



Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College

(An Autonomous Institution, Affiliated to Bharathiar University)

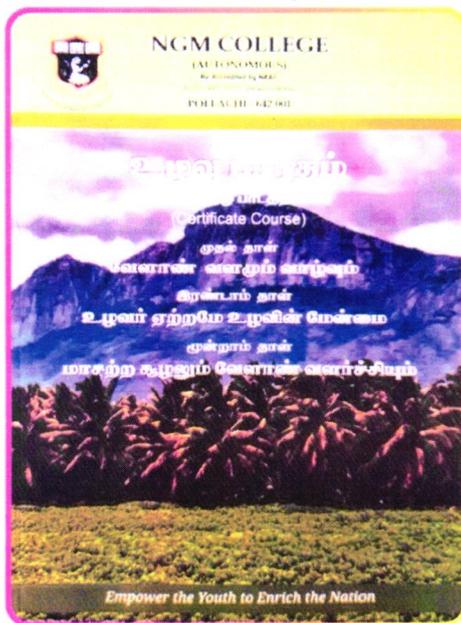
90, Palghat Road, Pollachi - 642001, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

95th Rank in NIRF -2023 among Colleges in India.



Best Practices - I

An Experiential Learning Practice and Social Embeddedness of Education



Uzhavu Bharatham
(An Introduction to Agriculture: Agricultural Practices and Social Embeddedness)



Manaiyial Mahathuvam
(Home Science: Women Empowerment in the context of Social Embeddedness)



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Title of the Practice

An Experiential Learning Practice and Social Embeddedness of Education

Objectives

- To help students find a balance between Digital World and the Physical World.
- To encourage students to prioritize Interpersonal relationships and building authentic connections that will enrich their lives.
- To stimulate interest in Sustainable Agriculture in young minds.
- To develop Managerial Skills and Entrepreneurial Skills.
- To create responsible citizens who are equipped to make positive contributions to society.
- To help students connect with the rich tapestry of our Heritage and the Traditional Values that has been passed down through generations.
- To promote Peace at community and Prosperity in the country.

The Context

In a semi-urban region focused on Agriculture where the college is situated the significance of providing education that meets the unique requirements and setting of the community cannot be emphasized enough. The overarching influence of Globalization and Social Media make the younger generation easily lose sight of their identity and traditional ways of life. Social media, in particular, has greatly impacted students' lives, making it rare for them to have meaningful physical experiences outside the virtual realm. To address these issues, it is crucial to make the younger generation realize that the values of face-to-face interactions, empathy, and cultural exposure are indispensable for their success in globalized world. Students need to be encouraged to disconnect from screens and engage with the tangible world around them. To achieve these goals, the College has integrated experiential learning and the social situatedness in its curriculum by offering certificate programs in Home Science and Agricultural Practices.

The Practice

Certificate courses on *Uzhavu Bharatham* (An introduction to Agriculture: Agricultural practices and Social Embeddedness) for all the students and *Manaiyial Mahathuvam* (Home Science: Women Empowerment in the context of Social Embeddedness) specifically designed for girls were introduced in the Diamond jubilee year 2017-18 of the College to impart students with the knowledge and practical skills in two areas - farm and home- that provide the basic essentials of life.



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The syllabi of the courses are spread across second, third and fourth semesters. The syllabus of *Manaiyial Mahathuvam* encompasses the study of household management, food and nutrition, family finance, motherhood, childcare, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and self-care techniques. Students learn ways to promote sustainable agriculture, organic farming, conservation of biodiversity and about the latest techniques and technologies in the agro industry in *Uzhavu Bharatham*. Each department has a faculty coordinator for these courses. They handle classes once in a week outside College hours. The courses are structured in such a way that students complete the theory papers in three semesters. Additionally for *Uzhavu Bharatham*, students are required to undertake an internship and viva voce examination in the V semester before they are certified. To facilitate these internships, the College has signed 21 MoUs with farmers who are willing to provide students with practical training in farmlands.

Both the courses instill in students a passion for Growth and a belief in the power of Nurturing to create a flourishing future. Central to the design of the courses is the emphasis on Experiential Learning and Social situatedness. Rather than relying solely on textbooks and lectures, students engage in hands-on activities that connect them to their immediate environment. By working in gardens, visiting local farms, and participating in Food Festivals, students develop a holistic understanding of Agriculture and Home Management Practices. that are highly relevant to their surroundings.

Evidence of Success

The students' active participation in these course activities like discussions, assignments and projects and fieldwork show their interest and involvement in the course. The high completion rate of the course and the exam scores indicate that the course is engaging, relevant, and manageable for the learners. *Uzhavu Bharatham* has led to the establishment of the start-up *Organicferto* and Mushroom Cultivation in the College. The number of Agripreneurs among the College alumni has increased over the years. They also set up stalls in the expos organized by the College and inspire the present generation of students.

Problems Encountered

It has been challenging to track the performance of students, especially the change of their values and subsequent practices in their personal life. It has been difficult to collect qualitative and quantitative data to get a more comprehensive understanding of the program's effectiveness and long term impact.



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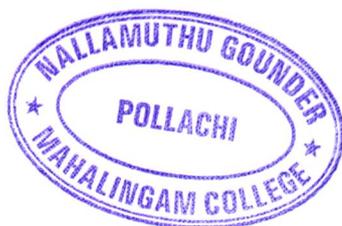
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Resources Required

Availability of resources such as, kitchens, sewing rooms, farmlands and farming equipments to support the learning and practice of various subjects and skills related to home science and agriculture.

A Library with Books, Journals, Magazines, and Online Resources on various topics related to Home Science and Agriculture.




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