

**7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the manual.**

**1.) Title: Storytelling Clubs: Friday Fables & Tell-Tale Tuesdays**

**Aim of the practice:**

The primary goal of the college library is to provide as much help as possible to faculty members doing research and support the education of both undergraduates and graduate students. Library also aims to inculcate reading habits among its users. For these reasons, Storytelling Clubs: Friday Fables & Tell Tale Tuesday were initiated by the library under its extension services. Primarily, the clubs were created, so that a closed group of avid readers can get together on a regular basis to share the pleasure of hearing and telling stories.

**Context:**

Storytelling is an art of telling fiction and showcases a world that exists in the head of a writer. It is the act and art of telling stories that attracts the audience, be it the students, teachers, or any other person irrespective of the age group they belong to. Storytelling has its own importance and essence in the world of academics and literature. The club's ultimate aim is to inculcate reading habits among the students of the college. These kinds of storytelling clubs help us emotionally feel how other human beings feel emotions like pain, joy, heartache, love, etc. The main purpose of the club was to provide insight to the students about universal life experiences through stories and explore the imaginative world created by the authors and the writers.

**The Practice and its Implementation:**

PGGCG42 Library Chandigarh under the initiatives taken by Dr. Preeti Sharda. Librarian started its first storytelling club namely "Friday Fables" in February 2020 with a small group of students and faculty members Mr Mohit Verma and Dr Nidhi Rana. Every alternate Friday, a story of some prominent author in Hindi was to be read to the audience which was followed by a discussion. In this way the forum started motivating participants to read more and more stories. During lockdown the college started live streaming of the story narration every Friday at 6 pm through **Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/pggcgff/>). These stories were later saved on the Facebook page for students and people to view, listen and share. The motto of going live was to bring joy of reading and listening to stories by great writers, during the desperate testing times of COVID Lockdown.

Looking at the success of the Friday Fables, another initiative by librarian Dr. Preeti Sharda was to start Tell-Tale Tuesdays, a forum created to celebrate stories in English in collaboration with Dr Nidhi Rana. The forum started on 13 October 2020 on the Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/pggcgttt>) and is continuing till date. On every second and fourth Tuesday at 6 pm, a story is narrated by one of us. Stories create magic and a sense of wonder at the world. These kinds of events promote feelings of well-being and relaxation and also encourage use of imagination and creativity amongst students as well as faculty members.

**Evidence of Success:**

The success of the storytelling clubs and this initiative is evident through following facts:

- Fifty stories have been read on Friday Fables and twenty-four stories have been narrated on Tell-Tale Tuesdays so far.
- Stories have been narrated by prominent people of the society which include authors like Tithi Dani, Veeru Sonekar, Soni Pandey, Monika Kumar, etc.; Educationist like Prof Deepika Kansal, Dr Gurmel Singh, Dr Manisha Gupta etc.; IAS officer like Madhvi Kataria, Film Artists like Madhurjeet Sarghi, Rekha Babbar, etc.
- People from all fields and all around the world are viewers of the two Facebook pages. Thousand of story lovers follow the page and listen to the stories. The constant reach and activation of the pages also make it clear that the initiative has reached a large number of people.
- Requests from many narrators are received by the organisers regularly who wish to read the story on the forum. The active participation of the faculty in storytelling is also noticeable.
- Storytelling clubs ensure an increased interest of students in stories and reading. Reading habits of students have tremendously improved and many of the participants have even started writing stories of their own.

#### **Problems encountered and the resources required:**

The key challenge of this initiative was to bring these clubs to the notice of students and staff members. Any storytelling club needs a lot of practice and planning. This includes the practice by our storytellers of the respective stories and a tedious screening procedure, working long hours with cameras etc. A major constraint is that students do not come forward regarding their requests or choices of stories. This hinders the way of knowing the mutual interests of the students. Also, as the videos are posted online or through social media only, sometimes it takes a lot of time for the videos to reach a large number of people online.

Any Other Relevant Information:

The practice of storytelling can be initiated in other Institutes also as it has escalated the interest of the students in the genre of storytelling. People of every age group have lately started seeing it as a source of knowledge as well as entertainment. It has helped in reviving the interest of students as well as the general public in art and literature. These interactions of the storyteller and the listener widens one's horizons and helps in gaining more expertise and knowledge about our history, culture, literature.

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**2.) Title: Spreading awareness by the NSS wing of our college to prevent the spread of COVID disease are as follows:**

**Aim of the practice:**

To spread awareness amongst the society to prevent the COVID disease and its prevention. As the world was gripped by an unusual wave of pandemic it was the moral duty of all the agencies to contribute to the society for helping the mankind. And our college also participated with full vigour to do its bit.

**Context:**

Our college being an integral part of the society actively participated in helping all the strata of society during this pandemic. With organizing vaccination camps to distributing free rashans and taking care of not only humans but animals too.

**The Practice and Implementation:**

Data of 800 volunteers was collected in a pool along with their email ids, as per the instructions, to Dr. Mehak at the designated email id in June 2020 so that if their services are required at any point of time they can contribute. All the PO's and Volunteers enthusiastically consented to give their services. NSS programme officers and volunteers participated actively to create awareness regarding COVID 19 and fulfilled their social responsibilities. Around 600 volunteers have already registered on IGOT (A Government's platform for various online courses on Dikha App.) in June 2020. Volunteers were also encouraged to download the ArogyaSetu App and around 700 volunteers and more downloaded it along with the PO's. Webinar was organized by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka on multiple aspects of COVID 19 was attended by the NSS programme officers. The main highlight were how to maintain hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and social distancing, which types of masks can be used, how to use mask and how to dispose them off. Dr. Gurmel Singh joined as incharge of sector response team (SRT) Sector 37, Chandigarh from first day when asked to volunteer the service of PO's by state NSS cell, Chandigarh to redress the grievances of residents of Chandigarh. Residents consulted the members in connection with any issue in their respective areas. One of our faculty members Dr. Ranjna Sharma attended the Master trainers COVID 19 program organized by State NSS cell on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Government Multi-Speciality Hospital, Sector 16, Chandigarh in which 20 NSS programme officers from different colleges and schools who volunteered their services have been trained as Master Trainers. Our volunteers, acknowledging the issue and caring for the precautions are regularly acting in the best health interests of our society by helping and creating awareness among people to stay at home and in isolation as it is the best way to beat the pandemic. Other than

this, under the able guidance of College Principal Prof. Nisha Aggarwal, all the eight programme officers collected Rs. 500 each and gathered an amount of Rs. 8000/- Ration was distributed to homeless and needy people out of this money. NSS Programme officers and volunteers also provided ration or cooked meals to the needy people around them throughout the lockdown period. Ms. Kalyani Singh (Faculty of Home Science) sensitized students on ways to boost their immunity through nutrition to battle COVID-19 and making students aware of which food is good for consumption and which food should be avoided. Since during the lockdown, stray dogs and cows who went unnoticed by many people our volunteers were even feeding them and helping them. A vaccination camp for COVID was organized in our camp for 7 days with around 1700 people getting jabbed.

#### **Evidences of Success:**

Our two faculty members Dr. Nidhi Rana, Nodal Officer and Dr. Nemi Chand who were overall control room in charge, received letter of State Level Commendation Award from the Governor on The Independence Day for their tireless work done during this pandemic.

#### **Problems encountered and resources required:**

The key challenge during this process of making people aware was to make containment zones especially in slum areas. Sometimes data sent to Health Department for correction was not received back in time. Many a times it was also seen that people gave false address of Chandigarh but were originally residing in Panchkula or Mohali so tracing of address was problematic at times.

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