

1. Promotion of Cultural Values and Skills through Activities conducted by the Culture Study Centre of the College.

### **Objectives of the Practice**

- To impart education on cultural values.
- To organize seminars, workshops, field trips and study tours.
- To promote healthy relationship among varied cultures.
- To encourage developing life skills by imparting knowledge on the same.
- To conduct research on folk traditions and culture by exploring materials in ballads, oral narratives, festivals, songs and so on.
- To maintain archives in the form of writings, artifacts, audio/video tapes/ discs, photographs etc.

### **The Context**

Baptist College is the only college in Nagaland to have a Culture Study Centre. Baptist College Culture Study Centre was established on the 6th of September 2003. The rich heritage of different communities is explored through different activities promoting unity in diversity, respect for one another, dignity of labour, maintenance of harmony and so on.

### **The Practice**

One of the main activities of the Culture Study Centre is the observation of Cultural day. The activities include narration and dramatization of folk tales, presentation of folk songs, dances, enactment of traditional practices, display of cultural attires and ornaments, setting up of tribal food stalls for display of each tribe/community's distinctive cuisines.

Another activity of the centre is organizing seminars. In 2008, the Culture Study Centre of the college organized seminar for students on work culture, responsibility towards common property, the impact of foreign culture on Naga society and cultural values of the Nagas. A two-day National seminar on the theme "KelhouZho- Cultural Heritage among the Tribes of Nagaland: Balancing Tradition and Modernity" was jointly organized by Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, North East Regional Centre, Guwahati (IGNCA- NERC) and Culture Study Centre, Baptist College, Kohima on the 24th and 25th of September, 2019. The seminar incorporated paper presentations on Naga Cultural Heritage, Women Narratives/Feminist Perspectives/

Gender Issues, Integration of Oral Tradition in Academic Discourse, Cultural and the Visual Arts, Music, Literature, Orality and the Written Word, Globalisation, Modernisation and Cultural Change, Cultural Identity, Patriarchy and Customary Laws, Folklore, Oral Traditions and Indigenous Belief Systems, Intercultural and Multicultural Dialogues and Cultural and Social Values.

Development of life skills is another activity taken up by the centre. A one day workshop on practical life skills was conducted on the 29th of February, 2020 at Kohima Campus for students of both the campuses. Life skills play an important role in imbibing confidence, awareness of oneself and recognition of new ways of living. Recognizing the importance of imbibing basic skills in the youth of the present generation, the Centre organized the workshop focusing on four types of activities as listed below:

1. Basket Making
2. Bamboo Crafts (Mugs & spoons)
3. Necklace and Earring Making.
4. Machete Sharpening.

#### **Evidence of Success**

There has been a favorable response to the events conducted. This is seen in the participation of students in different activities. Students gain knowledge on different aspects of culture like work culture, importance of values like honesty, discipline and so on. Students have embraced opportunities given for exploration of culture. A sense of unity and tolerance is instilled and awareness and respect for one another's culture is pursued.

#### **Problems encountered and Resources Required**

One of the problems encountered is the lack of sufficient funding. For conduct of Cultural day, fund is generated purely from the contribution of students. Cultural Day is therefore observed biennially. The absence of a proper college auditorium in the main campus of the college is another problem faced for conduct of activities.

2. Inculcation of knowledge, embracing Diversity of Art and Tapping of Skills through Conduct of Annual Literature Fest.

### **Objectives of the Practice**

- To tap the literary potential in students through conduct of literary activities.
- To provide knowledge of literature through interaction with writers both upcoming and established.
- To provide exposure to career choices in creative fields other than creative writing.
- To help students think beyond the classroom activities and bookish knowledge.
- To provide exposure to the rich diversity of Art

### **The Context**

Baptist College is the first and only college in Nagaland that organizes literature fest annually. The college fest is organized by the department of English. However participation is extended to the other departments of the college and all colleges in and around Kohima. In addition to academic knowledge, literary activities help in contributing to personality development, growth of literary skills, personality development, exercise of leadership and analytical skills.

### **The Practice**

Literature Fest is organized annually. Acquirement of knowledge is encouraged through conduct of activities like film screening, conversation with writers, spoken word presentations, conversation with writers, Storytelling, poetry reading, open mic, reading tournament, enactment of plays etc.

Book Fairs and craft stalls, Poetry and Art Gallery, book exchange section and photo booth are incorporated in the fest. Exploration of diverse skills is enabled through participation in the Art and Craft stalls.

Workshops on Photography, Creative Writing and Academic Writing, T.V journalism, painting, entrepreneurship, music and videography are conducted to encourage professional ventures into different creative fields.

Development of skills is encouraged through competitions on spoken word poetry, storytelling, essay writing, meme creation, pencil sketching, poetry and short story writing and reading tournament etc.

### **Evidence of Success**

Untapped literary skills of students find expression through participation in programmes organized. Sharing Stories, a collection of nine shortlisted stories from the 1st open online short story competition conducted during the 3rd edition of the Annual Literature Fest was published in the year 2019. There has been a good response from colleges in and around Kohima too.

### **Problems encountered and Resources Required**

In the absence of a proper auditorium, conduct of on-stage activities becomes a problem. Conduct of activities in the open compound of the institution is sometimes disturbed by unpredictable weather. Another problem faced is the shortage of fund. In addition to the limited fund extended by the college, graduating batches of students of the department have raised funds to support the event.