Best Practice - 1

Title of the Practice :   **Innovative techniques in English language teaching.**

Objectives of the practice:

To study the principles of language and communication, and the practice of English language teaching, while also incorporating courses from a variety of other subject pathways. The methodologies combines the academic study of language and communication with practical training in English language teaching (ELT). It prepares students for a wide range of career opportunities from education (e. g. teaching English as a first or second language in the UK or abroad) to research in language acquisition, to publishing, media, and the digital industry. The aims of the programme are:

- To help students develop analytical and critical thinking skills.
- To give students an understanding of the properties and analysis of human language.
- To provide students with an understanding of the process of language acquisition
- To give students an appreciation of the possible applications of the knowledge of language
- To provide students with knowledge about how to design and produce materials for a language lesson
- To give students an appreciation of current practice and developments in language teaching and testing in ELT
- To provide them with seminal teaching practice.

The Context

In the present global scenario, the importance of communicative English is beyond any doubt. English is commonly used as a medium for the communication of information and news. Eighty percent of computer data are processed and stored in English.

English is a major language of international business, diplomacy, and science and the professions. English is an official language of many international organizations, including the United Nations and many professional organizations. People who speak

English have a certain status in society.

So being proficient in communicative English is a must.

The decline in standards in English language competence is causing increasing concern.

Graduates, who may be eminently competent in their own specialist areas, are having problems finding suitable employment because of their lack of English. Access to the higher levels of academic study is restricted because the vast majority of academic texts are in English. The state of English in our country has yet not been reached at a satisfactory level. Thus, it is imperative to introduce some innovative methods to enhance the level of English of the General students.

The Practice

Department of English always strives to be in the forefront of innovations in the field of English language teaching. A number of Innovative Programs have been conducted by the Department. The following is a brief description of some innovative methodologies developed by our faculty,Dr.M.E.Premanand.

a) *Gamification in Classrooms* Innovative method of learning using games.

Textbook portions are made into questions and then cast as gaming questions.

The answer choices come as output on students' mobiles. A fun way to learn.

b) *Nuts and Bolts of English* Innovative, tear-off practice sheets for degree students. 30 teachers, research scholars and students worked on this project using collaborative tools and cloud technology. Each practice sheet is designed for use in classrooms. There are pre and post assessment sheets to grade the learner. The sheets are in colour print to enhance the interest of the learner. There is also a phonemic transcription chart on the front and back inner covers to understand and learn correct pronunciation. This book is useful for IELTS, TOEFL, PSC... 12 colleges in Calicut University are using this book for SSP and WWS classes. Answers and phonemic transcription are given in the link http://www.ewsrl.com/answer-key.html

c) Podcasts and Quick Mems - audio clippings of text books and slides for answers. http://www.ewsrl.com/lend-an-ear.html. Presently, 15 lessons have been podcasted.

Quick Mems is an innovative resource using cloud technology. It is in effect crowd-sourced answers to lessons prescribed for University of Calicut. The answers are checked by an expert panel of senior teachers and uploaded onto a responsive website. Anytime, anyplace learning coupled with easy accessibility helps it to be beneficial to rural learners. This is the first time in Kerala and possibly India that such an educational resource has been freely hosted.

Quick Mems http://www.premclt.com/quick-mems.html provide answers to short answer questions in slide format that are carefully crafted slides with the right font, texture and colour.

E-learning website   www.funenglishmcc.com

A website specifically targeted to the needs of the students. It is an e-learning website. It has links to podcasts, quick mems and blogs.

d) . Infographics

http://www.premclt.com/blog/windows-windows-versions

https://magic.piktochart.com/output/15153589-history-of-communication

The mixed use of information coupled with graphics gave way to infographics. The students of BA Functional English were impressed with this new type of learning. Infographics became such a powerful medium of communication at Malabar Christian College that British Council selected DrPremanand's novel and innovative method of teaching from over 400 teachers using new technologies in the classroom. He is the only teacher from Kerala to be featured in their new publication released in February 2017.

Use of digital technology in the classrooms has always been a boon for the students. DrPremanand M E was selected for the Best Techno-faculty Award instituted by the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu.

Evidence of Success

Use of IT in classrooms has proved to be beneficial as years advanced. DrPremanand pioneered the use of e-books way back in 2012. *Studies in Advertisement* (IV Sem, Open Course, BA Functional English) did not have a proper text. It was the CDs developed by the English Department which paved the way to greater accessibility of information.

By 2014, a number of textbooks (Informatics, Media Studies I , Media Studies II) prescribed for study in BA Functional English (student population – over 1000 students in University of Calicut) had access to free PDF version of the textbooks.

A dedicated website for students was hosted by the Department in 2014. A number of blogs have been created by students. By 2015, DrPremanand experimented with Infographics. 2016 saw the introduction of Quick Mems, slide based answers that were readily available on the mobile platform http://www.premclt.com/quick-mems.html

Last year alone, www.funenglishmcc.com registered over 60,000 views with over twenty thousand of them being unique visitors.

Problems encountered and resources required:

Until 2015, broadband connectivity was a major problem. Availability of desktops and laptops in the ratio 1:1 also could not be achieved. With the onslaught of mobile devices and faster internet connectivity, almost all studens have access to mobile handsets in their homes. This allows for successful implementation of Learning Management System.

Almost all sites used by DrPremanand M E require payment in USD or Credit card mode. (Min Three quotations cannot got). Hence the amount has to be suffered by the individual teacher. This will greatly affect proper ICT implementation.

> For example – every year, the following payments need to be made in order to improve ICT penetration among learners
> 1. Microsoft Office suite – Rs.4,999
> 2. Piktochart6----500
> 3. Website maintenance-   4,500
> 4. Connector   -   3,000

Resources required

➢ Start-up funds that can be sanctioned by the Principal for speedier implementation
➢ Tablets (without calling facility) in the classroom

Best Practice - 2

Title of the Practice: **Empowering young women through women's cell**

Objectives of the practice:

Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. The topic on "Women Empowerment" is a burning issue all over the world. "Women empowerment" and "women equality with men" is a universal issue. Women cell of the college aims at organizing and transforming young women into a vibrant collective by focusing on their strengths and skills sets and enabling them to realize their true potential. The main objective of the women cell is to make the youth aware of the issues involved in their society and to equip them with adequate management skills to handle day-to-day affairs. Through Women cell, the institute has initiated various programs like gender awareness trainings, pre-marital counseling, open forum, cultural programs, manuscript publishing, training in IT/Soft skill, creative workshop, street plays and community intervention programs.

The objectives of the women's cell are as follows:-
           To inculcate among the youth a sense of social commitment
To act as a linking channel between the community women and the Institute.
To provide training for women so that they become empowered in their younger age thereby making them self-sustainable in the society
To create a feel of empathy among the youth to their fellow beings
To explore their innate talents and utilize them to the maximum for the betterment of the society.

The context:

The effort to provide equal status for women in the Indian society began with the formation of our Constitution. It has been clearly written in the preamble of the Indian Constitution that there would be no disparity and discrimination on the basis of sex or gender of a person living in India. The Fundamental Rights, Duties and the Directive Principles which are described in our Constitution also repeat the above mentioned feelings and vision. The Indian Constitution not only satisfies by giving equal rights to the women but also empowers the states by giving them the right to provide some special rights to the women for their empowerment.

Literally half of the seven billion people on the planet are female. If 50% of global population suffers daily discrimination, increased risk of assault, and all kinds of other delightful problems just by virtue of being female, we can say that empowerment should be a top priority.

The socio-economic profile of the girl students of the college clearly shows that majority are from poor socio-cultural backgrounds. Though the girl students forms about 70% of the total students their progression to employment is not so satisfactory. Keeping this in mind a women's cell was established in the college to enhance the self-esteem and self-confidence of women students and enable them to make informed choices in areas like education, employment and health.

The Practice:

Following are the main programmes towards this end. The activities intended for transforming young women are academic, awareness and action oriented.

1. Gender auditing: a detailed socio-economic statistics of the girl students of the campus.
1. Certificate course in 'Women and Development': This is a three month part time certificate course conducted by Women's Cell.
2. Motivation classes: classes handled by experts in this field.
3. Invited Talks: talks on gender issues and empowerment.
4. Discussion/Debates : on Women development
5. Exhibition of students' handicrafts & paintings and Food festival :
6. Awareness Programme: on legal awareness, Human rights, Sexual harassment.
7. Workshop/Seminars: on Gender Sensitization.
8. Cycling: Cycling lessons were given to the female students.
9. Karate/Yoga: Classes conducted by Sports Council, Kozhikode.
10. Film Exhibition : Screening of women centric movies
11. Social commitment: members of Women's Cell frequently visit poor homes and Government Mental Health Centre, Kozhikode upholding their social commitment.

Evidence of Success:

It is very inspirational to note the gradual change of attitude amongst girl students after the exposure to various programmes. The goal of the work is to improve development outcomes for young women and **providing a catalyst for change,** the returns of which will ripple through wider society. We aim to enhance the effectiveness of global efforts to reduce the alarming numbers of desperately deprived adolescent girls, improve their wellbeing and capabilities, and thereby catalyses change for communities, broader society and the economy. Through these varied activities the main objective of creating awareness among young women of the issues involved in their society and also to equip them with adequate management skills to handle day-to-day affairs can be easily done.

Problems encountered and resources required

The main problems encountered during the implementation of this best practice are:

- ✓ Practical difficult in sensitizing the students to various dimensions of gender discrimination and to engage them in activities that would empower them to work towards a gender just society.
- ✓ Students are not getting sufficient time due to tight curriculum schedule.
- ✓ Non availability of enough funds for implementing various programmes.