact in the past years there have many state champions from the college. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic sports activities are put on hold but once the situation normalizes, students will be able to train themselves and bring laurels to the college as was done in the past.

### **Problems encountered and resources required.**

Observation of festivals/ Cultural days in the college has been a great success; however a good amount of time goes to planning and execution for which it cannot be held as often as we would like.

Setting up arena for traditional games like wrestling entails a lot of time, energy and money

Procurement of items for cultural museum is a time consuming and expensive endeavour. Often items are personal family heirlooms and cannot be parted with. Many times, those that may be procured are beyond our financial capacity.

Collecting oral histories, accounts, involve travel and proper documenting devices - such as audio and video recorders. The cost for procuring these items, expense for travel as well as training students and faculty in the right methodology and knowledge of equipment use is often beyond our current budgets.