**Best Practices:**

**1.** Organizing Conferences and Seminars on contemporary issues consecutively for the last many years.

**Objectives**: To be updated on current knowledge and be acquainted with the new findings in different academic disciplines.

To bring together academicians and experts from different parts of the country for a fruitful discussion on contemporary issues and to bridge the gap between academics and industry. To provide a platform for faculty members to undertake research activities and for future collaborations. To initiate students into research skills of reading, writing and critical thinking. Need Addressed: Educationists need to be life-long learners and critical thinkers. As disseminators of knowledge, it is vital to be updated on current knowledge which they can pass on to their students. There is also a need to promote research acumen among faculty members and to provide them a platform to present their ideas on contemporary issues. Practice: Our college has been organizing conferences and seminars on various levels-State, National, International – consecutively for the last many years. The IQAC, after discussing with the faculty members, decides on a theme for the conference. An organizing committee is appointed, which makes all the arrangements for a smooth and efficient conduct of the conferences.

Papers are invited from research scholars and faculty members and selected papers are published in the conference proceedings having ISBN.

This year, in keeping with the theme of Azadika Amrit Mahotsav, two conferences were held. A National Multidisciplinary Web Conference on ‘Higher Education: Transformations in Post-Independence Period in India’ was organized on 22nd February, 2023.

The Department of Commerce in collaboration with IQAC organized a One-Day National Web Conference on ‘Journey of Business and Management in Post-Independence Period of India’ on 1st February, 2023.

**Evidence of success:**

The National Multidisciplinary Web Conference on ‘Higher Education: Transformations in Post-Independence Period of India’, on 22nd February 2023. We had resource persons and delegates from different parts of the country and 39 research articles were received and published in the conference proceeding. The YouTube video of the conference has 457 views and the conference received excellent feedback from most of the participants.

The One-Day National Web Conference on ‘Journey of Business and Management in Post-Independence Period of India’ was organized by the Department of Commerce and IQAC. Seven resource persons from different parts of the country and 25 research articles were received and published as an edited book. The You tube video of the conference has 537 views.

**Problems encountered:** A hectic academic schedule makes it difficult for the Institute to hold conferences of three days duration and conducting more than one conference a year.

**Resources required:** Motivated faculty members with a keen interest in upgrading their skills and knowledge along with adequate funding are the primary requirements.

**2.** **Raising Environmental Consciousness among Students**.

**Need addressed:** The COVID pandemic was a wake-up call to the world to reconsider and deliberate on our relationship with the Earth and its environment. It proved that an incident in one corner of the world can have devastating consequences in the whole world. It also revealed the interdependency of environment and economy. It is imperative that consumption habits and lifestyle changes be made to keep the Earth safe and sustainable for future generations. Each one of us can and should take the responsibility on an individual, personal level to make this happen. Today, in a technologically connected world, students are disconnected from nature and their surroundings and this has to be rectified, especially in an urban set up. As educationists it has become imperative to ensure that students become torchbearers of the future and be taught to respect the planet and the environment and to take responsibility for the environmental concerns.

**Objectives:**

To make students aware of the importance of conservation of natural resources.

To create awareness about nature and to appreciate natural resources.

To connect with nature and be aware of their natural surroundings.

To sensitize and educate students about conservation and environmental concerns.

To motivate students to be ambassadors of environment in the society.

**Practice:**Under the aegis of the various departments and associations, a number of activities are taken up, that help in achieving the objectives mentioned above. There are 16 associations functioning in the college. Each association has a student coordinator and assistant coordinator who manage the activities of the association under the guidance of the teachers-in-charge. Of these associations The Nature Club spearheads nature and environment related activities. The Nature Club publishes a handwritten magazine ‘Nirzara’ every year. Students write poems and articles related to nature and environment for the magazine, which is then released on 4th August, the Foundation Day of our institution. This year the theme for the magazine was ‘Only One Earth’. The Club celebrates World Environment Day every year, and this year it held a Quiz Competition on environmental issues. The Department of Geography, the NSS and the Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension (DLLE) in particular undertake environment related activities. The NSS held a guest lecture on Composting and a talk on Marine Life. The college has switched to LED bulbs and notices are put up in all classrooms as reminders for students to keep the lights and fans switched off so as to conserve valuable energy. The college is a plastic free zone. The college has a waste management system in place where wet and dry waste is segregated at source and there is a provision for disposal of e-waste. All these measures help to create awareness among students and staff and to instill in them the habit of conservation and protection of environment.

**Evidence of success:** Participating in the various activities’ students have gained an insight into the problems created by misuse of natural resources and have developed the mindset of reduce, reuse and recycle. Students have become aware of their carbon footprint and how to reduce it. Students have learnt to avoid plastic bottles and many of the students have now shifted to steel, reusable bottles. They are particular about not wasting energy by switching off the lights and fans when not needed. They have learnt about the use of trees, especially medicinal values of plants. They have begun to create green spaces around them, in their own homes and neighbourhood. Visit to organic farms have made them aware of the importance of soil conservation and its relevance to farmers and the economy.

**Problems encountered:** The old habits and mindsets of students and of society are a major block to raising environmental consciousness. Space is a concern, especially in an urban setup like our institution, because of which implementing major projects have to be curbed.

**Resources required:** Enthusiastic students and dedicated staff are the primary requirements.