Best Practice 1
Title of the practice : Connecting to Community

Goals :

1. Enhancement of teaching skills of Students
2. Establish an academic collaboration with a nearby educational institution
3. Give an academic exposure to students

The context that required the initiation of the practice :

The rural communities surrounding the college deserve an active and efficient academic intervention of a Higher Education institution. The students of the college deserve several opportunities for getting exposure. Students who are part of Peer Teaching scheme are given an opportunity to take class for the school students of nearby communities. Under the aegis of the Department of English, students are given an opportunity to enhance their teaching skills by taking class to the school students.

The Practice :

Through the Peer Teaching programme, some departments follow the system of advanced learners among the senior students teaching the junior ones. The Peer Teaching Programme was taken to the next level by extending the service of peer Teachers to the nearby community. The willing peer teachers of the Department of English were given an opportunity to teach in Sal Sabeel School, Sreekandapuram on March 7, 2018. The programme "Connecting to community" was launched as an extension of Peer Teaching Programme which would enable the students to have a real classroom teaching experience and also help in establishing an academic relationship with the nearby community. Students of English Department handled sessions on Grammar and some motivating lives. They took classes to the Upper Primary class students and they too enjoyed the different experience. Mr. BabyThomas, Head of English Department, Mrs. Shabeena Backer and Mrs. Shyna Janardhanan, faculty members of English Department, accompanied the students. The students also gave positive feedback. It also helped the peer teachers to improve their methods of teaching.

Evidence of Success :

The Connecting to Community Programme was too fruitful that the student teachers really cherished the experiential learning initiative. It was a first ever experience for them that they could teach in a school. The certificates provided by the

school made the students feel that they have made a great achievement which they expressed through their words.

Problems faced and Resources required :

As it was a first hand experience, students had great nervousness about how to implement the classroom management. Even though the school students co operated in a very good manner, the students cum teachers were really tensed about how to deal the situation. The presence of their teacher and other teachers also increased their nervousness. But once the starting problem was over, student teachers were easily able to manage the scenario.
Teaching aids were the resources required.

Best Practice 2
Title of the practice : Whatsapp Class

Goals :

1.To integrate student friendly m-learning tools (social media) in Teaching learning

2.To make learning process more interesting and updated

3.To make learning materials easily accessible to all students instantly

4.To enhance teacher student relationship through the easy availability of teacher

5.To give opportunities for the weak learners to raise queries without any hesitation

The context that required the initiation of the practice :
Mobile phones have become part and parcel of everyone's life and so the teaching learning process cannot also proceed further without making use of m-learning tools. Several mobile applications are now available to enhance knowledge of various disciplines. But all the learning applications and tools create some sort of hesitation among some students as they treat it only as a complicated foreign tool. Thus nowadays educational thinkers advocate integrating social media platforms itself to teaching learning contexts as students are easily able to adapt to the ambience of those platforms. So the various departments of our college also have shifted to the social media arenas, especially Whatsapp groups to manipulate it as an effective teaching learning tool

The Practice :

      Various teachers have created Whatsapp groups to transfer learning materials - some provide audio clips on topics from courses, some provide web links of various educational websites, some conduct Oral tests, quizzes, etc. Advanced learners are also given opportunities to share their ideas on the topics concerned. Students also raise doubts on the classes taken and difficult portions. And to be specific, students make use of the Whatsapp group to make active discussion during examination times. And as there is the presence of the teacher, students cannot make any trivial chats too. It helped in creating a healthy team building and co operative mentality among students. Teachers are also compelled to shift their positions from sages to mentors and friends.

Evidence of Success :

      Students actively participate in the m learning happening through Whatsapp. Several parents have also extended positive remarks on the academic development of their children through the use of Whatsapp as a learning tool. Earlier, the main complaint from parents was that their children are fully engaged in mobile phones, especially whatsapp. It is this complaint that compelled the teachers to manipulate it as an effective teaching learning tool. The weak learners are also happy about the fact their main tool of chatting online has turned out to an effective learning tool. Moreover they are getting easy access to the teacher. Students who are nervous about asking doubts and apprehensions in direct classes are able to raise their queries without fearing anything. The relationship between the teacher and students have also become an amicable one.

Problems faced and Resources required :

 Mobile phone and internet connection are the resources required.
The main problem was the availability of teachers online. After hectic days at college, it was not that easy for teachers to make them available online. And they were not that accustomed to the digital space of Whatsapp. Moreover, passive responses from students on the academic activities happening online were also a problem. But strong motivation from teachers and active participation from some students also help in overcoming the problem. Both teachers and students found it difficult in the beginning to make jovial and active interactions through Whatsapp group.