



BEST PRACTICES 1

Best Practice 1 “Mind Craft: Nurturing Young Scholars – the Wednesday Seminar”

Introduction

“Mind Craft: Nurturing Young Scholars – the Wednesday Seminar” as a best practice nurtures research skills in students, starting from the Undergraduate (UG) level. It fosters presentation, research and publication abilities, fostering critical thinking and aligning with UN’s SDGs, promoting research engagement

The concept of Wednesday Seminar was conceived in the year 2013. The concept was brought into shape as weekly seminar on all Wednesdays. Wednesday Seminars gave way for students to speak about their viewpoints and share their knowledge.

An initiative by SFS college has outgrown its vision. Wednesday seminar was initiated to build skills among students as most of them were first generation candidates.

The following are the evidence of success for this impactful best practice:

1. Increased Research Engagement: Growing student involvement

Academic Year	No. of Participation at SNS	No. of papers Presented	No. of students Presented
2023-24	790	133	210

2. Improved Critical Skill Development

Wednesday Seminars prepared students for the competitive and complicated world. Continuous presentations and research works helped in overcoming stage fears, inhibitions and anxiety. Completing research works needs additional time, effort and hard work. Students had to hold on to their research work along with all other academic works. Perseverance, resilience and grit are built through their research works. As a whole conscientiousness was built among students. Wednesday seminar bridged the gap between academic skills and industry requirement skills. Consistent evaluation of students gave scope for improvement. Sample of documents are presented below.

2.1: Sample of Wednesday Seminar Evaluation Sheet:

**Wednesday Seminar
Evaluation Sheets
CLASS-II BBA SEC A**

S.No	Roll No	Student Name	Seminar Topic	Evaluation Criteria			Max
				Content	Presentat	Arrangements	
1	U03MB22M0001	RAVICHANDRAN S	Data Processing: Tabulation - Editing - Coding	2	2	1	5
2	U03MB22M0005	V S HARSHA VARDHAN	types of sampling	2	2	1	5
3	U03MB22M0008	ANUSHA B N	Methods of data collection	2	2	1	5
4	U03MB22M0009	VASANTH A	types of sampling	2	2	1	5
5	U03MB22M0010	SHASHIRAO G	review of literature and research gap identification	2	2	1	5
6	U03MB22M0013	BHARATH V	Sources of data	2	2	1	5
7	U03MB22M0014	HARU KUMAR S	types of research	2	2	1	5
8	U03MB22M0018	DARSHAN M	types of reserch	2	2	1	5
9	U03MB22M0020	NISHA K	plagiarism level in national and internationa	2	2	1	5
10	U03MB22M0021	MUKAMBIKA V	components and sources of Research Proble	2	2	1	5
11	U03MB22M0023	ABHISHEK M	Sources of data	2	2	1	5
12	U03MB22M0031	KARTHIK K	types of research	2	2	1	5

2.2: Pre and Post Assessment

Class Co-ordinators would have an informal assessment of students (Observational technique) at the beginning of the semester. Continuous assessment of students is executed as per their performance during Wednesday seminar. An opportunity was created for the first year students to share their valuable insights, innovative ideas and opinions during Wednesday Seminar. Facilitators guided them to frame their views into research work. Facilitators assisted them review research articles and guided them to develop ideas relevant to current scenarios. Structured thinking with research orientation helps students to overcome fears and insecurities of public speaking.

Review of literature is made by students in understanding their variables. Ideas take shape of research methodology and students are encouraged to collect data to analyse their variables scientifically. Scientific steps in data collection are taught by facilitators. Every step of their work had to be presented by students.

Preparing for seminar requires a great deal of thought process, consistent effort and conscious practice of work. Various research platforms through digital library laid foundation for every research work. Digital library and extended review of literature uncovers wide range of research openings. Students derive, define, organize their variables for the study. The upcoming fields are explored and research works are mapped to the digital era framework.

3. Spreading of the academic and research spirit to outside the College

SNS has not only been giving opportunities to Desalites (students of St Francis de Sales College), it has spread its wings to other college students across India. Initiative of social responsibility by SFS college to encourage research culture in young minds through SNS has been effective.

Students' National Seminar invites research works by students across country. Scrutinized and selected papers are presented during seminar. Subject matter experts judge the presentations. Best paper and presentations are awarded. This would encourage students to challenge themselves for better work and constructs healthy competition among young adults. Interaction between SFS college students with other College students builds their sources, resources and connecting to subject matter experts enhances their knowledge.

3.2: Winning laurels at Academic Events

Skills attained have not been restricted to In-house events. Desalites have been successfully presenting papers at National and International conferences organized by various other Institutions. Success is not only in presenting, but receiving Awards for their works. Sample of the certificate has been given below



4. Social Impact through Research

The novelty of SNS is building research culture among graduates. Every department at St Francis de Sales College is part of SNS. Every step is meticulously followed by every department in the campus. Science, Commerce, Humanities, Management and languages train students in their respective fields. Contribution to science and technology, Indian Economy, Business, physical, social and psychological growth, rich culture and heritage is the success of SNS.

5. Positive Feedback

The practice has benefits like gaining knowledge, networking with others, enhancing communication skills, building confidence, building their sources and resources, feedback from experts gives scope for improvement and contribution to the field of research. Addressing larger population inculcates strength to stand for themselves and

Collaborations with external institutions or industry experts:

7. A holistic educational growth -beyond the classrooms:

7.1: Sample of certificates of Paper Presentations



Student National Seminar has been effective through the publications of the papers presented by students. Under-graduate and Post-graduate students have successfully published at journals and book chapters. Few publications have encouraged students and number of publications have increased. Though primary goal of Wednesday

Seminar was to bridge the gap between academic and industry required skills, mentors have been able to identify few best papers and publishing the same.

9. Alumni Career Paths

St Francis de Sales College understands the importance of intellectual stimulation among students. Wednesday Seminar is an intellectual forum in building skills. Students' seminar is SNS Presentation 626 Proceedings 23 Journals 29 Book Chapters 9 Proceedings 129 the gateway for their successful career path. Desalites seeking admission to PG courses shows the path chosen by students in gaining higher order thinking to build their careers. Post Graduation expects higher level of research work and academic contribution. Rigorous training during Wednesday seminar and SNS has inculcated importance of higher education and to choose right path of career. Students joining at SFS for Post Graduation have continued their research journey. Its not only presentations, but have involved into publications.

10. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals :

Sustainable development goals of quality education are attained through consistent presentations at Wednesday seminars and SDG of Industry, innovation and infrastructure are attained through research works presentations at SNS. Group of 2 or 3 students were allowed to work on a research paper. The rule of mandatory presentation made every student present during SNS. Seminar proceedings are printed for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. Selected papers from SNS 2021-22 were published in Peer-Reviewed Journals. Selected papers from SNS 2022-23 were published with ISBN as Book Chapters.

Presentation is the major evidence of success of Wednesday Seminar at SNS; adding to this success is the proceedings and publication in Journals/book chapters. A few students have even published papers in UGC Care-listed journals and articles in newspaper and books. Eventually, many students from UG and PG not just in SNS, they have presented papers at many National Seminars and Conferences.

All Proofs are documented in Files by the respective departments as per the details given below:

- File No. 4: Wednesday Seminar
- File No. 13: Student National Seminar (SNS)
- File No. 17: Advanced Learners (Presentation details)
- File No. 24.1: Publication details
- File No. 29: Student Progression (Offer Letters)

Conclusion

Rigorous training prepares young adults to be the able citizens of the country. Institutional values depend on sending out the capable and efficient candidates. Wednesday Seminar has tapped skills among Desalites and prepare them for the competitive world. Mind Craft by nurturing young scholars has been rigorously practiced through Wednesday Seminar