
ACASIANA

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Grow Together: Al Shifa College of Arts and Science Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Farook Institute of Management Studies.

BEST WISHES TO THE FIRST ELECTED COLLEGE UNION



DR. P. UNNEEN
MANAGING TRUSTEE

One of the goals of a Higher Education Institution is to empower its students by providing them with the skills and knowledge required to speak up in demanding situations. When the students courageously open up in constructive ways, they become the stamp-bearers of ACAS. I believe that discipline in character along with courage is also an essential attribute expected from youngsters.

This is because discipline is the determining factor in one's success in academics and career. It is imperative that youngsters incorporate habits of discipline into their character. On a different note, I wish that the first elected College Union of ACAS, 'Ikdhaara', will be fruitful in being a model on how to effectively empower themselves as students. Best wishes to their efforts in creating a better campus experience here at ACAS.

EXCHANGE AND GROW



DR. BABU. P. K
PRINCIPAL

The academic year is drawing to a close and it evidences itself in the flurry of activity at the student and faculty ends. At ACAS the scale of activities to involve, upskill and empower the student community continued and certain efforts stood out, gave more satisfaction, like the Visiting Professor Programme, carry bag making with newspapers and Faculty Exchange.

The visiting professor programme took off a couple of months back with the first visitor from Aligarh Muslim University. This time English Department brought in a Professor from Kannur University and the student and faculty community spent productive hours with takeaways of academic and administrative kinds. Sustainable movement expects a lot from the campuses and every effort, however small it may seem, matters. The newspaper-to-carry bag idea of the Consumer Club deserves applause as the whole college spent one hour in turning newspapers to carry bags so that it will help reduce one-use plastic bags. Equally relevant is the message the act helped spread among the student community. Faculty Exchange the way it needs to be done is hard to do in our campuses as the government norms stand in the way of meeting the NAAC expectations. ACAS, within the limits, has initiated modest attempts at Faculty Exchange as part of its MoUs with colleges. Before long, we will surely be able to find a way to scale this up to full blown Faculty Exchange.

INAUGURATION OF COLLEGE UNION



The inauguration of the first elected student union was held on 2 February 2023. The inauguration of the union named 'Ikdhaara' and unveiling of its logo was done by Adv. A. K. Musthafa, President, Block Panchayath, Perinthalmanna. Dr. Unneen. P, Managing Trustee, Shifa Medicare Trust, Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS, Mr. Muhammed Faizal. P. K, Manager, Al Shifa College of Pharmacy and members of the union were present on the occasion. Adv. Musthafa said in the inaugural speech that the union can interfere in matters of public interest in a productive manner. He added that the activities of student unions should not be limited to the campus and that they can do a great deal in helping the local community too.

Reported by Ms. Basila Sherin. P
VI Semester B. A. Functional English

OCCASIO 2K23: COLLEGE ARTS FEST

The Arts Fest (2022-2023) at ACAS commenced on 20 October 2022. Competitions in 24 items were held in the off-stage component of the Fest. The students of ACAS competed in two groups namely, 'Zealous' and 'Illustrious'. When the off-stage competitions were completed, House Illustrious was in the lead with 32 points followed by Zealous with 29 points. The on-stage competitions were held on 02 February 2023. The Arts Fest was celebrated under the theme 'Occasio 2k23'. Competitions were held in a number of events including *Vattappattu*, *Thiruvathirakali*, *Arabanamuttu*, *Ganamela*, *Oppana*, *Kavithaparayanam*, *Kadhaprasangam* and *Mappilappattu*. When the curtain fell, 'Zealous' and 'Illustrious' scored 75 points and 108 points respectively. House Illustrious maintained the lead and emerged the Arts Champions in the Fest.

Reported by Ms. Dheena. P
VI Semester B. A. Functional English



STUBIZ 1.4 OPENS

The ED Club and Event Management Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a food sale through 'StuBiz' on the campus on 2 February 2023. 'StuBiz' is a student sales point run under ED Club to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of students. This is part of the year-long programme to run a students' kiosk on the campus, kick-started on 11 October 2022. This time, the sales point was named 'Canadian Thattukada'. Students of First Semester B. Com. were in charge of the sales point. Food items like juices, tea, a variety of snacks and lunch were put for sale. The event was planned, organised and executed by 12 members each from both clubs. The students involved got first-hand experience in running a business venture.

Reported by Ms. Lisna. K. P
II Semester B. Com. Finance



PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS WIN RESEARCH COMPETITION PRIZE



Two groups of students from the Dept. of Psychology, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, presented papers in the 'Junior Behavioural Scientist Undergraduate Research Competition' at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, on 3 February 2023. Ms. Febinsha Fahim. C and Ms. Fathima Rifa. K, Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology, presented a paper titled "Comparison between the Effects of Flipped Learning and Traditional Learning". Ms. Shibila. V, Ms. Hanna Fathima. C. K, and Ms. AyishaSafana. P. J, Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology, presented another paper titled "Correlation Study between Job Satisfaction and Salary Package". Ms. Fahim and Ms. Rifa were awarded third prize in the Research Competition.

Reported by Ms. Mufitha Musthafa
II Semester B. Sc. Psychology

WORK READINESS PROGRAMME



Al Shifa Finishing School (ALFIS), Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a three day 'Work Readiness Programme', in association with ASAP Kerala & Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission from 6 to 8 February 2023. The workshop was offered as a certificate course to the students of the Sixth Semester classes. The session was handled by Mr. Bilal Muhammed, Trainer, ASAP Kerala. The workshop was activity-based and students had many useful take-aways. Group discussions, grooming and panel interviews were done in the programme. Contents to be included in a CV were also discussed in the session. A valedictory ceremony was conducted at the end of the course in College Seminar Hall. The course is a part of the series of activities designed by ALFIS for the benefit of the students who graduate this year.

Reported by Ms. Salukripa. M
VI Semester B. Com. Finance

FAREWELL PARTY TO MR. MOHAMMED

The Staff Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, conducted a farewell party for Mr. Mohammed on 10 February 2023. He resigned from his job as the College Office Assistant recently. Ms. N. T. Amritha Kumaran, Secretary, Staff Club, Mr. Abdul Jaleel. C, President, Staff Club, Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS, Mr. Suhail Hamza, General Manager, Shifa Medicare Trust, and Mr. Nuhman Ali, Treasurer, Staff Club, spoke on the occasion. Mr. Suhail Hamza handed over a memento to Mr. Mohammed.



GENDER SENSITISATION PROGRAMME



Women Development Cell, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a session titled "Equals, not Inferiors!", a gender awareness programme on 13 February 2023. The session was handled by Mrs. Sruthi. V. S Vylathoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam, Jamia Nadwiyya Arts and Science College, Edavanna. She is also a writer in Malayalam. The session helped students gain insight into the instances of gender bias in society. The resource person spoke on the kind of change we need in attitude to create gender equality.

Reported by Ms. Rameesa Jahan. V
IV Semester B. A. Functional English

PRESENTATION ON NATURALISM IN LITERATURE

A session on 'Presentation on Naturalism in Literature' was organised by the Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, in connection with the observance of Darwin's Day on 13 February 2023. Ms. Hiba. M. K and Ms. Nandhana Krishna. P, Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English, were the presenters. First, second and final year B. A. Functional English students benefited from the session. The presenters spoke on the literary style of 'Naturalism' in American Literature. They also introduced some of the prominent writers in the movement.

Reported by Ms. Fathima Safa. V
IV Semester B. A. Functional English



SESSION ON PUBLIC POLICY

The Department of Economics in association with Career Training and Placement Cell (CTPC), Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a presentation titled 'An Introduction to Public Policy' on 13 February 2023. Ms. Anu Maria Francis, Research Associate, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi, gave a detailed presentation on public policy formulation and its process. She also gave an outline of the career prospects and opportunities in the public policy sector.

Reported by Ms. Abaan. C. K
IV Semester B. A. Economics



PUBLIC TRANSPORT DAY

As a part of the agenda to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), set by Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, the faculty members and students of the institution pledged to use means of public transportation to commute to college once a day every month. The faculty members and students adhered to the decision and made use of public. In the month February, ACAS observed Public Transport day on 16 February 2023.

AL SHIFA PROJECT PRIZE: COMPETITION FOR UG STUDENTS

**ACAS
UG PROJECT
PRIZE 23**

For the top UG Projects in
Commerce, Economics, English
and Psychology submitted to
Colleges in Kerala

Deadline: 30 April 2023

Contact
Ms. Renjitha. K. R
(9742479524) for further details

1st Prize
₹5,000
in each stream

2nd Prize
₹3,000
in each stream

3rd Prize
₹2,000
in each stream

A Different
League!

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, instituted the Al Shifa Project Prize in 2022 to recognise the best projects done by Undergraduate students who completed their graduation in the University of Calicut. In the academic year 2022-23, the competition is extended to all UG students who do their graduation in universities in Kerala. Projects done in Commerce, Economics, English and Psychology are considered for the prize. Attractive cash prizes are awarded to the winners after an open defence held at Al Shifa College Campus.

ACAS COLLABORATES WITH FAROOK INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES (FIMS)

The Department of Commerce, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, and Farook Institute of Management Studies (FIMS), Calicut, will collaborate in the areas of student employability skills, designing Add-on courses and faculty empowerment. Mr. C. P. Kunhimohammed, Secretary, Farook Institute of Management Studies and Mr. Pilakkal Hamza, Chief Executive, Shifa Medicare Trust, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to this effect at Farook Institute of Management Studies on 16 February 2023. Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS, Mr. Rohith. R, IQAC Coordinator, ACAS, Dr. Ahamad Riaz, Director, FIMS, were present on the occasion.



ACAS STUDENT IN 'DREAMVESTER' PROGRAMME

Mr. Muhammed Lasin. T, Fourth Semester B. Com. Finance, was shortlisted in the 'Dreamvester Programme', an initiative by the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala, to provide opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. Mr. Lazin's business idea was selected as one of the top 100 proposals from various colleges in Kerala. He came up with a concept on 'Assembling Unit for Lithium Batteries'.



MENTOR-MENTEE INTERACTIONS

The Mentor-Mentee Programme at Al Shifa College of Arts and Science organised a session on 14 February 2023, in which the mentors casually interacted with their mentees. Such sessions help bring out relevant information sufficient to provide personalised guidance to the students. The Mentor-Mentee Programme aims to provide guidance, motivation, emotional support and companionship to students by developing productive relationships among teachers and students.



HASH: AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The Department of Psychology, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, held a session as a part of HASH (Hands Around Shoulders) awareness on 17 February 2023, through the YouTube channel HASH ACAS. The initiative means to bring together a group of caring youngsters, characterised by their willingness to know each other and extend support. The awareness session of the month was handled by Ms. Gopika. K, First Semester B. Sc. Psychology. Her video discusses addiction of youngsters to mobile phones. She spoke on the need of overcoming such addiction to create a successful life.

Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/1Y83KDgrByo>

Reported by Ms. Gopika. K
Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology

STAFF TOUR



The Staff Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a Staff Tour as a part of staff welfare activities, on 18 February 2023. The tour was to Thusharagiri, Arippara Waterfall and Calicut Beach. Mr. Abdul Jaleel. C, President, Staff Club, and Head, Department of Psychology, and Ms. N. T. AmrithaKumaran, Secretary, Staff Club, and Assistant Professor of Commerce, led the trip. 13 Members from the staff club participated in the trip.

TALK SHOP 2



The English Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised the second edition of 'Talk Shop' on 20 February 2023. It is a presentation modelled on TED talk. Ms. Dhiruba. K, Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology, was the first speaker. She delivered a talk on the topic 'Freedom' and its effective utilisation. Ms. Fathima Safa. V, Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English, spoke on the topic 'Generation Gap' with a special focus on how to overcome generation gap issues. The programme aims to enrich the public speaking skills of the students.

Reported by Ms. Gopika. K
Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

The English Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, in association with The Movie Club, observed the International Mother Language Day. A translation competition titled 'Translation of Malayalam Movie Ads' was organised on 22 February 2023. Members of English Club and Movie Club participated in the competition. The competition aimed to recognise the linguistic skills of participants.

Reported by Ms. Rameesa Jahan. V
Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English



ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

The Department of Physical Education and Student Union 2022-'23 together conducted the Annual Sports Day of Al Shifa College of Arts and Science on 21 February 2023. Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS, inaugurated the Annual Sports Day. Mr. Mohammed Salman, General Captain, and student of Fourth Semester B. Com. Finance, read out the Athletic Oath for the participants. The athletic events were held on the ACAS College Ground. Mr. Mohammed Salman, Fourth Semester B. Com. Taxation, and Mr. Mohammed Niyas. K, Fourth Semester B. A. Economics, were selected as the Individual Champions in the men's section. Ms. Faslul Fabina, Second Semester B. A. Economics, was the individual champion in the women's section. House Zealous won the overall Championship in the Annual Sports Meet. 13 athletic events were held on the day, ensuring maximum participation of the students.

Reported by Ms. Amaya. K. T
Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English



SESSION FOR SLOW LEARNERS

The Remedial Coaching Centre (RCC), Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a session titled 'Teaching Learning Skills: Note Taking, Outlining and Active Listening' on 22 February 2023. Mr. Abdul Jaleel. C, Head, Department of Psychology, handled the session. 39 students selected for RCC programmes benefited from the session. RCC focuses on upskilling slow learners and capacitates them to do well in their academic careers.

Reported by Ms. Nandhana Krishna. P
Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English



WORKSHOP ON PAPER BAG MAKING



The Consumer Club, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a workshop on paper bag making as part of their efforts to promote eco-friendly alternatives to plastic bags. The workshop aimed to teach the college students how to make paper bags from newspapers. The paper bags made in the workshop will be distributed among shops in Kizhattur, the neighbourhood of ACAS.

Reported by Mr. Muhammed Sahal
Fourth Semester B. Com. Taxation

FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a Faculty Exchange Programme in connection with the Memorandum of Understanding with MES KeVeeYam College, Valanchery. Dr. Reji. A. L. and Mr. Mridhul. C. Mrinal, Assistant Professors of English, MES KeVeeYam College, handled a session on 'Creative Writing' for the students of Sixth Semester B. A. Functional English. Faculty Exchange Programmes mean to arrange an opportunity for the students to interact with faculty members other than their teachers.



MR. KHADER WINS VIDEOGRAPHY CONTEST

Mr. Sayed Abdul Khader. C, Second Semester B. Com. Finance, bagged the first prize in the Videography Contest in the National Level Management Fest, organised by Malabar College of Advanced Studies, Vengara. He was previously selected as one of the best videographers in the Management Fest held by Monti International Institute of Management Studies, Perinthalmanna.



INVITED STUDENT TALK SERIES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Department of Commerce, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised the seventh session in the Invited Student Talk Series on 23 February 2023 via Google Meet. Ms. Pooja Venkat, student of BBA LLB (Hons.), School of Indian Legal Thought, Kottayam, handled the session on the topic 'Rights as a Consumer'. The session gave an overview of the Consumer Protection Act, which was passed in 2019 to replace the previous Act from 1986. She discussed the rights of consumers, such as the right to information, right to safety, right to choose, and right to be heard.

Reported by Ms. Shifna. P
Fourth Semester B. Com. Finance



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a session in the Invited Student Talk Series on 15 February 2023. Ms. Muhsina Thekkanpallath, Fourth Semester M. Sc. Psychology, SMSTM College, Athavanad, handled the session on the topic 'Corporal Punishment by Parents: Future Directions'. The second speaker, Ms. Jinsiya. P, Fourth Semester M. Sc. Psychology, Sahya Arts and Science College, Wandoor, spoke on 'Be Wary of Awareness Sessions'.

Reported by Ms. Febinsha Fahim
Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Ms. Najla and Mr. Vijay Surya, students of Sixth Semester B. A. Functional English, MES KeVeeYamCollege, Valanchery, presented at the Invited Student Talk Series organised by the Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, on 24 February 2023. Ms. Najla spoke on “Representation of Secret Societies In Dan Brown’s Works”. She elaborated on the conspiracy theories prevalent today and how Brown draws on them convincingly in his books. Mr. Surya spoke on “Symbolism in *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel”. He brought into perspective the aptness of symbols employed by Martel in his Booker Prize winning novel.

Reported by Ms. Anzalna. T. P
Second Semester B. A. Functional English



MR. YASEEN WINS SPEECH CONTEST

Mr. Mohammed Yaseen, Sixth Semester B. A. Economics, bagged first prize in the Extempore Competition in the intercollegiate Economics Fest 'Enova', organised by the Department of Economics, DGM MES Mampad College (Autonomous) on 24 February 2023.



KNOW MY VILLAGE

The National Service Scheme, AlShifa College of Arts and Science, organised a one day regular activity and orientation programme for the volunteers. A session of the day was titled, 'Ariv: Ente Panchayath' (Know My Village). It was an initiative to build awareness about Kizhattur Grama Panchayath among the volunteers. Mr. Rajesh Kumar. S, Secretary, Kizhattur GramaPanchayath, spoke in the session extensively about Kizhattur panchayath. Later on the day, as part of the Green Campus Initiative, the NSS volunteers collected plastic waste from the campus to handover to the *Haritha Karma Sena*. Mr. Afras, Second Semester, B. Com. Taxation, coordinated the cleaning drive.

Reported by Ms. Gopika. K
Second Semester B. Sc. Psychology



CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ENGLISH GRADS

The Department of English in collaboration with the Career Training and Placement Cell, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a session called 'Career Pathways for English Grads' on 27 February 2023. Mr. Midhulaj. P and Ms. Thazna Mol, Asst. Professors of English, were the presenters. Students of Second Semester B. A. Functional English benefited from the session.

Reported by Ms. Nandhana. P. V
Second Semester B. A. Functional English



ADD-ON COURSE CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTED

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Department of Commerce, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Investment Management & Digital Trading' to the students of Third Semester B. Com. Finance and Taxation. The certificates on the same were distributed on 27 February 2023. Ms. Afeefa. P, and Mr. Mohammed Noufal. K. K, students of Fourth Semester B. Com., on behalf of their classmates, received the certificates from Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS.



The Department of Commerce, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Fundamentals of Investment' to the students of Sixth Semester B. Com. Finance and Taxation. The course was completed in collaboration with the Trading Club, ACAS, and the National Institute of Security Market (NISM), an educational institution of SEBI (Security and Exchange Board of India). The certificates of the same were distributed on 27 February 2023. Mr. Jassir Hussain, Sixth Semester B. Com. Finance and Student Coordinator of Trading Club, on behalf of his classmates, received the certificates from Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS.



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Quantitative Tools in Economics' to the students of Third Semester B. A. Economics. The certificates were distributed on 28 February 2023. Mr. MuhammedShabeeb. M. M, Fourth Semester B. A. Economics, on behalf of his classmates, received the certificates from Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS.



The Department of Economics, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Diploma in Banking Services' to the students of First Semester B. A. Economics. The certificates of the course were distributed on 28 February 2023. Ms. Haseeba. K, First Semester B. A. Economics, on behalf of her classmates, received the certificates from Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Presentation Skills' to the students of First Semester B. A. Functional English. The certificates on the same were distributed on 28 February 2023. Students of Second Semester B. A. Functional English received the certificates from Dr. Kunhammad. K. K, Professor, Dept. of Studies in English, Kannur University.



The Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, offered an Add-on course on 'Accent Training' to the students of Third Semester B. A. Functional English. The certificates on the same were distributed on 28 February 2023. Students of Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English received the certificates from Dr. Kunhammad. K. K, Professor, Dept. of Studies in English, Kannur University.



PROF. K. K. KUNHAMMAD IN THE VISITING PROFESSOR PROGRAMME



Al Shifa College of Arts and Science launched the ACAS Visiting Professor Programme as a part of its strategy to create a platform for our students and faculty to connect with the best scholarship in their subjects. The Department of English, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a session as a part of the Visiting Professor Programme on 28 February 2023. Prof. Kunhammad. K. K, PhD, was the Visiting Professor from the Dept. of Studies in English, Kannur University. He interacted with the students of the Department of English. He spoke on the key attributes of a graduate that the students should acquire. He spoke to the students of the transition from UG to PG classes and the need of improving their skill sets. The Professor also interacted with the members of the Scholar Mentor Programme (SMP) and faculty of the English department at ACAS.

INAUGURATION OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

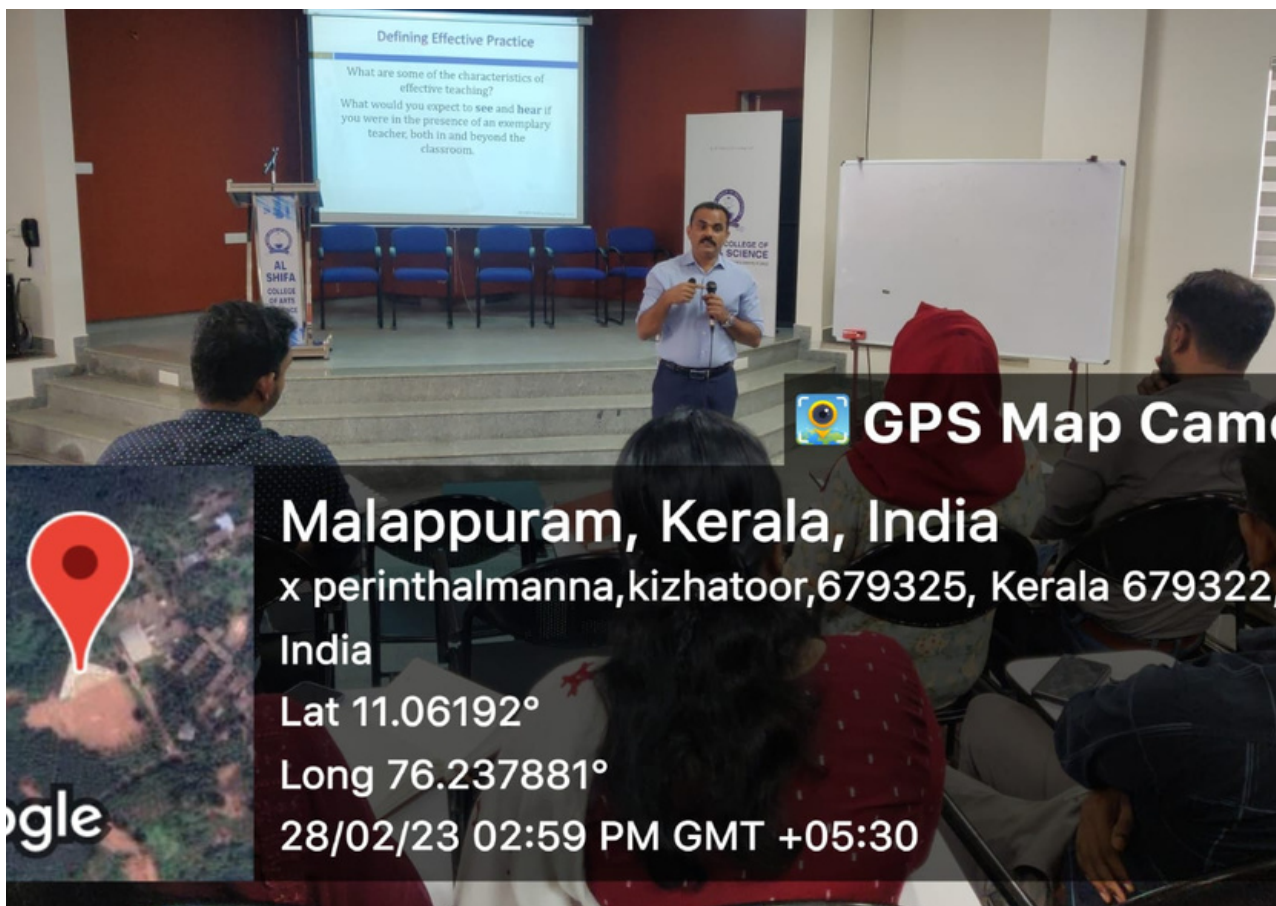


The Inauguration of Commerce Association was held on 28 February 2023. Mr. Sujin Oommen Philip, Director, Toir Business Solution Pvt. Ltd. Kochi, inaugurated the event. Following the inaugural session, Mr. Philip interacted with the students on 'Business Consultancy: the Future'. He spoke to the students on their future as a business consultant and on how to begin a startup. The session ended with cultural programmes staged by the students.

Reported by Ms. Nandhana. P. V
Second Semester B. A. Functional English

FDP ON MOTIVATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING

The Faculty Development Centre, Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised a Faculty Development Programme on 28 February '23. The session titled 'Motivational Framework for Teaching' was handled by Dr. Kunhammad. K. K, Professor, Dept. of Studies in English, Kannur University. He talked about the importance of promoting professional learning and teacher quality. He emphasised that teacher quality is the most significant dimension of an instructor. The session helped the faculty members of ACAS in creating a new framework in improving the quality of teacher-student relationships, thereby making a larger impact on the lives of the learners.



EDITORIAL REVIEW PRESENTATION

The Civil Service Coaching Centre (CSCC), Al Shifa College of Arts and Science, organised an Editorial Review Presentation on 15 Feb 2023. Mr. Muhammed Noufal. M, Head and Assistant Professor, Department of Economics outlined the way to read editorials in newspapers while preparing for Civil Service exams. He detailed to the Civil Service aspirants how conceptual learning becomes most effective by reading editorials regularly. Samples of editorials from newspapers were discussed in the session. Members of CSCC attended the presentation.

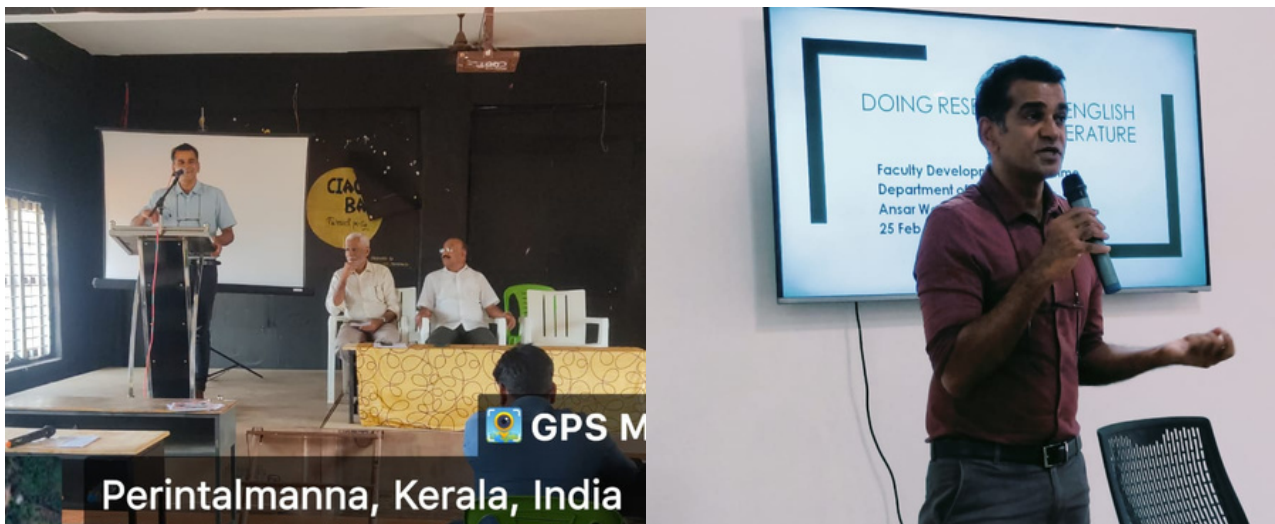
Reported by Ms. Fathima Safa. V
Fourth Semester B. A. Functional English



INVITED LECTURES

Dr. Babu. P. K, Principal, ACAS, was invited for a session at Kannur University on 22 February 2023 to speak on “Dynamics of English Conversational Skills”.

He was also invited to handle a session on “Small Talk and the English Classroom” at Higher Secondary School Teacher Transformation Programme on 24 February 2023. It was organised by Directorate of General Education in association with Collegiate Education at University of Calicut. Another session Dr. Babu handled was at Ansar Women’s college, Perumbilavu, Thrissur, for the Faculty members of the English Department on 25 February '23. The session was titled, ‘Doing Research in English Studies: Aptitudes, Areas and Approaches’



Perintalmanna, Kerala, India

MIDHULAJ RETAINS THE ‘POSTER IT!’ PRIZE



The Faculty Development Centre keeps track of the posters designed by the faculty members in which original posters related to college events and designed by the faculty are evaluated. Posters designed by Mr. Midhulaj. P, Asst. Professor of English and Mr. Abdul Jaleel. C, Head, and Asst. Professor of Psychology were shortlisted for the recognition. The best poster from the month of February 2023 was designed by Mr. Midhulaj P for AI Shifa UG Project Prize 2023 Announcement.

RENJITHA. K. R GRABS THE BEST BLOG HONOUR

The Faculty Development Centre at Al Shifa College of Arts and Science has a blog to which faculty members contribute regularly. Among the blogs written by the faculty and published on FaBlo! (Blogging space for the faculty of ACAS) the best blog is selected based on originality, novelty and relevance of the content. The blogs of Ms Renjitha. K. R Asst. Professor of English and Ms. Febeena. K, Asst. Professor of Malayalam, were shortlisted for the honour of best blog of the month. ‘An Ideal Curriculum’ written by Renjitha. K. R, is selected as the blogger of the month of February The Best Blog from February ‘23 is given below:



AN IDEAL CURRICULUM

The biggest collective illusion of the current human civilisation is our assumption that humans have evolved greatly and that we are almost perfect. The truth is far from it. We still have a long way to go before we can call ourselves an accomplished species. The reasons are obvious. The unequal distribution of resources among humans and the exploitation of other species for our benefits are the most glaring ones. If we ever wish to evolve into a peaceful and content populace, our only chance is the right education.

We generally agree on the fact that education is of prime significance in social life. The Western mode of education is followed currently wherein the focus is on warping skilled labourers who can propagate the present world order. Our textbooks and media tell us that the running of the world depends on the economy, stock market, global cooperation in trade/ maintenance of peace, value of currency, diplomatic ties, and most importantly, production and consumption. The social matrix around us keeps saying that one should make more money to live happily. The singular worth placed on money in turn diminishes our chance at attaining contentment. This is because wealth is like a mirage in front of a desert traveler for the majority of the masses. The satisfaction level of the rich is also questionable for the bulk of them are obsessed with amassing wealth they can never use up in a lifetime. Simply put, the current system of education teaches one to get skills suitable for jobs, which will bring money, and through it, the necessities of daily life. The whole process is supposed to bring happiness or satisfaction, once the goal is achieved. Hence, one question we must pose frequently towards the current system is, how many turn successful in this mission in our learning. Another objective of schooling is to ensure harmonious living among communities. The mission and vision statements of many institutions profess extraordinary ideals of human goodness as the driving force in running the academies. Ironically, we find individuals who cannot even tolerate a fellow student from another Department or neighbouring institution amidst us. The pervasive sectarianism, based on minor to major differences, is a direct backlash against the harmony ideal. It is in these contexts that we must assess the efficacy of the current systems of education and bring favourable changes.

Given below is a list of items which I think would make a part of an ideal curriculum for our schools:

Conditioning of the Human Mind

A contemporary theory in psychology termed 'The Predictive Mind' posits that most of the functions of the brain happen through automatic processes. This automation is a result of genetic and social conditioning. We are genetically wired to survive in unfavorable conditions. This prompts one to stay vigilant against or thwart any potential threat (this is where fear is born), to stay a part of one's own group and categorise different people into separate groups. Social conditioning too has many layers based on parameters given by religion, family, constitution and more.

We are hardwired to group the people we meet based on gender, religion, caste, race, or any other divisive factor. It is the way the brain processes the thousands of people it comes across. This leads to the differentiation between in-group and out-groups. The brain is automated to treat out-group members as a threat or competition. We find this misplaced fear in racism, sexism, or any other form of sectarianism. An ideal education for our young must inform them of this instinct in humans to perceive different ones with suspicion. Understanding the working of the mind and attempts to deliberately come out of the conditioning may give us a better chance at harmonious living.

Posthumanism

The current world order is greatly influenced by Cartesian philosophy and Enlightenment Humanism draws greatly from it. The anthropocentric nature of the perception of the world comes from Humanism. This can be changed with the teaching of Posthumanism. The pitfalls of seeing the world only in terms of the advantages and disadvantages to humans are many. The ill-treatment of other species and the abuse of natural resources can be curtailed with this view.

Nutrition, Farming and Cooking

The ability of a person to live a fulfilling life is directly proportional to the nutritious food s/he takes. Providing excellent infrastructure to a population who has no access to healthy food is like decorating a dilapidated house. The quality of food consumed determines the hormones and the biochemicals released in the body. These in turn determine the behavior of individuals. Hence, it is biologically explainable why an impoverished person ends up raping or murdering another human. People who are aware of the significance of nourishment through the right choice of food may have a better chance at finding lasting satisfaction in life.

The art of farming crops suitable for soil and climate should be a part of an ideal curriculum as it can bring self-reliance and food safety. Since one must eat as long as one lives, cooking should also be a part of education. The lopsided distribution of cooking-duties to one gender curbs them from attaining full social productivity. Formalising the learning of cooking may help change the gendered stereotypes like 'kitchen is for females'.

Conservation of Resources

As most of the resources on earth are nonrenewable, each individual should learn techniques to minimise his/her use of things. Learning to save water, electricity, food, biofuels or any other resource may help in making a huge difference in the long run. The notion of Carbon Footprint and how one must minimise it should be a part of the curriculum.

Caution against Fake News and Ads

Advertisements have a great impact on the decision making and lifestyle choices among individuals. Young people should be taught to discern what is useful and what is not for them. This is perhaps the only way to put an end to the consumerist loop where so many are lost. They should also be informed as to identify fake news so that we can prevent issues caused by misinformation.

Self Care

Self-harming behaviours like addiction, lethargy, hyperactivity, overeating or stressing are developed by individuals due to the lack of knowledge in self-care. Individuals must be taught how to take care of their physical, emotional and psychological selves from a young age. The current systems of learning emphasises on making individuals suitable for economic production. Making efficient methods to address personal issues a part of the syllabus can do wonders in the life of individuals. This will obviously reflect in the productivity of the persons too.

Sex Education and Childcare

Sex education is essential because it informs the youngsters about reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases. Knowing about reproductive health is of great significance as only a physically healthy person can give birth to a healthy offspring. Sex education would also help in removing the stigma associated with sex in certain communities.

Childcare is traditionally passed down through generations and mostly, females are involved in it. A gender-neutral approach towards childcare can start with formal education. Moreover, the counterproductive cultural practices of childcare can be replaced with more scientific methods. Hence, Childcare would make an ideal elective subject for those who wish to learn the technicalities of caring for a newborn or walk with an adolescent through that tumultuous journey to adulthood.

Art- Creation or Appreciation

Art can be an elective in an ideal curriculum. I feel that healthy minds will be naturally drawn to learning art. Research proves that those who read are more likely to empathise with others than non-readers. Art classes can show the learners how to express themselves, how to use it as a tool for change, and how to add many layers to their individual identity. Other advantages include increased observation and problem-solving skills, stimulation of imaginative faculties and understanding of the self.

An ideal curriculum should also allow one to learn any subject of his/her choice.

Conclusion

Education is supposed to teach the young how to come out of genetic and social conditioning; not complicate the situation further. Classrooms can be better than rooster-coops designed to breed industry-ready individuals. While skill enhancement and technical education have their own significance, in the many years of education, our youngsters must be given a chance to learn to live for themselves too. The list of items in a better curriculum given above is not an exhaustive one. Integrating some of them into the curriculum will have a direct impact on the quality of the life of the learners.

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