# First Best Practice

**Title of the Practice:**  The  NALSAR Forums

- **Objective of the Practice:**

  The objective of the creation of the website NALSAR Forums (**https://nalsar.ac.in/forums/**), which is an online discussion board is to supplement learning by facilitating discussion between the peer groups and with the teacher and to serve as a repository for course material and recorded lectures.

- **Context:**

  The sudden onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic coupled with Lockdown of the University led to suspension of classes from March 16, 2020 in the middle of the semester. With collective efforts from the students, teachers and staff within a span of 3 days University could shift to online mode of Teaching.  University extended all possible help to support online classes by creating a virtual library by purchasing e-Books and e-resourses for remote access, loaning the laptops, upgrading the data packs of the students and faculty, recordings of the classes were made available on class groups, pen drives carrying the recordings of the classes of the week were sent to all students who were unable to watch and listen in all the classes.

NALSAR Forums is the brainchild of the SBC Academic Committee of 2019-20 and has been completely built in-house, and is built on the Wordpress platform and hosted on NALSAR's servers.

The platform is in an attempt to make up for the lack of physical interaction due to the online mode of education by bridging the gap between  teachers and  students, both in terms of communications and discussion

**The practice:**

Forums has various features, such as multiple file uploading, threaded replies, private messaging, user notifications, email communications to help realise its objectives Forums has also been used by Committees for discussions with students surrounding policy consultations which were hosted by the Committees.

NALSAR Forums is a crucial components of NALSAR's Online Education during the pandemic. It ensured that the academic program was conducted in a harmonious manner with both the faculty and the students undertaking their tasks in awareness of the larger picture. Every part knew its place in the whole. It is expected that this online

platform of communication which overcomes the limitations of time and space will continue to drive the University's academic communication even after the pandemic.

- **Evidence of Success:**

Forums currently has 998 registered users, and more than 7270 media files, which includes classes, course materials as well as discussions on topics as diverse as philosophy and Maggi recipes.

Flexibility without compromising on the learning experience informed its design. It ensures that everyone has the opportunity to come up to speed and no one is left behind. Both students and faculty rely upon the Forums to keep in touch is the biggest indicator of its success.

- **Problems encountered:**

The largeness of the enterprise and the limited time within which had to be up and running were the greatest impediments faced by the program.

# Second Best Practice

**Title of the Practice:**    DEVISE- Developing Inclusive Education

- **Objective of the Practice:**

    To work towards developing an inclusive education system by equipping the underprivileged children with functional understanding of English with a mission that they have equal access to opportunities in higher education and professions/careers.

    To equip the children with basic understanding of their rights and duties.

- **Context:**

    While pursuing law at National Academy of Legal Studies And Research (NALSAR) University of Law, P Avinash Reddy and Ananye Krishna started conducting teaching sessions every weekend at an orphanage in Shamripet, Telangana. It was during these sessions that they realized that the children, all of whom attended the nearby Zilla Parishad High School, did not even have a basic understanding of English even though most of them were studying in 7th grade and above. Lack of basic understanding of English language hinders the children from accessing numerous opportunities in higher education and careers and in order to address this language barrier, they decided to conduct teaching sessions, specifically to improve their understanding of English.

- **The practice:**

**DEVISE has 110 volunteers who take turns to conduct English training sessions for the underprivileged children on a regular basis in the villages near Shamirpet. Understanding the importance of helping the children in developing a reading habit, the group established a 'Reading Room' at Zilla Parishad High School, Pudur with around 700 bilingual books (Telugu and English). It also established a Community base for Education (CuBE) in Muneerabad where the volunteers conduct English training sessions regularly after school hours.**

- **<u>Evidence of Success:</u>**

  **Nearly 100 children are benefiting from these activities.**

  **DEVISE team was the finalist HSF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD 2019 and received a certificate from Herbert Smith Freehills in recognition of their work related to inclusive education.**

  **<u>VIDHI Centre for Legal Policy</u>, has collaborated with DEVISE to provide internships to the Team Heads. The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is an independent think-tank doing legal research to make better laws and improve governance for the public good.**

  **DEVISE has collaborated with <u>Enhelion</u> in order to strive for inclusive education for all by rewarding the best performing volunteers for their efforts. Enhelion , with its focus on bridging the gap between academia and the profession, is currently offering more than 300 courses which can be pursued by both law students and enthusiasts alike. Enhelion's courses and diplomas are developed in collaboration with renowned law firms and experts in the respective fields. These courses relate to a wide variety of fields including IP, Maritime law, Criminal law, Sports law, Aviation law, Tech law, Contract drafting etc.**

- **<u>Problems encountered and resources required:</u>**

**Despite the initial difficulties in administering these sessions, the team is relentlessly working with the objective of addressing the English language barrier faced by the underprivileged children. As long as the underprivileged children are denied access to quality education, by the public education system itself, they will be excluded from accessing various opportunities. The team work, in the form of various activities, strives to ensure that the higher education system and the subsequent professions become inclusive of children from the underprivileged backgrounds.**