

**Smt. Kapila Khandvala College of Education
Santacruz (W)**

Our Best Practices

At KKCE, we firmly believe that evolution is a constant; and hence we constantly keep evolving through our best practices. The institutional vision and mission – of creating a just and caring society, guide us in introducing and sustaining our best practices. Some of the best practices that we have been following in the past few years include -

- **Collaborating with Institutions for Curricular and Co-curricular Initiatives:** The main objective behind this practice is to be able to share local and international expertise as well as resources with a wider community. In the process, our students too benefit from exposure to experts in different areas. We have signed several MoUs at different points of time with local, national and international bodies. Some of these include collaborations with Experiential Education India, India Development Foundation, Gordon Academic College of Education, Israel, iEARN, Blind and the Elephant (a theatre group), Trimurti Sports (for radio lessons). Besides, we created linkages with institutions like ORF and TISS for certain specific programs. We also periodically engage with other TEIs for faculty exchange. We are in the process of entering into an MoU with Bombay Community Public Trust, Mumbai for their English E Teach program.
- **Initiatives towards Gender Sensitization of Students:** It remains a constant endeavour at KKCE to challenge exclusion mindsets and sensitize our student-teachers not only in terms of the gender binaries but also to the wider community encompassing LGBTQIA+. Guest lectures, research presentations, seminars, movie screenings and many such programmes are organized from time to time which benefit both – students as well as faculty. The college has an active Women’s Cell which works to protect the interests of all female students and staff. International Women’s Day is celebrated in diverse ways to empower the women. Debates, street plays, theme based assemblies and other Extra/Co-curricular activities are organized that address the patriarchal mindsets prevalent in our society.
- **Social Learning through Outreach Programmes:** This best practice is deeply aligned with our vision as well as our mission to nurture the right attitudes and skills in teachers who will serve as catalyst to create a just and caring society. Social Learning is an experiential learning approach where students apply what is learnt in a course to real life situations in order to improve the conditions of the larger community. The institution has entered into an MoU with IDF, a national NGO committed to health, education and development. ‘Cover of Compassion, ‘Enhancing English Communication Skills’& ‘Student Leadership Program’ are some of the activities that our students engage in, with IDF. In 2020-21, we collaborated with Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT) to provide on-line teaching to learners

belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society. This was a pilot programme and we are in the process of converting it into our regular programme.

- **ICT Integration in Education:** Much before the pandemic pushed all educational institutions to embrace technology, we at KKCE have been integrating technology into all our practices – which go beyond the use of powerpoint presentations or use of youtube videos. The institution collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences to provide ICT training to faculty aimed at meaningful integration of ICT within the broad framework of theories of learning, 21st century skills and authentic learning. We now organize workshop for our students to train them in these. Besides the various opportunities through guest sessions and other workshops, all students (including research scholars) are provided ICT support through a fully functional computer lab, wifi, digitized library resources and LMS MOODLE. Now with online classes being the only medium of teaching, all our students get trained in making enhanced ppts, video lessons and the use of various free online and offline resources to make their lessons interesting and enriching.
- **Sustainable Practices:** KKCE has been promoting and practicing environment conservation and sustainability in all its practices. We took a big leap in the year 2014 when we shifted from conventional energy to solar energy by installing roof top solar power generation plant. The college was the first educational institution in Mumbai to have received UGC funding for this project. Subsequently, we took another leap in 2019 when we set up Rainwater Reserve Drum System in our premises. Our students got hands on training of the installation process and are now ambassadors to carry forward this idea to their institutions. Our students regularly take up activities like Beach Clean Up, Plantation Drives, Seed Ball Making, Eco Brick Making, etc. to contribute to making our planet earth a better place for future generations. Solid Waste Management practices are also stressed upon.
- **Reflections:** Even though reflections are built-in in the TE curriculum, at KKCE, we go the extra mile to foster reflections in our students. We truly believe that reflecting is the noblest way of learning and therefore bring in reflections in assignments, lectures as well as lessons practiced during internship. The lesson plans include a segment on student reflections which they write post delivering their lesson. To make it more specific, the section contains 3 emojis signifying happiness (I am happy about.....), disappointment (I am not happy about....) and confusion (I don't know.....). The qualitative feedback sessions begin with students reflecting on their lessons. Since students are required to maintain Reflection Journals for Semester III and IV internship, these were redesigned in 2018-19 to facilitate deeper and more lucid reflections. As a part of this exercise, students also assess their own lessons on various parameters, which they then plot on a graph as a 5 sided polygon. This gives them a fair idea about their movement on the scale. Our faculty and a cohort of students were recently trained in a model of reflection by a faculty member from Gordon Academic

College of Education, Israel. Subsequently, these students developed learning resources to teach reflection to school students as a part of their Action Research Projects.

- **Peer Assessments:** At KKCE, we have been following a pilot study (2011-12) backed Peer Assessment practice to give our students invaluable insights into the rationale of assessment, the design of assessment criteria, the process of assessment, the utility of outcomes and the need and ways of giving constructive feedback. This practice is used for lesson observations in Semester III and IV and was continued even in online classes during the pandemic. Students are oriented to the practice as well as an objective methodology to be followed. The overall feedback of students to this practice over the years has been positive and hence it is continued for every batch.
- **Integrating Inclusion:** One of our goals, as guided by our vision, is to bring about social equity. There existed a gap between the curriculum and practice of inclusion by students during their lessons. Recognizing this gap, key questions on inclusion of learners with special needs has been integrated into the lesson plan format where student-teachers write about different ways of accommodating the differently abled learners in their class. This practice was based on a pilot done collaboratively with the Special Education Department of SNDDT. Besides this, we provide ample food for thought for our students on various issues relating to the practice of inclusion through expert sessions, seminars and workshops. It is our firm belief that every voice matter, no matter who it belongs to and we practice it without exception at KKCE.
- **Certificate Courses, Value Added Courses and SWAYAM Courses:** Mahatma Gandhi differentiated between literacy and education. In his words, “By education I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in the child and man – body, mind and spirit.” To enable each student-teacher draw out his/her best, we at KKCE, from the academic year 2013-14 onwards, have started offering various Value Added Courses and Certificate Courses to our students. While some are offered free, others are offered at minimal cost. Warli Painting, Basic Calligraphy, Basic Counselling Skills, Basic Graphology, Music and Dance in Education, etc. are some of the Value Added Courses that have been offered to students over the years. Certificate courses offered include ‘Use of Performing Arts in Education’, ‘Use of ICT in Education’ and ‘Basics of Cyber Security’. Students are also encouraged to pursue at least one SWAYAM course during the B.Ed program and they are provided time on the timetable to complete their course.
- **Method Clubs:** The main objective of Method Clubs is to arouse innate creativity, innovation and interest in every student-teacher – the objective being that they take these co-curricular activities to their institutions. They help the student-teachers to connect with their respective pedagogies at a higher level while also helping them steer away from the

academics for a while. Through Method Clubs, these aspiring teachers indulge in diverse, stimulating and fun methods of learning a subject. Maths Club with its event Mathemagica, English Club with its multi-lingual event Lingua Franca, Economics and Commerce Club with its Food Fair and Science Club with its Exhibition of Teaching Aids open up unlimited vistas for engaging the learners in a fun way. History Club is popular for visits to places of historical importance and Geography Club challenges all with geographical knowledge from around the globe. All these Clubs are managed by students.