

# **BISHOP ABRAHAM MEMORIAL COLLEGE**

**(Affiliated To Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)**



## **BEST PRACTICES**

- **Umbrella Cell Approach**
- **Implementation of Green Initiatives**
- **Holistic Approach**
- **Rev. Dr. T. C. George Puraskaram**

(Last Updated, April 2020)

**THURUTHICAD PO, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA - 689597**

<https://bamcollege.ac.in>, e-mail: [principal@bamcollege.ac.in](mailto:principal@bamcollege.ac.in), [iqac@bamcollege.ac.in](mailto:iqac@bamcollege.ac.in)

**Phone: 0469 2682241**

## ***Title of the Practice: Umbrella Cell Approach***

### ***Goal***

- To support brilliant as well as needy students in their academic endeavour
- To provide an open platform for nurturing the talents of student community
- To counsel students and inculcate self-esteem
- To contribute to national development
- To support brilliant as well as needy students in their academic endeavour.

### ***The Context***

The vision of our college is to impart integral education of the highest standard, sound learning, build up character and instil the highest moral and spiritual values, uphold social justice and to share with others the fullness of life. The college is in a pursuit to fulfil this vision by introducing a holistic change and is also aware of the need for imparting the great traditions, culture and values of our motherland to the new generation. It is located in a rural area, and more than 75% of the student community is from an agricultural background as well as socially and economically deprived section of the society. Therefore, we are much more concerned about the socio-economic needs of the students and only through innovative academic practices, such a number of students can be brought to the mainstream. To achieve this goal our institution has conceived the concept of umbrella-cell approach. As an UMBRELLA CELL covers several microcells, the practices under umbrella cell approach focuses on diversified demands of students.

### ***The Practice***

The *Umbrella Cell Approach (UCA)* is conceptualised under the guidance of teaching staff and consists of four main pillars that foster the cognitive sense about duties, rights and creative skills among students. Four pillars of UCA are College Union, Students' Support Cell, Scholarships and Endowments, and Extra-Curricular and Co-curricular Activities. Apart from these pillars, various statutory committees viz. Grievance Redressal Cell, Internal Complaints Committee, Discipline/Ethics Committee and PTA working as a surveillance mechanism of UCA.

The Mechanism: UCA has quadruple functions – Leadership and Personality Development functions, Holistic and Sustainable Life functions, Financial Support functions, Academic and Administrative functions. All these functions are executed through the four pillars and their auxiliary associations/organizations/clubs. Each of these associations/organizations/clubs are guided by a teacher in charge and students' committee.

Leadership and Personality Development functions under UCA is confirmed by the NCC, NSS, College Union, Arts Club, Career Guidance Centre, Women Studies and Development cell, Cultural forum and Department level associations. All these associations/organizations/clubs open platform for cultural activities and street shows by students and various public and private organisations working among students. Students exhibit their talents, and teachers arrange talks and other programmes by experts in the field of education. Here, students will be the coordinators of the programme and teacher in charge give valuable directions and suggestions. Every year each associations/organizations/clubs conduct this type of programmes two or three times.

Holistic and Sustainable Life functions under UCA is ensured by the activities of Chapel Service, Students counselling Cell, Human Resource Development Cell, Nature Club, Bhoomithra Sena, ADIC BAM, NCC and NSS. Here, students are provided with inspiring classes mainly highlighting the principles of holy life, obedience to the rules and regulations of the country and loving one's neighbour. Trained counsellors from various social organizations and persons who have distinct social experiences are invited to interact with students. Practice sessions for various sustainable development techniques are provided to interested students. Poly-house farming project, the first of its kind in an educational institution in the state, was launched in the college in 2012 to create awareness among the public and students about precision farming. Students and teachers of the Life Science Departments as well as interested students, teachers and local people are allowed to study the system.

Financial support functions under UCA are executed through various means of endowments and scholarships. College has 20 endowments and Alumni scholarships for economically backward students. Along with these, Management is providing free hostel accommodation, and free education for deserving students. Here, economic backwardness is the only one criterion for the selection of an eligible student. Class teachers and HoDs are finding out the needy students and in some cases immediate financial support will be provided by staff association or department teachers. At the time of admission principal himself identified the deserving students and free textbooks and note books will be provided by them through college co-operative store. Beyond all, if there is any emergency case arises college fraternity as a whole find out the financial remedy for such students.

Academic and Administrative Functions under UCA is constructively warranted by teaching departments of the institution through continuous assessment and curricular and co-curricular programmes. Scholar Support Programme (SSP) for weak students and Walk with a Scholar Programme (WWS) for bright students are conducted in the institution. Remedial Teaching for is also initiated to improve the pass percentage of the students. Students support cell is guiding and giving instructions for online teaching and learning processes as well as coordinates the efforts of various associations, clubs and cells in online dissemination of academic and administrative programmes. College has a portal for online education (POEd.) and institutional email ID for all staff and students in the institution. Students' data, admission, student profile, open course distribution and feedback collection etc. are conducted through Microsoft Office365 platform.

### ***Evidence of Success***

We conduct Student Union election peacefully in presidential manner. Students of all sections show their respect towards the code of conduct of the institution. No ragging incident has been reported. Students obey the rules and regulation of the college and we have every reason to believe that this mode of behaviour of students is achieved through the cited practice.

### ***Problems Encountered and Resources Required***

Teachers are forced to take special classes in the morning during working days and conduct activities on holidays for completing all planned activities due to the changes in university examination and admission schedules declared by university.



## ***Title of the Practice: Implementation of Green Initiatives***

### ***Goal***

- Create awareness about environmental issues among stake holders
- Inculcate eco-friendly attitude among stakeholders
- Promote the concept of organic living
- Realising a plastic free campus
- Promote concept of organic farming
- Create awareness about the use of non-conventional energy sources and eco-friendly waste management

### ***The Context***

Green initiatives are identified as the means for sustainable development and this means increasing efforts to support energy efficiencies increase water conservation, waste avoidance, and engaging in environmentally friendly practices. As an educational institution it is our responsibility to contribute in this direction.

### ***The Practice***

Green and Clean Campus is a project initiated by our college with the aim of creating a pollution free, green and healthy environment for the college and its surroundings. The project is launched under the slogan 'Think Clean and Go Green'. The project aims to inculcate awareness about environmental issues and Eco-friendly attitude among students. As part of the various environment friendly initiatives and awareness programmes are conducted by NCC, NSS, Energy Conservation Club, Nature Club and Bhoomitra Sena. Various programmes organised under this project aims to transform our stakeholders into advocates of nature conservation. All programmes conducted in the campus are organised in compliance with Green Protocol declared by Government of Kerala. The college has undertaken various energy conservation and water conservation initiatives like rainwater harvesting, installation of solar power plants, etc. We conserve water with rain water harvesting. Rain water collected from the roofs of our buildings are stored in purpose built rain water storage tanks. Currently we have capacity to store over 4,5 lakh liters of water. We have also been very proactive in conserving energy in every area of our operation. Our offices, IT systems, Computer Labs and computers in various departments utilizes electrical power from our solar plants with energy storage. We use many ways to reduce energy consumption including campus wide use of energy efficient LED lamps. Solar Thermal and Bio-gas plants are used in college hostel. Various measures are taken as a follow up to keep the campus tidy and hygienic. The campus has been declared as a polythene free zone. Several awareness programmes on environmental issues and organic farming have been conducted for students and community around the institution to increase their awareness and participation in environmental protection.

### ***Evidence of Success***

The response of students towards green initiatives is positive and we were able to successfully implement various energy conservation initiatives and anti-plastic initiatives in the campus.

***Problems Encountered and Resources Required***

The major problem for implementation is finding adequate financial resources required for implementing various projects.



## ***Title of the Practice: Holistic Approach***

### ***Goal***

- To impart value-based education
- To inculcate love for our culture and traditions
- To nurture the talents of student community
- To foster social awareness
- To become aware of the modern techniques in agriculture

### ***The Context***

The vision of our college is to impart integral education of the highest standard, sound learning, build up character and instil the highest moral and spiritual values, uphold social justice and to share with others the fullness of life which God offers. The college is in a pursuit to fulfil this vision by introducing a holistic change and is also aware of the need for imparting the culture and values of our motherland to the new generation. It is located in a rural area, and most of our students are from a rural background.

Also 70 percent of our students come from economically backward families. Some of them are found to be from separated families. They need financial assistance even for food and bus fare. Under these circumstances the management, alumni, well-wishers and teachers are seriously concerned about the upliftment of such students.

### ***The Practice***

PARINAM is a residential motivational camp for 30 selected students from various departments. It help the participants to meet himself/herself. This residential camp take the student to the different side of life. Here the participant get the complete atmosphere of positivity, motivation, inspiration, strength, confidence and purity. The objectives of PARINAM are three-fold, to improve students' performance in the examination, to instil confidence and to provide them with invaluable tips on life. PARINAM provides rich education, personality development, and thoughts enrichment programs. It turns all the negativity into positivity by working as a transformer. Camp provides an opportunity to get inspired by the motivational talks of international orators. It empowers students' capabilities. This residential camp changes the participants' perception towards life. It's the most awaited program in the institution by the First Year Students.

Importance is also give for improving the academic quality of students. Centralised internal examinations and assessment are conducted in the college to ensure the quality of the continuous evaluation process. Financial support for needy students and Merit Scholarships are provided with the help of Alumnus and other stake holders. The college also honours the best outgoing as well as the best performing ongoing students every year.

Under the guidance of designated teaching staff, moral classes are conducted in the chapel every day in the morning from 9:30 am to 9:45 am and during the lunch interval from 1:20 pm to 1:45 pm. During these sessions, students are provided with inspiring classes mainly highlighting the

principles of holy life, obedience to the rules and regulations of the country and loving one's neighbour. Occasionally, trained counsellors from spiritual organizations and persons who have distinct social experiences are invited to interact with students. Practice sessions from various events during Christmas Celebrations are provided to interested students

A 400m<sup>2</sup> Poly-house farming project, the first of its kind in an educational institution in the state, was launched in the college in 2012 to create awareness among the public and students about precision farming. Students and teachers of the Life Science Departments as well as interested students, teachers and local people are allowed to study the system. We cultivate salad cucumber, capsicum, tomato, brinjal, cabbage, beans and cauliflower. Vegetable seeds are distributed among students and teachers in order to motivate them to achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable production. We have a mechanized farm with drip irrigation facility. Since the last year, the Management has decided to give training to interested students to handle mini-tractor, tipper-trailer, weed cutters and the tools in the workshop for mechanized farm. We have sold the vegetables harvested from both the farms through the College Co-operative Store and also directly to the Mallappally vegetable market.

### ***Evidence of Success***

No incident of violence among students has been reported, and there has been no incident of suspending classes due to violence for the past four years. Students of all sections show their respect towards the code of conduct of the institution. Students obey the rules and regulation of the college and they do not make any damage in the campus. The feedback from students and parents and improved performance of students in university examinations are the main evidence of success for various measures implemented for improving academic quality.

### ***Problems Encountered and Resources Required***

Poor accessibility and lack of conveyance in odd times make the early arrival and late departure of the student difficult. Even though the semester system is academically beneficial, the number of working days obtained is less. During monsoon season, it is not possible to conduct field related activities in open air.



## ***Title of the Practice: Rev. Dr. T. C. George Puraskaram***

### ***Goal***

The education of rural population has been a national problem ever since independence. One of the most astounding challenges that rural educational institutions confront is the educational backwardness of the youngsters of an economically and socially marginalised rural population. Rural people are mostly farmers and labourers who are not able to afford that much for the higher education of their youth in urban institutions. 'Rev. Dr. T. C. George Puraskaram' is an award instituted by the Bishop Abraham Memorial Trust Association with a view to promote the vision and mission of the college by perpetuating the memory of Rev. Dr. T. C. George, the Founder President and Manager of the college, and by accolading any individual attempt for the cause of education in the rural area.

### ***The Context***

Born as the son of K. G. Chacko and Achyeyamma at Eraviperoor on 07-03-1916, Rev. Dr. T. C. George had his education in Theology at Serampore College and was ordained as deacon by his uncle Abraham Marthoma Metropolitan in 1944. He was one of the founding fathers of St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India. Having served as the General Secretary of Marthoma Voluntary Evangelical Association, the Principal of Abraham Marthoma Memorial Bible Institute and as a teacher in a Bible college, Rev. Dr. T. C. George, a priest of spiritual wisdom, vision and compassion, entered into a mission of founding a higher education institution in a remote village called Thuruthicad in 1965. He founded the college in the name of his uncle with a vision to empower the rural youth through value-based integral education. He served and guided the college as a centre for higher learning until his death in 1999. It was in this context that the management of the college decided to institute an award in the name of the great visionary in 2006.

### ***The Practice***

The award is given to any educationalist, founder of educational institution or teacher working in Kerala for his contributions in the rural area. Priority is given to those who promote or impart value-based education, and merit is also given to additional qualifications and contributions. The recipient is bestowed with a certificate of merit, memento and a cash prize of Rs.25000. Entries are invited through newspapers, and they are carefully examined and evaluated by an Award Committee. It is on the Founder's Day that the presentation of the award begins with a prayer song and presidential address followed by an eloquent discourse by a chief guest as a part of Rev. Dr. T. C. George Lecture Series', presentation ceremony, felicitations, distribution of various endowments to students, reply of the recipient, vote of thanks and a concluding prayer.

### ***Evidence of Success***

There has been a considerable increase in the number of entries since the award was instituted in 2006. The institution has been able to invite entries, select the deserving applicants and bestow



them with the award consisting of certificate of merit, memento and cash prize. The practice has proved to be a source of inspiration for those who are earnestly working for the cause of rural education in a state where there are only a few opportunities for being awarded for one's admirable service to the cause of rural education. It also brings the vision of the college and problem of rural education to the attention of the public and various stakeholders. The award giving ceremony is also a source of inspiration to our students and faculty for indulging themselves in more socially relevant activities.

***Problems Encountered***

When the applicants that can satisfy the requirements of the award increase in number, the Award Committee is at bay to find out the deserving applicants. Sometimes it so happens that no applicant is found to satisfy the criteria of selection, though there are too many entries. For the same reason the institution was not able to present the award on three occasions.

