

# AQAR 2022-2023



## Lady Irwin College University of Delhi

### Supporting Document: 7.2

#### Best Practices

#### Metric 7.2

Lady Irwin College is incredibly proud of its commitment to using its best practices to increase student opportunities and address relevant issues which are as follows: extension and outreach activities, annual lectures, *Experiential learning through Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre (RAK) taskforce for continuous curriculum revision and industry exposure.*

#### Contents:

- Constitution of Taskforce in Department of Resource Management and Design Application
- Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Lectures & Sponsored Symposium

# LADY IRWIN COLLEGE

## BEST PRACTICES



Lady Irwin College is incredibly proud of its commitment to using its best practices to increase student opportunities and address relevant issues. The following are a few of them:

***International Linkages and Study Abroad Programmes since 1952*** – In collaboration with Sarah Lawrence and Briarcliff College U.S.A., Lady Irwin College launched its study abroad program in 1952. A faculty exchange program was subsequently established in 1955 with the University of Tennessee, USA. The study abroad program was started in 1998 with the College of Human Ecology at Michigan State University in the United States. A Memorandum of Understanding was then signed with the US-based School of Planning, Design, and Construction at Michigan State University in 2007. Another MoU was signed in 2016 with Syracuse University, New York. An agreement was made with the University of Portland in 2017. The initiation of a twinning program with Humboldt State University, USA, took place in 2018.

***Extension and Outreach Activities*** - Lady Irwin College has received acclaim for its exemplary practices in extension and outreach. The college places a strong emphasis on engaging with marginalized populations, a fundamental aspect of its educational philosophy, with a specific focus on research and extension. The institution is dedicated to translating classroom education into tangible benefits for the broader community, successfully achieved through a myriad of extension and outreach activities at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These initiatives include technical assistance, applied research, non-credit and credit-based instruction, distance learning, and technology transfer.

***Knowledge sharing through Technical Series*** - Lady Irwin College has a distinctive approach to cataloging M.Sc., Ph.D., and faculty research within specific domains. The college is at the forefront of pioneering research in the field of home science. The creation of the Technical Series serves as a platform to showcase the breadth of research conducted at Lady Irwin College, facilitating the dissemination of research methodologies and trends to a broader audience, including professionals, policymakers, and corporate entities.

***Experiential learning through Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre (RAK)*** - A standout practice at the College is the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre (RAK), evolving into an exemplary laboratory nursery center. This center not only offers a robust academic environment for graduate students but also serves as a valuable programmatic resource for young children, their parents, and professionals in early childhood education. The RAK Center operates as a research foundation, providing students with the tools to acquire techniques and develop a culturally competent understanding of early childhood development. Inclusion is a pivotal aspect of the program, and notably, the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre stands as the sole Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) facility at Delhi University, offering students unique experiential learning opportunities.

***Constitution of Task Force*** - The establishment of a task force stands as a commendable practice, infusing rigor into the curriculum by promoting creative thinking and problem-solving skills. The success of this practice has been consistently affirmed over the past 15 years. Building relationships is facilitated through communication and networking opportunities. Every department undergoes a comprehensive review of its teaching, research, extension, placement, and

internships, engaging with experts such as Vice-Chancellors (or their nominees) from neighboring universities, industry CEOs, prominent NGOs, government officials overseeing grants and initiatives, and international academicians. Notably, the task force is chaired by eminent national and international experts.

***Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Lectures & Sponsored Symposiums*** - Recognizing the significance of creating momentum for relevant and contemporary issues, Lady Irwin College takes pride in empowering stakeholders through dedicated lectures within each department. Over time, these events have hosted speakers of both national and international renown. Notably, this practice garners robust support from the college's alumnae.

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| <p><b>International Linkages &amp; Study Abroad Programs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michigan State University, USA since 1998 till date</li> <li>• Twinning Programme with Humboldt State University, USA, 2018</li> <li>• Portland University, USA, 2017</li> <li>• Syracuse University, USA, 2016</li> <li>• UNICEF-C4D</li> <li>• University of Tennessee, (1955)</li> <li>• Sarah Lawrence and Briarchliff College USA, (1952)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Best Practices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Outreach &amp; Extension</li> <li>• National Centres with Ministries housed at Lady Irwin</li> <li>• Research &amp; Innovation</li> <li>• Policy Guidance</li> <li>• Internal Quality Assurance</li> <li>• RAK Child Study Centre</li> <li>• Task Force Constitution</li> <li>• Gender &amp; Environmental Sensitization</li> </ul> |
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# I

## *Title of the practice*

### **Constitution of Taskforce in Department of Resource Management and Design Application**

A taskforce has been established at Lady Irwin College to concentrate on increasing the rigor of the curriculum through an annual evaluation by practitioners, policymakers, and national and international academic experts. This practice supports the College's commitment to opening up opportunities for students through extensive networking.

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#### *GOAL*

*The taskforce's main goal is to coordinate academic input and output in order to raise educational and skill levels to industry standards. The curriculum is continually improved in light of new opportunities by including a variety of concepts and competencies. The topics are provided during the taskforce to emphasize the study directions for Masters and Ph.D. research projects. A major goal is to anticipate potential barriers to academic success and offer workable answers. Along with peer review, a higher level evaluation of the course learning outcomes is also carried out.*

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#### *CONTEXT*

*Each department specializes in a certain field and concentrates on teaching students the core abilities needed by that community. Members of the task group from a range of professional backgrounds, including academia, government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and international organizations, represent the five disciplines of home science. As mentors, consultants, and guides for master's and doctoral theses, short-term courses, and other academic endeavors, the members have benefited the college. They have been effective in fusing theoretical learning with real-world experience. They have also been essential in creating ties with businesses that enable students to take part in a range of internship programs and find employment. The two key initiatives are encouraging master's students to do need-based research and making the curriculum more market-oriented.*

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### ***The Practice***

Annually, the Department of Resource Management and Design Application convenes the Taskforce, bringing together distinguished authorities from diverse fields. The remarkable success of this practice over the past sixteen years attests to its exceptional standard. Eminent figures, including Vice-Chancellors (or their representatives) from national and international academic institutions, CEOs of enterprises, leading NGOs, government officials overseeing grants and initiatives, and international academicians, assess the department's teaching, research, extension, placements, and internships. Noteworthy international and national specialists lead the taskforce, focusing on in-depth discussions about curriculum assessment in light of new development prospects, market challenges, and specialized skill requirements. Delegates address potential roadblocks to academic success and provide suggestions for overcoming them. The taskforce significantly contributes to the growth and enhancement of the college's courses by brainstorming prospective research areas vital to the industry.

In addition to advanced multidisciplinary lectures, post-graduate students are afforded opportunities for internships and job placements during the taskforce sessions. These students present their research findings through research posters. The college ensures that associates are regularly updated on the actions taken in response to their insightful and useful ideas.

***The following illustrious dignitaries were a part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Task Force Meet of the department held in 2023:***

#### *Chairpersons*

- Prof. Matt Syal, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, School of Planning Design and Construction, Michigan State University, USA

#### *Convenor*

- Prof. Meenakshi Mital, Department of RMDA, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, India

#### *Members*

- Dr. A.K. Tripathi, Advisor, MNRE
- Mr. Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Habitat Division, TERI & CEO, GRIHA Council
- Dr. Praveen Saxena, CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs

- Mr. Raghav Aggarwal, Independent Consultant in Solar Energy for Agriculture
- Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, President, M3M Foundation
- Dr. Sita Syal, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan
- Mr. Sanjay Dube, Chief Executive Officer, International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC)
- Mr. Vinay Rustagi, Managing Director, Bridge to India Energy Private Limited
- Mr. Dhruv Jain\*, Director, Green Tree Global

*Invited Alumna*

- Dr. Gagan Preet Kaur Consultant, Skill Development and Employment, NITI Aayog
- Ms. Sumedha Awasthy\* Associate, CLASP
- Ms. Parul Rajwanshi Senior Manager Sustainability (ESG) and Trade Compliance, SFA, Canada

\*Apologies were received from these members

***Evidence of success***

Through the following initiatives, the taskforce committee has significantly contributed to the idea for sustainability in the curriculum, research and thinking.

**Upgrading curriculum:**

The task force committee has been instrumental in constructing a comprehensive framework for curriculum enhancement and community networking. Their dedicated efforts have significantly elevated the quality of teaching and curriculum at the college. The department has proactively engaged in revising its curriculum, with a particular emphasis on specialized areas, as previously mentioned. Notably, a project management paper was introduced for first-year post-graduate students when the college's master's program transitioned to a semester structure. The "Primavera" program is employed to impart specialized knowledge to the students. Furthermore, various software programs, including SPSS, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, Dialux, and Google SketchUp, among others, have been integrated into the curriculum. In response to the consistent recommendations received during task force meetings, the department has developed new curriculum for both postgraduate and undergraduate students in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

**Collaborative researches:** Numerous need based researches have been undertaken with the taskforce members, some of which are as follows:

- Assessment of Government Initiatives in Off-Grid Solar Applications for Commercial Establishments in selected States of India: A Stakeholders' Perspective (Ms. Meenal Jain, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Capacity Building of Youth for Energy Management (Ms. Gagan Preet Kaur, Supervisors: Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Relationship between emotional value and retention of products: A study with reference to chair and wedding attire (Ms. Hriiyiphro Kayina, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Prof. Lalit Kumar Das)
- Assessment of Occupational Health and safety of construction workers (Ms. Maneesha Gaur, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Dr. A.K Singh)
- Assessment of Solar Government Initiatives in residential areas in India (Ms. Neha Makol, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital, Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)
- Role of stakeholders in eco-efficient practices towards packaging materials used for fast moving consumer goods (Ms. Surbhi Chitkara, Supervisor: Dr. Sushma Goel, Advisor: Prof. Lalit Kumar Das)
- Assessment of Solar Skill Development Programs: A multi-stakeholder perspective (Ms. Chetna Singh, Supervisors: Dr. Meenakshi Mital, Dr. Puja Gupta & Prof. Matt Syal)

Dr. Meenal Jain received the prestigious Anupa Sahi Siddhu award and gold medal for her exemplary research work in the field of solar energy.

**Student internships and placements:** Members of the task force have played a pivotal role in facilitating student placements in various internships and jobs. Notable organizations where students have interned include The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), IIT-Delhi, AECOM, Department of Environment (Government of NCT of Delhi), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Development Alternatives, Central Pollution Control Board, Indian Pollution Control Association, Design Innovation Centre, and MagicBricks. During the 2020 pandemic, students were also provided opportunities for online internships at prestigious organizations such as Word

meister Editorial Services, SR Asia, Sehgal Foundation, RTA Design Pvt. Ltd, Chapter 2 Events, and the Centre for Science & Environment.

Additionally, students have secured placements in esteemed organizations like the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Skill Development Agency, the Central Pollution Control Board, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, TERI, the Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), Amazon, Asian Paints, Development Alternatives, Green Prescription, MagicBricks, The BEEHIVE INDIA, AECOM, among others.

## II

### *Title of the practice*

#### **Empowering Stakeholders through Instituted Lectures & Sponsored Symposiums**

Lady Irwin College recognizes the importance of gaining traction for significant contemporary issues. Departments takes pride in empowering the stakeholders through instituted annual lectures and sponsored symposiums. Various nationally and globally acclaimed speakers have spoken at these events over the years. The practice is also strongly supported by alumnae of the college.

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#### *GOAL*

*These lectures have been ongoing for an extended period, with the purpose of keeping faculty and students well-informed of the latest research and expertise in the field. Simultaneously, they strive to build and reinforce institutional networks to facilitate future research collaboration and the exchange of expertise.*

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#### *CONTEXT*

*In an effort to bring together students currently enrolled, faculty members, alumni, and policymakers to navigate their career pathways, the institution has organized lecture series and sponsored symposiums. Graduate and undergraduate students alike can improve their organizing abilities with this platform.*

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**The instituted lectures and sponsored symposiums are:**

- **Annual symposium on *Sustainability* organized by Department of Resource Management & Design Application**
- **Annual Lecture of the Department of Food & Nutrition – *Kamla Puri Sabharwal Memorial Lecture***
- **Annual Lecture of Department of Fabric & Apparel Science - *Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Conference***
- **Annual Lecture of Department of Education- *National Conference on Learning***
- **Annual Lecture of the Department of Resource Management & Design Application and Department of Development Communication & Extension– *Raushni Deshpande Memorial Oration***

### ***The Practice***

The Department of Resource Management & Design Application, in partnership with the School of Planning, Design, and Construction at Michigan State University in the United States, organizes an Annual Symposium on Sustainability. Since the symposium's inception in 2008, funding has come from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), both branches of the Indian government. The focus is on tackling a range of sustainability and environmental challenges, including green buildings, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Over the last 16 years, the panel has included distinguished speakers from the business, political, and academic worlds. The Department hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in online mode on the topic "Renewable Energy: Stakeholders" Engagement and Policy Perspective. The symposium received support from Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Prem Jain Memorial Trust featured notable speakers from the industry.

On November 23, 2022, the Department of Food & Nutrition and Food Technology at Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, organized the 49<sup>th</sup> **Kamla Puri Sabharwal Memorial lecture**. The lecture, titled "The Thin-Fat Story: DOHaD Research in Pune," was presented by Dr. Chittaranjan S Yajnik, the Director of the Diabetes Unit at KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune. This event marked another significant contribution to the academic discourse and highlighted Lady Irwin College's commitment to hosting impactful memorial lectures.

The 18th Sanjam Randhawa Memorial Conference, themed "Evolving Sustainability and Circularity in the Textiles & Apparels Industry," was organized by the Department of Fabric and Apparel Science on March 16, 2023, at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi. The day commenced with a dynamic inaugural session featuring Hon'ble Minister Smt. Darshana Jardosh ji as the Chief Guest. In her opening remarks, Smt. Darshana Jardosh, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Textiles, GoI, highlighted the significant achievement of the country's textile & apparel exports, reaching a record-breaking \$44.4 billion. Emphasizing the need for collective action, she proposed the '5F' formula, spanning from farm to fiber, fiber to factory, factory to fashion, and from fashion to foreign.

The conference boasted a lineup of esteemed speakers who shared profound insights on the pivotal role that both the industry and academia can play in driving the transition towards a sustainable and circular future for the textiles and apparels sector. Notable resource persons included Mr. Arun Chawla, Director General – FICCI; Mr. Naveen Juneja, Director, Corpora Consultants Pvt. Ltd.; Prof. Kushal Sen, Former Professor, IIT (Delhi); Prof. Lakshmi Raghupathy, TERI School of Advanced Studies, India; Mr. Naresh Tyagi, CSO, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd.; Ms. Nathalie Kinga Kowalski from Ecoinvent, Zurich; and Prof. Vinod Shanbag, North India Section of Textile Institute.

Every year, the Department of Education hosts the National Conference on Learning, which focuses on a variety of current issues pertaining to education and aims to identify the components of successful learning as well as view "Learning" from the viewpoints of many stakeholders. Prominent figures in education and related fields talk at the conference. The National Conference on Learning (NCL 2022) was virtually organized by the Department on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The theme of the conference was *Conceptualizing inclusive education for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners*. The conference focused on concepts for a critical constructive and progressive disclosure in the field of inclusive education for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners and drastic change in cultural values across the globe. The annual, lecture titled The Raushni Deshpande Memorial Oration was jointly hosted by the Department of Resource Management and Design Application and Development Communication and Extension. The academic year 1999–2000 marked the beginning of this oration in honor of Ms. Raushni Deshpande. She had also served as Lady Irwin College's previous director. Eminent speakers from various fields including Prof. Bhibhu Biswal (CIC), Dr. Abdul Wahid Khan, Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Dr.

Arun Kumar, Dr. Mary P. Andrews (MSU, USA), and Mr. Ashok B. Lall, have all given outstanding lectures on the topics of sustainable development, social change, value creation and many more.

*Evidence of success*

Eminent experts in their fields have regularly given these lectures. Additionally, the departments have welcomed researchers from both domestic and foreign universities to foster a discussion of research methodologies and ideas. The college's multidisciplinary approach encourages teachers, PhD scholars, graduate and undergraduate students, and others to attend all lectures and seminars.