**Best Practice 1**

**Title: XavADAPT** - Xaverian Academic Dissemination and Practicing Tradition

**Objectives**:

* To instil scientific bent in the knowledge incurred
* To infuse social commitment
* To inseminate positive stance to environment

**The Context**: The College envisages establishing a culture of academia-meet-application through its venture of XavADAPT. It is a practice of knowledge dissemination among students and society embracing a theme of pivotal concern. The institution considers Environment as an area of focus to be propagated and proliferated amongst students and society.

**The Practice**: To achieve the goal, programmes are organised each year at two levels.

1. **Academic Level – Academic Week**

The IQAC organises an Academic Week every year espousing the motif of Environment. Academic week is a concept conceived by the institution to ruminate on the issues of contemporary concern in an institutionalized method. The modus operandi works on three realms- Institutional, Departmental and Students’. In the academic year 2018-19, the institution embraced the theme of “Kerala Floods 2018” which was the crucial issue of the year. At the institutional level, a time slot was fixed for the conduct of “Academic Lectures” on a selected topic by invited resource persons. This was done at a departmental or an interdepartmental domain. The students were given lectures on the environmental issues that engendered and entail Kerala Floods and gave a platform for them to deliberate on the matter. At the departmental level, an “Exhibition Competition” was arranged giving a frame for each department. At the Students’ level, an “Interdepartmental PowerPoint Presentation competition” was organised on the topic “Kerala Floods 2018” in which 8 teams consisting of two members each participated. The winners of the competition were honoured in the college day. A “Peer Teaching Programme” was also arranged in which 2 selected students of each department gave lectures to the other students on the selected topic. The Academic Week proved a fruitful endeavour as it enriched the student community by sensitising them with the issues of universal magnitude.

1. **Societal Level – Knowledge Dissemination and Practice in Society**

The IQAC took initiative to usher in a culture of societal alliance amongst the students for which varied programmes were instituted. To engage the students in the ecological concerns that entail the Great Floods, cleaning drive was arranged in the adjacent vicinage and nearby localities. The Cleaning Drive was titled “Clean Kerala Drive” which was inaugurated by the Principal, Rev.Dr. Sr.Geege Jaonamma Xavier. To give a message to the students that the public roads are each one’s responsibility, students were motivated to clean the road from Thanaloram to Aluva Palace under the auspices of NSS.

The College adopted 5 villages under UBA project and initiated developmental projects. The villages selected were Kalady, Malayattoor, Kadungallore, Chendamangalam and Karumalore. Under the auspices of IQAC 47 faculty and 129 students visited and conducted a survey to estimate the environmental concerns of the areas. The survey helped to identify the worst affected households and to lend a helping hand to those families. The initiative also aided in building a rapport with the adopted community and to establish a bond with them. Financial support was also extended under the auspices of management, Alumni and PTA of the college.

To lend a helping hand to the needy community, the NSS Volunteers and Programme officers cleaned the public Hall of Junior Basic School at Desom, Aluva which was a flood affected area. Along with the ecological concerns, the message of compatibility to society was ensured by conducting visits to Viruthimoola Colony, Purayar to distribute flood relief kit to 16 houses. The kit consisted bath towels, soaps, shaving set, paste, sanitary pads, undergarments, Leggings, Phenol, parachute Hair oil, washing powder and ladies sandals. NSS unit also handed over Kitchen utensils, groceries, etc. to a flood victim of West Kadungallur, who was a destitute and a widow. To gauge the purview of the flood in the local communities, NSS volunteers conducted a Survey of flood affected houses of Aluva Municipality.

The students also were promoted to work with the society to get a firsthand knowledge about the vicissitudes of the flood. To accomplish this motive, the NSS camp of the year was organised in the Puthenvelikkara Grama Panchayath, which was the worst affected area of Ernakulam District in the Kerala Floods 2018. Wards 12 and 13 of Puthenvelikkara Panchayath were selected to focus the work. The volunteers proffered to help the local community by lending their manual labor. In the primary survey, the volunteers analysed the need of the community. As per the requirements of the local community, the volunteers cleaned the public roads and the premises of public and government buildings. The Panchayath library, which was in a dilapidated condition, was renovated with the help of the volunteers. The bookshelves were rearranged, dusted, washed and painted after which books were rearranged according to the stock register. The volunteers also took part in the rehabilitation movement, “Unarvu” launched by the local community and endeavoured to sensitise the people about the causes of flood and to familiarize them with the disaster mitigation strategies. A series of lectures were given to the students to make them understand the relationship between environment and the natural disasters. The students in turn set out in different directions to propagate their acquired knowledge about the causes and effects of flood to the local public. A warning about the possibilities of an impending draught that would follow the flood was also given to the public so that they would be careful while utilizing natural resources. The students also volunteered to water the plants in the draught stricken public area. The process of water recycling was introduced to the local people to ensure minimum wastage of water.

**Evidence of Success:** The integration of the students in the society helped them to ruminate over the affairs and subjects of communal significance. The assimilation of the students with the community and the local public gave the students a firsthand knowledge of the true life and enabled them to sense the pulse of the society.

**Problems Encountered**: The UBA villages adopted are vast in expanse which was hard to be covered by the students amidst the academic pursuits. Non-cooperation from the natives’ side was also challenging to make the practice fruitful.