



Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College

(An Autonomous Institution, Affiliated to Bharathiar University)

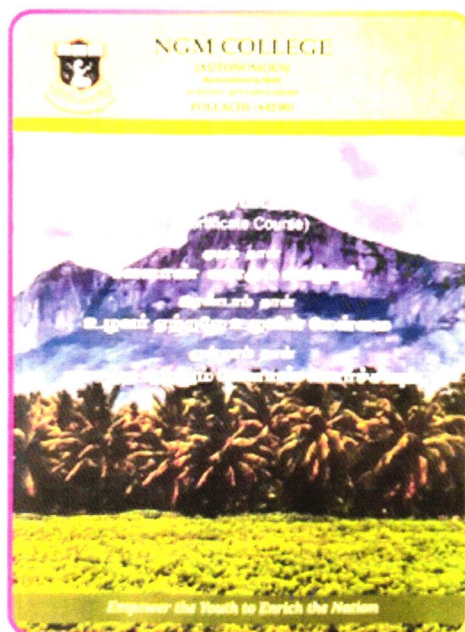
90, Palghat Road, Pollachi - 642001, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

95th Rank in NIRF – 2023 among Colleges in India.



Best Practices - I

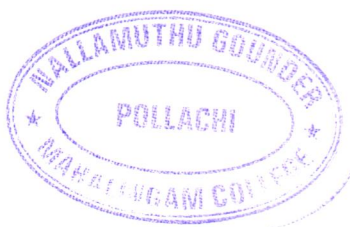
An Experiential Learning Practice and Social Embeddedness of Education



Uzhavu Bharatham
(An Introduction to Agriculture)



Manaiyial Mahathuvam
(Home Science - Women Empowerment in social context)



PRINCIPAL
NGM COLLEGE, POLLACHI



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7.2 Best Practices

1. Title of the Practice: An Experiential Learning Practice and Social Embeddedness of Education

Objectives

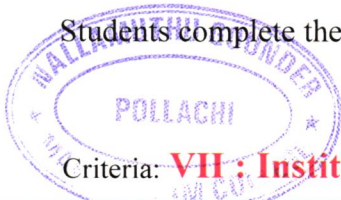
- To help students find a balance between the digital world and physical world.
- To encourage students to prioritize interpersonal relationships and building authentic connections that will enrich their lives.
- To stimulate interest in sustainable agriculture in young minds.
- To develop managerial skills and entrepreneurial skills.
- To help students connect with the rich tapestry of our heritage and traditional values that have been passed down through generations.

The Context

In a semi-urban region focused on agriculture, it is crucial to provide education that caters to the unique needs and context of the community. The younger generation is strongly influenced by globalization and social media, leading to a loss of cultural identity and traditional ways of life. To address this, the College offers certificate programs in Home Science and Agricultural Practices that prioritize experiential learning, social situatedness and cultural exposure. These programs encourage students to disconnect from screens and engage with the tangible world, promoting face-to-face interactions and empathy for success in a globalized world.

The Practice

In the Diamond Jubilee year 2017-18, the College introduced two Certificate courses: *Uzhavu Bharatham* (An introduction to Agriculture) for all the students and *Manaiyial Mahathuvam* (Home Science - Women Empowerment in social context) for girl students. These courses are spread across the second, third, and fourth semesters and cover topics such as sustainable agriculture, organic farming, household management, and stress management. Each department has a faculty coordinator, and classes are held once a week outside of regular College hours. Students complete the theory papers in three semesters, and Uzhavu Bharatham students must also





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complete an internship and viva voce examination in their fifth semester before receiving certification. These courses aim to provide students with practical skills and knowledge in two essential areas of life- Farm and Home.

The College has signed MoUs with 21 farmers to provide practical training for students in farming. The courses prioritize experiential learning and social situatedness, allowing students to engage in hands-on activities such as working in gardens, visiting local farms, and participating in food festivals. This approach helps students gain a comprehensive understanding of agriculture and home management practices.

Evidence of Success

The students' active participation in these course activities like discussions, assignments and projects and fieldwork show their interest and involvement in the course. The high completion rate of the course and the exam scores indicate that the courses are engaging and relevant. *Uzhavu Bharatham* has led to the establishment of start-up *Organicferto*. The number of agripreneurs among the alumni has increased over the years. They also set up stalls in the expos organised by the College and inspire the present generation of students.

Problems Encountered

Tracking student performance, including changes in values and personal practices, has been challenging. Gathering qualitative and quantitative data to fully understand the program's long-term impact has been difficult.

Resources Required

Resources such as kitchens, sewing rooms, farmlands and farming equipment, books, journals, magazines and online resources on various topics related to home science and agriculture.



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