

ARULMIGU PALANIANDAVAR ARTS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, PALANI (Autonomous)

Nationally Re-accredited with B++ by NAAC in 3rd Cycle

Affiliated to Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal)

Phone: 04545 - 255128/ 255711, Website: www.apacwomen.ac.in

E-mail: apacwprincipal@gmail.com



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BEST PRACTICE

Title of the Practice:

Promoting Indian Knowledge System through Value Education

Objectives of the Practice:

Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani has its origin with the aid of Swamy Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, with the Logo 'Gnanathaal Veedagum Naattu' (Enlighten the world with your knowledge). It extends its service in the field of Higher Education, with its deep-rooted morality to revive the Indian knowledge systems.

The objectives are

To sensitize the students to the contributions made by the ancient Indians in all fields.

- To incorporate the long forgotten Indian way of Healthy and Peaceful Life with the present 'fret and fever filled stressed life'.
- To attain holistic development of graduates emerging out of the college

The Context

The stakeholders who undergo this practice of reviving the waning Indian Knowledge System and benefitting out of it are the students of the modern era. In the digitalized world and scenario, it is a challenge in drawing them completely to gain the real life experience of the valuable practices for the betterment of their life. The modern lifestyle is an inhibition in imbibing the traditional way of life among the learners of higher education.

The institution attempts to instil the reverence for Indian culture, heritage, language, arts in the minds of the learners by adopting the contextual efforts such as

- Introducing the Indian Heritage through curriculum
- Organizing co-curricular activities on the theme 'Ancient Indian Glory'
- Conducting extra-curricular activities as a way of unlearning the modernity and relearning the ancestry
- Celebrating National festivities with relics of recollections of the past

- Reviving the millet-based food habits of the people in the past.

The Practice

The course titled 'Value Education' (Theory & Practical) is prescribed to the students in Under-graduation Programmes. The course content is on the Art of Living, the Value of Meditation and the Yoga practices. Special practical training is offered, which enables the students to practise by themselves in the forth-coming days for the betterment of their lives.

The syllabi of all the Programmes partly touches upon the Ancient Indian Knowledge and Practices by an amalgamation with the major subject. This enriches the knowledge of the students on IKS and paves a morality and ethics-oriented life. The Tamil Linguistics is taught at the Under-graduation level.

The Associations, clubs and Cells of the college conduct various Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities to throw more light on the forgotten Ancient Indian Knowledge System.

The Research Department of History preserves a Museum, with the rare collection of things of ancestry such as 'Panaiyolai' (Manuscripts in Palm Leaves), Collection of Ancient Indian Coin System, Collection of Ancient Indian Maps, Models of Temple Architecture.

The Extension and Outreach activities of the students of History are centred on the betterment of Tribal People living on the foothills of Kodaikanal Foothills. This enables the volunteers to gain knowledge of the ancestral evergreen natural way of life.

The thrust area of the most of the project works of the students of History are on 'Temple Art', 'Sculptures and Inscription', 'Calligraphy

The Research Department of Tamil gives consistent training in the receding Indian Folk Arts of Tamil Nadu. The performers are sure to disseminate the gained practical knowledge to the future generation.

Palani is the well-known center for Siddha medicine. In association with the Registered Siddha Centers, the Department of Botany maintains Herbal Garden, wherein the saplings are nurtured by the students.

The Department of Zoology nurtures a Vermi-culture Unit to prepare the Vermi-compost, an ancient Indian method in Agriculture. Through the Hands-on-Training, the students gain knowledge and make it an entrepreneurial enterprise.

The Department of Physical Education gives training in sports such as 'Kho-kho' and 'Silambattam', one among the martial arts of ancient Tamil Nadu.

Traditional food Preparation is encouraged and carnivals are conducted.

The NSS Units distribute Herbal drinks, Nilavembu Drink and Kabasuraa Drink, which is the best attempt to prevent the communicable diseases and increase immunity.

The Spiritual Club of the college gives space for the practice of Reading from the Holy Scriptures during Independence and Republic Day celebrations.

Evidence of Success

The college is situated in the midst of a vast area of greenery. Most of the trees in the campus are rare age-old trees. The college community imbibes the thought of conserving them as the pride of the institution.

The college adheres to the practice of using traditional bags and mud pottery for drinking water. This practice has been awarded State-level Manjappai Award and a cash Award of 5 Lakhs by the Ministry of Climate and Environment Conservation Training in Art of Living a holistic life is offered by the 'Vaalga Valamudan Center in Coimbatore'. Since 2022, the staff and students participate in the world record making event 'Performing 1001 Surya Namaskar' and bag awards and prizes.

The performers in Silambattam (Ancient Tamil Martial Arts) have been bagging Prizes at the national Level competitions.

The college proudly registers that none of the college community has been affected by the Pandemic. This has been possible by the distribution of Herbal drinks of Ancient Tamil Nadu.

The college has a future plan to introduce a Diploma Course in 'Saiva Siddhantha'.

A study of the Archaeological sites in and around Palani has been carried out, as part of Azad de Mahotsav Celebrations.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Problems Encountered:

Any good practice must be everlasting and become habitual. Till being students of this institution, adopting the best life style practices is possible. Most of the outgoing students seem not to adhere to what they practised during their college days. Unless they educate the whole family, this is not possible.

The intrusion of the Pandemic wave was a hindrance to the routine practices as online mode for practising Yoga was not effective.

Resources Required:

The Folk Arts of Tamil Nadu is like a waning moon. It needs due recognition and award to the Folk Arts performers. In spite of giving practice to the students in Folk Arts, there is always a consciousness of the deprived recognition to the future performers.

There must be a scope for marketing the natural agricultural and herbal products by the college at greater level. This may increase the entrepreneurship opportunities of the learners.

Notes

Modernity is becoming a threatening term as it carries lot of connotations – referring to the risky life practices such as stress factors, anxiety creators, unnatural food habits and time consuming Android Phone user rate.

It is right time that NEP – 2020 has insisted reviving Indian Knowledge System as its mainstay.

In his ninth consecutive speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, Hon'ble PM, insisted **PANCH PRAN:** Resolves for Developed and Resurgent India. The Third Resolve is 'Taking pride in our legacy'. This is an important prerequisite for a positive and confident mindset among the citizen to have national pride- pride in its millennia old cultural and spiritual heritage, pride in or legacy and contributions to the world and the pride in being the citizen of this glorious nation. It is right to say it is the inherent duty of higher educational institutions to pay attention to 'Promote Indian Knowledge System'.

Link to Documents: <http://apacwomen.ac.in/pdf/naac/BP02.pdf>

Website Link: <https://www.apacwomen.ac.in/page/best-practices->



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Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College
for Women, PALANI-624 615.