

## **GOVT KHAWZAWL COLLEGE: Best Practices for the year 2020-21**

### **Best Practice 01: To encourage students to utilize library resources and honour them with “Best Library User” Award’**

A library is considered to be the backbone of every institution. It is the store-house of knowledge and the utilization of library resources not only make the students self-sufficient in terms of academic matters but also give them wide exposure. Therefore, “Best Library User Award” is given to students to encourage and motivate them to use library resources.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To make students academically self-sufficient
2. To widen their knowledge about the external world
3. To enhance their domain knowledge
4. To encourage the students to make maximum utilization of library resources
5. To creating a better future for them
6. To create employability opportunity

**Context:** As said earlier, library is seen as the store-house of the knowledge. Rabindra Nath Tagore, the Nobel laureate had a deep sense of regards for library and his remarks can be quoted in this regard, “A library can be thought of as a Tower of Silence --- like a sleeping child, which embodies the entrapped vibrations of an age old (sic) ocean. Here language is still, like a calm mass of water that has stopped flowing. Man’s unbounded enlightenment, shackled with words, is imprisoned in the papers in black and white. If all these sublime aspirations of the quest of human mind suddenly finds expression – if the rebellious words fly in all directions, it will be akin to a torrent from the melted ice of the Himalayas. The library encloses within itself this very deluge of the ardent expressions of human souls.” A maximum use of library books not only widens the domain knowledge of the students but also boosts their confidence level. A good library, like the one our institution has, is equipped with journals and books which can give a student good idea not only about his/her subject but also the external world. Students can make use of the library resources to prepare for several national and international level examinations. Thus, a good library plays a pivotal role in shaping not only a student’s personality, but creates an opportunity of employability for them. But in recent times, due to the advent of science and technology and the digitization of books, the tendency of the students to visit libraries has drastically come down. The availability of materials at the click of the button metaphorically shoos them away from the temple of learning, the library. Hence our institution follows the practice of “Best Library User” to motivate the students and to build a habit among students to visit our institutional library and to use the resources.

**Practice:** The “Best Library User Award” is given annually to the student who is best among the lot taking into account his/her regular library visit, borrowing of books, interaction with the staff members and fruitful utilization of time. A record book is maintained where the students are asked to enter their entry and exit time and the total number of books by the students is also checked. His/her suggestions regarding the library are also heard. Based on all these criteria, one student is chosen every year to confer “Best Library User Award” by the respected principal sir of our institution and the award is given on a special day like either on “World Book Day” (23<sup>rd</sup> April) or “National Librarians’ Day” (12<sup>th</sup> August). Other faculty members of the institution also attend the felicitation program. Either the college multipurpose hall or the college library is chosen as the venue for the above-mentioned program. It has been found that conferring of awards has made a positive impact among the students as the tendency among the students to pay a visit to the institutional library has multiplied. The best library user for

the academic year 2020-2021 was Grace Malsawmdawngkimi from B.A. Economics (currently Sem 4 Core):

Serial No	Name of the Student	Time Spent in the library (in hrs.)	No. of Books borrowed	Whether interacted with the library staff or not	Suggestion/s for improvement given or not
1.	Grace Malsawmdawngkimi	270	48	Yes	Yes
2.	Lalramtluangi	248	33	Yes	Yes
3.	Vanlalchhuanawma	230	42	Yes	Yes
4.	Zonunmawii	195	27	Yes	Yes
5.	Ramengmawia	190	38	Yes	Yes
6.	Mina Lalhmingmawii	177	40	Yes	Yes
7.	Mary Lalpawlsangi	150	37	Yes	Yes
8.	Lalranchhani Colney	148	34	Yes	Yes
9.	Lalawmpuia	132	28	Yes	Yes
10.	Lalsangzela	115	29	Yes	Yes

**Evidence of Success:** This effort has proved successful in making library going a regular not only among the students but the faculty members as well. As many of the staff members are pursuing research, a regular visit to library has been helping them a lot with regard to providing resources. The staff members who have already completed doctoral research do help their peers in using the library as library use is an integral part of research. The interaction between the library staff, teaching staff and the students do build a healthy academic environment within the campus.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** The conferring of “Best Library User Award” no doubt is motivational if seen from a larger context. But it is still not free from any problem. Some of the common problems encountered are the following:

1. So far, the “Best Library User Award” is given only to the students but not to the staff members. At a certain point, the teachers may tend to feel discouraged and demotivated.
2. It has been found that sometimes more than one student is eligible to receive the same award fulfilling all the criteria. Hence, it sometimes becomes difficult to choose one particular student among the lot.
3. Since the institution has only six departments, the resources, although adequate compared to the student-teacher ratio, are somewhat limited. It has been found that some books have multiple copies, but with the same edition. Hence, resources are required to purchase books with more editions

**Notes (Optional):** The above-mentioned limitations however do not deter the students from not going to library. But the following actions may be taken to address the above-mentioned problems:

1. The teaching staff members should also be given “Best Library User Award” in appreciation of their good work and to encourage and motivate them
2. A proposal may be sent to the state government to establish few more departments in our institution. More departments will lead to procurement of more library resources
3. Instead of one, at least Two/Three Best Library User Awards can be given to the students

## **Best Practice 02: To make effective use of Language Lab for the development of English Communicative Skills among the students**

Communication is an integral part of human society in general and higher education *per se*. The enhancement of English communication skills not only boosts confidence level of the students but also creates employment opportunities for the students. The language lab thus plays a pivotal role in building the linguistic abilities of the students.

### **Objectives:**

1. To develop English communicative skills among students
2. To create employment opportunities for the students from rural background
3. To shape the personalities of students by boosting their confidence level
4. To develop a sense of English grammar among the students
5. To acquaint the students with foreign accents, thereby to prepare them for International exams like TOEFL & IELTS

**Context:** A language laboratory or language lab as it is popularly known is the place where the students spend hours assessing their linguistic competencies and developing their communicative skills. In a country like India where English is the second language, a language lab plays a very important role in building the English communicative abilities among the students, thus preparing them not only for international examinations like TOEFL and IELTS, but for interviews as well. Apart from that a good English communicative skill enhances employment opportunities for people as they can join different sectors involving tourism, translation and interpretation and similar other kinds and become economically independent. With this holistic purpose, English language laboratory was established with financial assistance from Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Parishad (RUSA) in 2016 and a grant of approximately Rs 1,82,000/- was sanctioned for the purchase of computers and other accessories. A total number of 20 computers and other accessories like headsets were purchased to enable the students utilize the Audio and Audio-Visual materials to strengthen their English communicative skills. Since our institution is situated in a remote and rural area, the setting up of Language Laboratory proved to be efficacious. The dedicate staff members of Department of English tirelessly has been giving their efforts since then to instruct and teach English to the students and enhance their skills of communication. The students with the help of English language laboratory are not only exposed to model Indian English pronunciation, but European accent as well thus getting a wide exposure with regard to communication. Thus the language lab of our institution follows the best practice overcoming the odds with regard to its location developing the LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) skills of the students.

**Practice:** In reality, the students in the language laboratory are monitored and supervised by one dedicated staff member on a roster basis. The students first are made to listen to different kinds of pronunciations both Indian and European and then are advised to play certain language games like Thinking Out of the Box, Ice Breaking etc. The students are then divided into separate groups with equality in terms of gender (1 boy and 1 girl) and then are asked to start a conversation. Sometimes the students are also interviewed by the students after they listen to one video. So different methods like interviewing, language games etc are followed at the language laboratory to develop

the language skills among the students. This language laboratory thus has been helping a lot to the students of our institution. A textbook like *A Handbook for English Language Laboratories* by E. Suresh Kumar and P. Sreehari is used for instruction and the book contains a CD also which the students use in their computers to acquaint them with the pronunciations.

**Evidence of Success:** Since its inception, establishment as well as implementation, a drastic improvement has been observed among the students. Before Language Laboratory, the chance for the students to brush up their English communicative skills was limited as there was no proper place for them to use AV materials. The students usually lacked confidence to communicate in English and hardly could come out of their cocoon. But the success of language lab has been felt as the students gradually are now overcoming their fear of communicating in English. Some of the students have joined as teaching staff members at various institutions. For example, K. Lalrinpuii joined as a faculty member of English at Primary School III in Khawzawl, Mizoram in 2017 after graduating from our institution.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

In spite of the immense success of the language laboratory of our institution, language lab too has faced some problems. One major problem is the rural background of the students. In spite of the constant efforts given by the teachers of our institution, some of the students still shy away from attending sessions at the language laboratory. They are motivated to learn English as in an era of competition, the proper knowledge of English is a must. Hence personal counselling is also given to the students by applying the method of Mentoring. The problems of the students are heard and are addressed as much as possible by the teaching staff members. The students are encouraged to participate in several competitions like Debating, Elocution, Extempore Speeches etc to boost their confidence level.

**Resources Required**

1. Releasing of financial aid as no grant has been released since 2018
2. Updating and upgrading of advance language software
3. Employing a computer technician only for English Language Laboratory
4. Professional Training should be given to the staff members for better handling of English language laboratory

**Notes (Optional)**

Apart from the staff members of English department, staff members from other departments should also be encouraged to get themselves involved with the language laboratory and handle classes as it has been found that students from departments other than English are comfortable with the teachers of their respective departments. The involvement of teachers from other departments will develop them personally and professionally in the long run.