

Environment day

World Environment Day was celebrated in the college in association with Cooperative College of Nursing on June 5, 2017. Mr. B. Prasannan, Chairman, GKMEs was the chief guest for the day. Mr. Prem Kumar U, Director-in-charge, GKMCMT and Ms. Sindhu Kuruvilla, Principal, Cooperative College of Nursing addressed the students. Rainwater harvesting was among the topics discussed. Importance of conserving forest and preserving mother nature was widely talked about.

Being a part of the state initiative of 'Haritha Keralam (Green Kerala)' campaign to plant 1 crore saplings, students of the college planted more than 500 saplings in and around the campus and took an oath to protect the environment. The function was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Kishore Raj, Assistant Professor, GKMCMT.



Industrial visit to Traco Cables, Thiruvalla

Industrial visit to TRACO cables, Thiruvalla was organized on 13th June 2017. Students along with two faculty members Ms. Reshmi and Mr. Kishore Raj attended the visit. A detailed understanding about the functioning of organization was given by a senior official in the production department of the organisation.

TRACO cable company is a state level public enterprise with majority holding by Government of Kerala. The company was incorporated in 1960 with the registered office at KSHB complex, Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam. The company has three manufacturing units located at Irimpanam, Tripunithura; Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta; Pinarayi, Kannur.

The manufacturing unit at Irimpanam which was commissioned in 1965, has facilities for the manufacturing of PVC insulated armored and unarmored heavy duty cables up to 1.1 kv with Copper/ Aluminum conductors (AAC & ACSR). Thiruvalla unit commissioned in 1990 has the facilities for the production of Jelly Filled cables of various sizes with ACSR conductors and PVC insulated wires. All these cables are used for electrical transmission and distribution systems,

controlling and signaling systems. The third unit of the company was inaugurated on 19th February 2011 at Pinarayi which manufactures house wiring cables of sizes 1 mm², 1.5 mm², 2.5 mm² and 4 mm². Paper insulated lead sheathed telecommunication cables were produced by TRACO Cables in collaboration with Hindustan cables, West Bengal in 1974m which was one of India's most sought after venture.



Co-operation...Democracy...Education

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TOP NOTCH

NEWSLETTER OF G. KARUNAKARAN MEMORIAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Welcome to
TOP NOTCH

Group thinking and Abilene Paradox

On a hot afternoon in Coleman, Texas in 1960's, a family was playing dominoes in their porch. It was then that the father-in-law suggested they take a trip to Abilene, 53 miles north, for dinner. The discussion began and the wife said, "sounds like a great idea"; husband said "sounds good to me" despite the fact that they had no reservation and the drive was long and hot. He thought that his preferences must be out-of-step with the group. Mother-in-law said she also wants to go as she hadn't been to Abilene in a long time. They started the journey. Drive was hot, dusty and long. Arriving at the cafeteria, they found that food served was as bad as the drive. They reached back home four hours later, exhausted. Reaching back home, one of them dishonestly said, "it was a great trip, wasn't it?" It was then that mother-in-law said she would have rather stayed home, but went along since other three were so enthusiastic. Husband then said, he was delighted to be doing what they were doing but went along to satisfy the rest of the group. Wife also said she went along to keep others happy. Hearing this father-in-law said he only suggested it because he thought others were bored. The group then starts to think together why they decided to take a trip that none of them wanted. They would have preferred to sit comfortably, but did not admit to each other so as to keep in accord with the team.

Abilene Paradox was coined by Jerry B. Harvey who explained the paradox using an allegory of a family who ends up making an annoying trip that none of them wanted. The Abilene Paradox alludes to a situation when a group makes a combined decision that contradicts to the opinion and belief of its individual members. It occurs because individuals do not want to 'rock the boat' or 'be a killjoy,' even though their perceptions of the other members' beliefs are incorrect. This paradox showcases the fact that individuals believe they will experience negative attitude or feeling if they 'speak up' on a topic. So in order to avoid conflict they tend to resist voicing on their true thoughts or feelings.

This paradox explains the difficulties involved in managing agreement in groups and teams related to project team members speaking up openly. The four factors that encourage individuals towards this paradox are action anxiety, negative fantasies, real risk associated with action and fear of separation.

In order to make group thinking effective, all team members should be encouraged to speak their mind. An awareness has to be given to the team members regarding the outcomes of their decision. A confidence has to be developed among the group that it is not about individuals but about the organisation.

Asha Lakshmy K.H., Assistant Professor (Editor)

If
 $2 + 2 = 6$
 $3 + 3 = 11$
 $4 + 4 = 18$
 then
 $6 + 6 = ??$

“

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress & working together is success.

– Henry Ford, Founder - Ford Motor Company



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Academic session inauguration by former Chief Secretary of Kerala, Mr. S. M. Vijayanand IAS

7th August 2017 marked one of the glorious days of GKMCMT. The academic session of the MBA batch 2017-19 was officially inaugurated by the Former Chief Secretary of Kerala, Mr. S.M. Vijayanand IAS. The day was made memorable with the thought provoking and enlightening words of the Chief Guest. The students were inspired by the thoughts on the greatness of being simple. He conversed with the students to know about their interests and advised them to build a strong teacher-student relationship.



Onam Gaiety

GKMCMT celebrated Onam with fervor and zeal on 30th August 2017. Director-in-charge of the college Mr. Premkumar.U inaugurated the celebration by lighting the lamp followed by an inspiring Onam message (Onasandhesham). Students came in the traditional costumes to epitomize the traditional Kerala culture. A beautiful and mesmerizing floral carpet (pookalam) was laid by the students in commemoration of the return of the great King Mahabali. The day was made more euphoric when students performed “Thiruvathirakkali”, “Onappattu”, Tug of war, Uriyadi and various other games played on the occasion of Onam. A sumptuous traditional vegetarian feast (Onasadhya) with Payasam served in plantain leaf completed the list.



Onam has been a part of Kerala since ages. Its history dates back to Sangam Age. The earliest record of Onam is found during the reign of Kulasekhara Perumal, around A.D 800. After the rain drenched month of Karkidakam, herald of spring, Chingam, indicating the start of harvest is greeted with

gusto by Keralites. The sadhya, onakodi, floral arrangements, celebrations, etc. are considered reminiscent of the affluent and honest days of the subjects during the Mahabali's impeccable reign. Thrikakkara Temple in Ernakulam is one among the few temples in India having Lord Vamana as the deity.

Beginning of a New Year

Students and faculties of GKMCMT started the divine month of Chingam with a small celebration on 17th August 2017. Students and teachers were in traditional costumes. Teachers shared their views and addressed students on the occasion. Mr. Kishore Raj, Assistant Professor, GKMCMT along with students made Payasam for everyone.



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Induction programme

A one week orientation programme was scheduled for the 8th batch (2017-19) students of GKMCMT. The programme intend to train the freshers' on different aspects, areas and disciplines of management. Personality development, attitude formation, skill acquisition and development, team building, motivation and moral boosting were among the areas covered. Trained professionals from within and outside Kerala inducted the students. Various activities energized and introduced students to the culture of GKMCMT.

On day 1, students got an opportunity to interact with Mr. Praveen Kumar, MD, Hylearn Consultant, Trivandrum who oriented them about 'self' confidence and motivation'. **Day 2**, Mr. Reji Thomas Mathew, CEO, Techmasters addressed students on shaping their career. **On day 3**, Dr. Sunil N from University of Kerala took a session on

'out of the box thinking' which helped students to understand about organization behavior and leadership skills. **Day 4**, students interacted with Former Chief Secretary of Kerala, Mr. S.M. Vijayanand IAS, who shared his knowledge and thoughts about education. **On day 5**, Mr. Prakash K R, Manager, HDFC, Attingal branch inducted the students on the topic 'skills in banking & other managerial positions'. **Day 6**, Mr. Ajith Sankar, COX solutions LLP and adjunct faculty to CETSOM enlightened students on the topic 'Life skills for corporate world'. **On day 7**, Mr. Santhosh V, Master Trainer and life & leadership coach mentored and counseled students. **On day 8**, students were taken for an industry visit to Milco dairy, Attingal, Trivandrum. **On day 9**, Ms. Darshini, Trainer from Bangalore, provided a session on personality development and goal setting.

Industrial visit to Milco Dairy, Attingal



On 11 August 2017 students of GKMCMT visited MILCO Dairy, Attingal; a leading milk dairy in Kerala. It is a dairy plant run by Mel-Kadakkavur KVCS Ltd and is an ISO 9001:2008 & HACCP certified co-operative dairy plant. It is a co-operative government undertaking specialized in milk and milk products. The main activities of the farm is to educate the farmers and providing inputs and technical advice for producing good quality milk and cultivate scientific management practices to reduce the cost of production and increase the profit. There are around 20 cows in the farm and they produce varieties of products such as ghee, ice-creams, sip up's, butter, milk powder etc. Students were taken to the production units and working of each production unit was explained to them by Mr. Dinachandran, Consultant, Milco dairy.

Freshers' Day

Continuing with the custom of the college, senior students organized a freshers' welcome party on 1st August 2017 in the college auditorium. Director-In-Charge, Mr. Premkumar U inaugurated the event with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp in the presence of parents, teachers and students. It was a fun filled event in which freshers got an opportunity to mingle with the seniors. Students got an opportunity to showcase their talents. The event was a stress buster that helped new students reduce anxiety and build confidence.



Visit to Botanical Garden

On 5 August 2017, college organized a visit to Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode. Here the students were educated about the life history of plants by the guide of the institute. An interesting collection of rare and endangered plant species were also introduced to the students by the guide. They got an opportunity to understand about various ayurvedic plants which were used during the ancient times for curing diseases in Kerala.

JNTBGRI is the only organization in India, which maintains a 300 acre conservatory garden for the wild tropical plant genetic resources of the country. It has flourished itself into one of the premier R & D organization in Asia, devoted to conservation and sustainable utilization of tropical plant diversity.