

## **K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce (Autonomous)**

**Vidyavihar, Mumbai - 400077**

**(College with Potential for Excellence 2016)**

**(NAAC Reaccredited with 'A' Grade CGPA 3.33)**

### **Best practice: 1**

1. Title of the practice – **Gyan Yagna**

**2. The context that required the initiation of the practice:** Our founder Padma Bhushan Shri. Karamshi Jethabhai Somaiya, was pained to see the indifference of youth towards Sanskrit, sanskriti and samskara. Our scriptures are cradle of Indian culture and heritage, treasure of spirituality and great traditions. Young students should not only be made aware of our great scripture but also love and respect our Indian culture. With this motive, Padma Bhushan Shri. Karamshi Jethabhai Somaiya started Gyan Yagna - Spiritual sessions in the Somaiya Vidyavihar campus in 1989 and since then we have been following the tradition by organising these sessions every year in the month of January.

**3. Objectives of the practice:** The prime objective for organising Gyan yagna is to provide spiritual and Para medical services to the society. We involve students in organising these events whereby giving platform for students to do social work and also to learn event management. Cultural programmes are also organised to develop interest in different arts among students.

**4. The Practice:** Every year great Saints and Sages are invited to speak on Sanskrit texts Veda, Upanishads Purana and Bhagvadgita etc. The Founder of Manana Ashram, Param puja Shri Tejomayanand, his disciple Swamini Tanmayananda, Swami Chinmayananda, Parama puja Shri Haribhai Kothari, Swami Avadhutanada maharaj, and many more have been the prominent speakers. As the programme became more popular, gradually two hours in the evening were kept for Cultural programmes like Folk music, folk dance and drama.

Further, we had introduced two sessions in the morning where second session was allocated for health. In this session renowned Doctors were invited to speak on health issues and their solutions. Yoga practices were organised. In the year 2021, due to pandemic all events were organised virtually using Zoom platform. Every day Gyan Yagna started with 1<sup>st</sup> morning session of Pravachan for 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. After providing food for mental health programme was followed by Yoga / Speech / medical camp. In the evening between 6:30 to 8:30 cultural programs were organised.

**5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them :** In 2021, pandemic hindered the physical organisation of this event. Considering the viability of the situation, this event was organised online. Although our college is well equipped with IT team, we could not help the attendees to resolve technical issues faced at their end. Every year this programme was organised from morning to evening for one month. But this year it was not feasible to have this program for the whole day so we had it in different slots every day. Most of the speakers were not technology savvy so we faced problem in the conduct of their sessions. As this program is open for all, we generally face issue of security.

**6. Impact of the practice :** In COVID pandemic, when we are surrounded by negative news everywhere, which increased our worries for the social and economic wellbeing of our society, there was a need to spread positivity to overcome all the fear. This event Gyanyagya has been able to create positivity amongst the participants. There arises a need to uplift the physical and mental health of everyone. Gyanyagya through its daily sessions, made an attempt to connect the participants with Indian culture.

**7. Resources required:** There are extensive resources like infrastructure, staff and student volunteers, required to pull out this event on a huge scale for a duration of one month. Management has always been keen to support this event in every possible way. In last 32 years, Gyanyagya have never stopped for the dearth of resources.



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## **Best practice: 2**

### **1. Title of the Practice: Drushti Film Forum**

**2. The context that required the initiation of the practice :** Established in 2007, **Drushti Film Forum** is a **Film Society** of the Somaiya Vidyavihar campus, initiated by K.J. Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce. Revised in 2013, so far, it has screened more than 250 films across the countries and themes. (A Film Society is a membership club where people can watch films which would otherwise not be shown in mainstream cinemas.) Drushti Film Forum was established in the academic year 2007-2008 and was inaugurated on 8th August 2007, at the hands of senior actress Suhasinee Muley.

**3. Objectives of the practice :** Drushti Film Forum, with regular weekly Screenings of World Cinema, serves as an effective tool to introduce the Art and Aesthetics of cinema to students. It aims to develop a larger world view in them as this art form introduces them to the realities in the world as well as the advance techniques of medium.

### **4. The Practice :**

Film is a modern Art form and can be effectively used to educate young minds. In western and European countries, Film is a part of regular curriculum in schools whereas at college and University levels, they have Film Studies departments for much specialized courses in Cinema. For **Drushti Film Forum**, Film is not merely an entertaining medium but a window to the world. Hence, we preferably screen films from all over the world, from different genres and unconventional subject content. It's their exposure to the World Cinema.

**Drushti Film Forum used to screen and discuss World Cinema in the college auditorium regularly on weekly basis except examinations and vacation period.** Due to pandemic situation, we, for a time being, moved on to online screenings. YouTube link of movies is shared with students on every Friday and they are asked watch it by Sunday, while the film is discussed on every Monday. Along with screenings, we initiate academic discussions on

cinema, provide them reference material, conduct film appreciation workshops, encourage them to be part of International Film Festivals.

**5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them :** Despite our sincere efforts, hardly 100 students regularly attend the screening. And very few students attend the online discussion. However the number of students participating is increasing every year, and efforts are being made to screen movies on topics that interest students.

**6. Impact of the practice :** So far, **our four students**, Raunak Raje (2010-11), Karan Jhala(2013-2014), Salim Shaikh (2014-2015), Saba Purkar (2015-2016), Omkar Kulkarni and Payal shah (2016-17) have been selected as **Young Critics at MAMI International Film Festival** in Mumbai.

**7. Resources required:** A cabin space for dedicated work and meetings, Availability of Auditorium, Projector, Screen, Library budget for film related Books and a dedicated Library of Films for screenings and Studies.

## **8. About the Institution**

i. Name of the Institution : K. J. Somaiya College Of Arts And Commerce

ii. Year of Accreditation :

iii. Address : Ghatkopar - Mahul Rd, Vidyanagar,

iv. Grade awarded by NAAC : 'A'

Vidya Vihar East, Ghatkopar East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400077

v. E-Mail : principal.kjsac@somaiya.edu

vi. Contact person for further details

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Though we have to specify only TWO best practices, our college has numerous Best practices which have been in place for many years.

## **Best Practice: 3**

### **Best Practices of the library:**

**The Library Scholar's Card-** It is an extended library facility to encourage the scholar students of T.Y.B.A./B.Com. of our college is used by 10 students of T.Y.B.A. & B.Com.

**Advanced Automation-** We have introduced KIOSK system in the Library. RFID tagging and antitheft sticker pasting work has been done. Staff & Students can issue, return and renew books themselves through KIOSK system. The main objective of this system is to save time of students in issuing & returning books & helps staff to keep track of students & gather information about kinds of books referred by our students.

**Book Bank Scheme-** This scheme is available both for teachers & students.

### **Other Miscellaneous Best Practices**

**Value education** – Value education is imparted through lectures in regular timetable of first & second year of BA & Bcom.

**Manthan** – A multilingual seminar called manthan is organised every year in order to uplift linguistic interest among students for different languages. Book exhibition on various literature of different languages are also organised to inculcate linguistic interest among students.

**Health Check Up** - A Lady Doctor is available, free of cost, twice a week for health check-up of Teaching, Non-Teaching and Students etc

**Tuition Waiver** for Students Opting for 6 Papers at TYBA in **Gujarati** Language  
Scholarship for Students Opting for 6 Papers at TYBA in subject **Sanskrit** Language

**Staff scholarship** -

**Gold & Silver Medals for Best Students-** Our college awards GOLD and SILVER medals for BEST students every year.

**Employee Cooperative Society** -we have a cooperative society which is a great boon for the employees in the time of need.

**College Prayer & National Anthem** – Every day of the college begins with college prayer & national anthem.

**Invocation in Sanskrit-** Every college function begins with college prayer & Sanskrit invocation as a tradition of Somaiya Vidyavihar.