

**The Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) of the IQAC**

Academic Year – 2015-2016

**Innovative Practices – I**

**Title of the Practice:** Language Lab

**The Context:**

The language laboratory is an audio or audio-visual installation used as an aid in modern language teaching. Perhaps the first lab was installed at the University of Grenoble, France, in 1908. In the 1950s up until the 1990s, they were tape based systems using reel to reel or (latterly) cassette. Current installations are generally multimedia PCs. The language lab plays an important role in learning and polishing various languages. It also helps to develop good communication skills.

**Advantages of Language Lab:**

Language is the string that connects one human to the other. No matter how much science and technology develop, language still remains the basic tool for communication. In the globalised society, learning multiple languages and learning them correctly is of utmost important. This is where the language lab comes in picture. As we live in multilingual and multicultural world, language lab can greatly help students to learn language of their choice. It also helps students to learn language at their own pace. They can record and assess their performance to make sure that they are paying attention to all aspects of phonetics such as pronunciation, accents and stress etc. The language lab provides access to native-speakers via audio-video aids so that they learn correctly. Given large number of students pursue higher studies outside their home country; language lab would help them in studying the language of the country where they are planning to pursue their higher education. For example, non-native English speaking students are required to give TOEFL/IELTS if they plan to study in North America.

While there are several benefits to language resource center, there should be proper safeguard in place to regulate and monitor the use of technologies employed in the teaching learning process so that students do not misuse them. It is also important that the layout of the lab is conducive for effective communication and monitoring of the students. As strong communication skills are essential in almost all of the professional careers, language lab can help in acquiring this important skill.

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**The Practice:**

The College has two sets of Language Labs:

(1) Language Lab in **Japanese, Mandarin, French, Spanish, Arabic and English** from UK-based

'Linguaphone' Company. Each unit of Language Lab contains:

- 8 Audio CDs.
- 4 Course Books.
- Linguaphone Carry Case.

Unlike most language labs which lay stress on pronunciation, the Linguaphone Language Lab teaches language from beginner to intermediate level. It means, on successful course completion, a learner will be able to speak, read and write language to an intermediate level. The learner will be able to express himself and understand when a particular language is spoken by someone.

(2) The second set of Language Lab is online version which is in the process of installation.

**Number of Students/Teachers Benefitted:**

The Language lab is an innovative scheme introduced by the College. The training sessions are being conducted by the vendors to train teachers so as to make effective use of Language Lab for the benefit of students.

**Evidences of Success:**

Since the process of imparting training to teachers in effective use of Language Lab is in process, the success of the Language Lab can be evaluated only in the long run. However, the College is assured that the innovative concept of Language Lab in teaching students a number of foreign languages will go a long way in enhancing their competitive ability in the globalised era.