Best Practice 1

1.Title of the Practice : Technology Enabled Teaching- Learning (TETL)

With the advances in technology, the college realized the need to integrate technology into the teaching-learning process and over the years the pedagogic practices have evolved and become more and more supported by technology.

2.Objectives / Intended Outcomes:

- To integrate technology-enabled teaching-learning with traditional practices for more effective teaching-learning outcomes.
- to make the teaching-learning process interesting, interactive and relevant to the digital generation.

3.Contextual Features / Challenges:

- Getting the required know-how on technology-enabled teaching.
- Investing in IT infrastructure.
- Motivating and training teachers to use technology.

4.The Practice:

- The first major step taken by the Management towards TETL was to establish the Language Lab in 2007 with 30+1 systems and wifi connectivity (now enhanced to 100 mbps). Software such as RENET, SNET, Author Plus and Clarity English Success and Sky Eng Pronunciation installed by Young India make interactive learning possible. The Language Lab is open to all UG, PG and Research Students.
- In 2010, two of our faculty were part of an international project funded by Canada and undertaken by PAN dora, University of Madras. Open Educational Resources through Moodle was introduced and teachers started using.
- Since January 2015, we have been offering NMEICT Spoken Tutorials to interested students in collaboration with IIT, Bombay. A total of 2183 students have benefitted till date.

- From 2017, our faculty and students have been encouraged to register for MOOC courses through the NPTEL platform and all support is provided by mentors. In 2018, the NPTEL Local Chapter was established.

- Teachers use learning apps such as Verso, Socrative and Edmodo to make the teaching-learning process more interactive. An online Spoken English Course Edge-on has been designed by the Department of English with the help of the Edmodo App. In the last two years 1339 students enrolled and were certified.

- In February 2018, our college signed an agreement with Google Cloud and became a member of G-suite, an LMS. Students are given ids with which they can log in to the Google Classroom and go through learning material posted by the teachers. Students are also administered tests, quizzes and assignments through this virtual learning platform.

- One of our teachers Mrs. Kauser started a Youtube Channel called Kauser Wise in 2015 and started posting e-content and she received the You Tube Silver Creator Award in 2017. The CTTE Media Centre with the required infrastructure helps teachers in recording e-content and uploading on You Tube under CTTE Media Channel.

5. Evidence of Success:

- The NPTEL Best New Local Chapter outside the top 100 Award received for the 6 month period ending December 2018.

- Certificate of Appreciation received by our SPOC.

- Our NMEICT Spoken Tutorials Coordinator took forward online Computer Education to Schools and received a Certificate of Appreciation from IIT- Bombay, NMEICT, MHRD, Govt. of India.

- Several of our faculty and students have excelled in NPTEL exams during the year 2018-19.
    - 115 Elite
    - 18 Silver
    - 12 Toppers and
    - 9 Gold

- The e-content recorded in the CTTE Media Centre and uploaded on YouTube CTTE Media Channel is being watched by hundreds of students.

- Students find learning through Google Classroom very interesting and interactive.
- The Google classroom engagement has received Appreciation from Google Partner-Techevo Solutions.

6.Problems Encountered:

- Making TETL a success needed a lot of determination. It was a very big challenge as we needed money to invest in the Language Lab, smart classrooms, CTTE Media Centre and other equipment. As a self-financing institution run on a no-profit basis by a Public Trust, financial resources are limited. Increasing the fees, which is our chief source of income, generally has an impact on admissions. But still the management through their unfailing leadership have managed to provide us with all the required infrastructure to make TETL a great success. They even provide free transport to our students who take their NPTEL exams in remote parts of the city.

Resources Required

- A well equipped Language Lab with software such as SNET, Author Plus, Clarity English Success and Sky English Pronunciation.
- Sufficient number of computers
- Adequate lecture halls/seminar halls/ labs with high speed Wi-Fi connectivity as well as LCDs and laptops.
- Smart class rooms
- Systems with ear phones for NMEICT and NPTEL courses.
- Media Centre which is sound proofed and equipped with Lecture Capturing System, a camera with tripod, chroma green background screen, two sets of studio lights with reflectors, laptops with the following software: Open Broadcaster Software for video recording and live streaming; Screencast-o-matic software for screen recording and video-editing.

Best Practice 2

1.Title of the Practice: STEP UP

- An acronym for **S**upplementary **T**raining &**E**nrichment of **P**ersonality - An **U**ndergraduate **P**rogramme, STEP UP was launched in the year 2014 to help students develop their personality and communication skills.

2.Objectives / Intended Outcomes

- The objectives are:
    - to make students more comfortable in Spoken English skills
    - to improve their knowledge of current affairs through watching and discussing news
    - to inculcate values and right behaviour through mentoring
    - to develop an interest in extension activities by giving time for gardening, sports, yoga etc.,
- The intended outcome is a total transformation in the personality of the student.

3.The Context

- Our college is situated in North Chennai which is an industrial belt. In the year 2017-18, as per data compiled for NIRF it was found that 2142 students out of 2270 admitted came from the socially backward sections of society and several of them were first generation learners. Even with English medium education, a section has difficulty communicating in English and following English news channels. They lack social skills also. As a result the college felt the need to set apart an hour everyday to train them and transform their personality.

4.The Practice

- STEP-UP was first conceived of in 2014 as a brief zero-hour session soon after Morning Assembly. Five minutes from each class were taken and a time table was worked out for the entire college. As at that point of time, we had only one Auditorium, we decided that

only first and final years could be accommodated for watching news. We also had to accommodate STEP UP for final years after the first hour class while others had it during the zero-hour.

- For second years, we introduced News Discussion in the classroom.While students watched and discussed news on alternate days, we also worked into the time table, mentoring, gardening, yoga and readers club activities.

- Important news had to be culled everyday from different news channels and put together. We installed the Movie-maker software to make this work effective. As the visual medium is very powerful, we decided to add one video at the end of the news everyday which would propagate a powerful message on ethics and values.

- We have been successfully running STEP UP for the last five years and after the completion of the new Auditorium in 2017, we have opened up news-watching for second year students also. (As a supplement to news-watching, students are encouraged to subscribe to an English newspaper which is procured by the college for them at subsidised rates)

5.Evidence of Success

- By the end of the UG programme, students are able to understand the Spoken English of the news anchors and stay abreast of current affairs. This is assessed by their performance in the quiz conducted at regular intervals on the news shown by the team incharge of STEP-UP

- Performance of students in intercollegiate and other state-level essays, quizzes and oratorical competitions has improved in the last few years.

- The value inculcating videos are welcomed by students.

- Interested students use the time to grow and water plants in the kitchen garden.

- The C.C.C has a Villupattu team (folk performance team) which practices during the time given to them and they have won accolades from both Government and non-government organizations.

- Mentoring sessions are highly successful as teachers have been able to identify students with personal problems and help them.

6.Problems Encountered

- The first difficulty was getting the latest news and putting it together every day. In 2014, not many news apps were available.
- The STEP UP team had to be taught how to identify important news and keep it brief and crisp. Very long interviews were to be avoided. Sensational news also was to be avoided. So the college oriented the team.
- Sometimes the audio would not be effective and students would get distracted.
- For optimal utilisation, the STEP UP time had to be rescheduled so that late comers do not miss the sessions.
- From 2018-19 we have STEP UP after class hours.

Resources Required

- Auditoriums equipped with audio-video facilities such as LCD projectors, powerful audio systems and laptops.
- Movie-maker and Adobe Creative Cloud Software
- A team of dedicated faculty