



ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE KOTTARAKARA

7.2.1 BEST PRACTICE II

VIDHYAVARDHAN



BEST PRACTICE II:

Title: **Vidhyavardhan**

Knowledge Enhancement for School Children

Objectives:

- To enhance skill-set required for professional and personal harmony
- To highlight the quality of education in Kerala, showcasing the achievements, rankings, and global recognition of its institutions.
- To let students know about the affordability of higher education in Kerala and the availability of scholarships and financial support.
- To make students aware of the wide range of courses offered in Kerala, including arts, sciences, professional, and vocational programs.
- To emphasize Kerala's role as a center for research and innovation, solving practical problems through advanced studies.
- To inform students about Kerala's excellent infrastructure, modern facilities, and highly skilled teachers in its educational institutions.

Context:

In today's globalized world, the quality of higher education plays a key role in shaping students' aspirations and decisions. Kerala, a southern state in India, is well-known for its strong education system and has been a centre for higher learning for many years. However, in recent times, many students from Kerala have been moving abroad for higher studies, raising questions about the quality of education available in the state and how it influences their choices.

The quality of Kerala's higher education system plays a significant role in influencing the migration of students to other countries for advanced studies. Understanding and addressing the specific shortcomings in the state's education system that contribute to this trend is crucial for policymakers and educational leaders. Despite Kerala's well-established higher education framework, a notable number of students continue to pursue academic opportunities abroad.

In response to this issue, St. Gregorios College has initiated a program **Vidhyavardhan** aimed at highlighting the value of education within Kerala and encouraging students to take advantage of the high-quality courses offered locally. The program seeks to promote the importance of Kerala's higher education system by emphasizing the practical and career-oriented nature of the courses available at the college. By offering a curriculum tailored to meet industry demands and equipping students with the skills necessary for successful careers, the college aims to attract more students to remain in Kerala for their studies.

The initiative also focuses on addressing the broader issue of **Brain-Drain** by creating awareness among students about the opportunities available within the state. This includes showcasing the benefits of studying in Kerala, such as affordable education, access to




Dr. SUMI ALEX
PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
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experienced faculty, and a supportive learning environment. Additionally, the program highlights the college's efforts to integrate research opportunities, advanced infrastructure, and global collaborations, making local education a competitive choice against international options.

Through this program, St. Gregorios College aspires to retain talent within the state, foster academic growth, and contribute to strengthening Kerala's higher education system. The initiative is a step toward ensuring that students recognize the potential of local institutions and choose to build their futures within their home state, ultimately reducing the outflow of talent and supporting the state's long-term educational and economic development.

Practice:

Science Exhibitions

Science exhibitions serve as dynamic platforms where school children can explore, engage, and interact with science concepts practically and creatively. These events bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Benefits:

- **Encourages Critical Thinking and Curiosity:** Exhibitions present complex ideas in simplified, interactive ways, stimulating children's curiosity and problem-solving skills.
- **Promotes Creativity and Innovation:** Students often design projects or participate in experiments, fostering creativity and innovation.
- **Hands-On Learning Opportunities:** Demonstrations and experiments allow children to grasp concepts better than through textbooks alone.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Group activities during exhibitions teach the importance of collaboration, communication, and teamwork.

Implementation Strategies:

- **Involvement of Experts:** Invite scientists, professors, or industry professionals to interact with students and share insights.



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Dr. SUMI ALEX
PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
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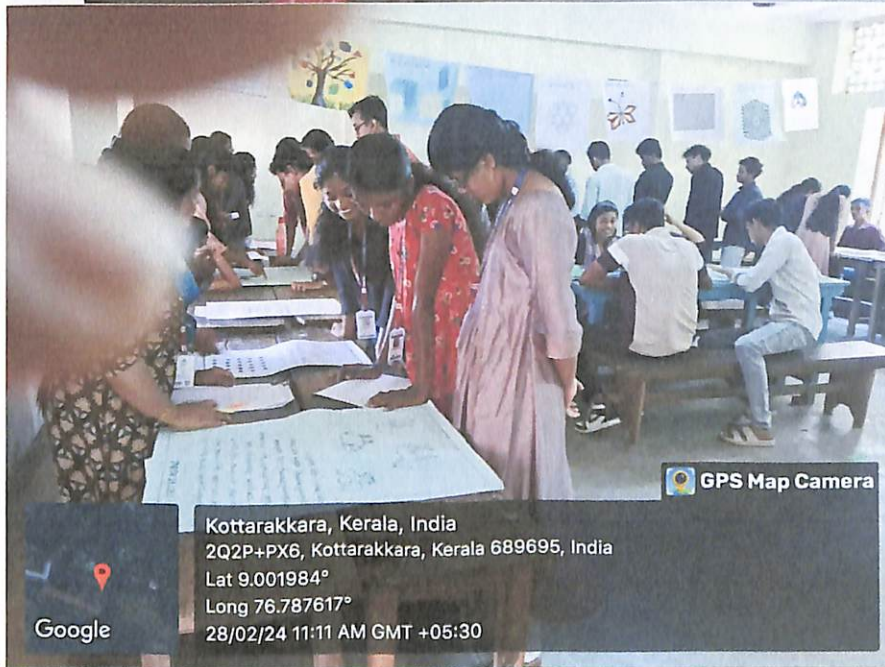


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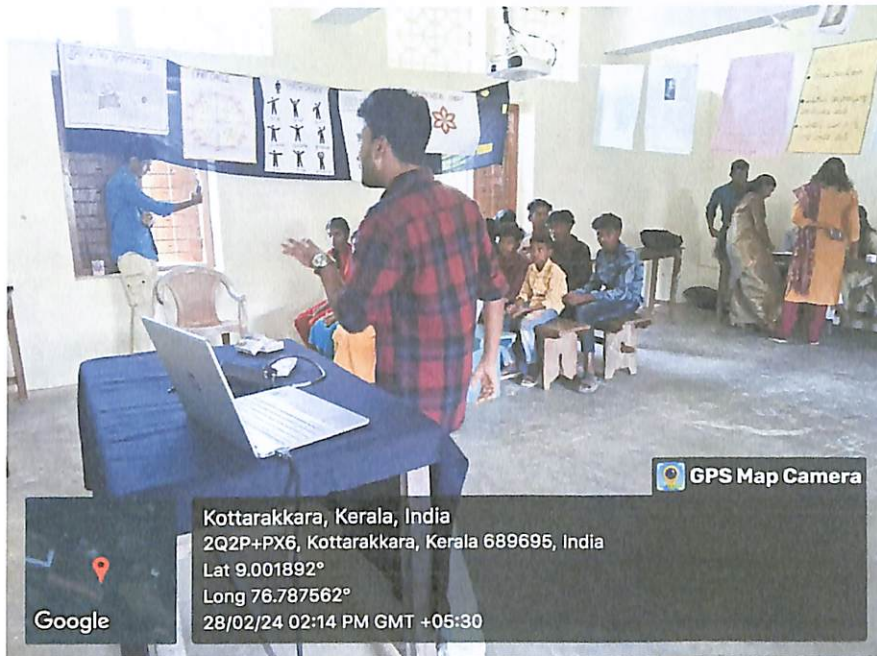


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PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
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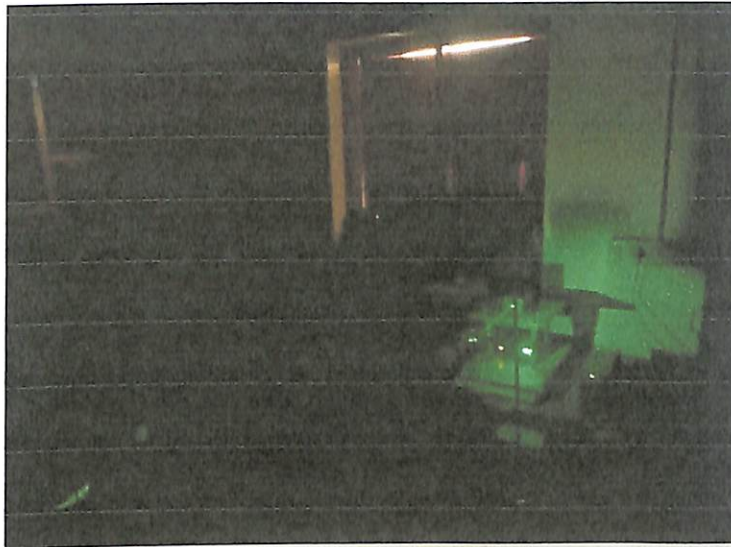
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Dr. SUMI ALEX
PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
KOTTARAKARA




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PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
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Visit College Library and Book Exhibition

Introducing school students to college libraries can open their minds to the vast ocean of knowledge available and inspire them to pursue higher education.

Benefits of Library Visits:

- **Exposure to Advanced Resources:** Students gain access to books, journals, and digital resources beyond their school curriculum.
- **Familiarization with Academic Environment:** Experiencing a college campus and library can demystify higher education, making it more relatable and achievable.
- **Guidance on Research Skills:** Librarians and educators can provide guidance on how to search for and use information effectively.

Activities to Enhance Impact:

- **Guided Tours:** Showcase sections of the library, such as reference materials, research archives, or digital learning zones.
- **Q&A Sessions with Students:** Invite college students to share their educational journeys, aspirations, and challenges with school children.



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Building Awareness About Higher Education

Making students aware of higher education pathways during their formative years can inspire long-term academic and career goals.

Resources for Engagement:

- **Interactive Panels:** Use visuals, infographics, and videos to explain education pathways, including vocational and specialized courses.




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Integrating Technology for Broader Reach

Leverage technology to make science and higher education accessible:

- Virtual exhibitions for students unable to attend in person.
- Online library orientations showcasing digital resources.
- Mobile apps or platforms for exploring educational content and college information.

Evidence of Success:

Positive Feedback from Students

One of the most significant indicators of success has been the positive feedback from students who participated in the programs. They found the sessions to be interactive, enjoyable, and educational, which created a stimulating learning environment. Hands-on activities, such as science experiments and interactive panels, allowed students to engage with concepts in a way that traditional classroom teaching often does not. This enthusiasm reflected their growing interest in exploring more such opportunities and their acknowledgment of the value of these initiatives in enhancing their learning experience.

Increased Interest in Science and Technology Projects

The programs have sparked a noticeable increase in students' interest in pursuing science and technology-related projects. Science exhibitions, in particular, provided a platform for students to showcase their creativity and innovation, leading to the development of unique experiments and models. The exposure to real-world applications of science has encouraged many students to consider careers in technology, engineering, and research. By connecting theoretical knowledge with practical outcomes, these events have inspired students to view science as both accessible and exciting.

Better Understanding of Higher Education Opportunities

Through guided tours, workshops, and interactive sessions, students gained a deeper understanding of the higher education opportunities available in Kerala. They were introduced to various institutions, programs, and fields of study, making them aware of the breadth and depth of academic options within the state. This awareness has helped students identify potential pathways for their future studies, ensuring they make informed decisions that align with their interests and goals.

Enhanced Knowledge of Vocational Courses and Financial Aid

The programs also emphasized vocational and specialized courses available in Kerala, making students aware of alternative education pathways that align with industry demands. Sessions highlighting scholarships and financial aid options were especially impactful, as they addressed one of the primary concerns of many families regarding higher education affordability. By providing information about cost-effective local options, students and their families have become more confident in the feasibility of pursuing higher studies within the



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Aspiration to Study Within Kerala

As a direct result of the initiatives, there have been increasing reports of students expressing a desire to pursue higher education in Kerala rather than migrating abroad. The focus on showcasing the quality of education, advanced infrastructure, and opportunities for research and innovation in local institutions has helped students see Kerala as a competitive and viable alternative to foreign education. This shift in mindset is a significant step toward reducing brain drain and retaining local talent.

Shifting Attitudes Among Parents and Teachers

Feedback from parents and teachers indicates a positive change in attitudes toward Kerala's higher education system. Parents, who often prioritize foreign education due to perceptions of prestige, are now considering the advantages of local options, such as proximity to family, affordability, and cultural familiarity. Teachers, on the other hand, have observed a renewed enthusiasm among students for exploring local academic opportunities. This collective shift in perspective underscores the success of these initiatives in promoting higher education within the state.

These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of the programs in fostering a deeper connection between students, parents, and the local education system, ultimately contributing to Kerala's academic and socio-economic development.



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