Best Practices

	BEST PRACTICE [1]	STREAMING SYSTEM IN GENERAL ENGLISH TEACHING
1	Title of the Practice	**Streaming System in General English Teaching**
2	Objectives	➢ To provide encouraging learning environment for slow learners with appropriate curriculum and evaluation ➢ To practice methods simultaneously addressing the needs of advanced learners by giving them a competent learning environment with a suitable curriculum ➢ To enhance the communication skills of students of different social groups
3	The Context	St. Xavier's College has a good number of first generation learners from Tamil medium schooling background. Streaming system caters their needs. Streaming is grouping the students according to their capabilities and training them according to their strength and weakness so that they may acquire language skills effectively. This method gains importance in the context of the college policy which encourages admission of socially and economically disadvantaged students.
4	The Practice	The Streaming System is considered one of the Best Practices by NAAC (*Best Practices in Higher Education*. Ed. Antony Stella. Bangalore: NAAC, 2004. pp. 55-56). The UGC Curriculum Development Centre (1989 & 2004) also recommends a Seven-Tier Structure for teaching of General English. Based on the UGC recommendations, the Dept. of English has been following the Seven-Tier Structure given below: COURSE 7 COURSE 6 COURSE 5 COURSE 4 COURSE 3 COURSE 2 COURSE 1 A B C

		Students are catergorised as stream 'A', 'B', and 'C' through a diagnostic test. Since a large majority of the students hail from disadvantaged communities, the "C" stream syllabus for General English meant for slow learners, has been designed to be remedial in nature. The slow learners are given special training through teaching strategies and remedial classes so as to compete with other students. Stream 'A' and 'B' cater to the needs of the advanced learners and average performers respectively. Gradation of syllabus from easy to difficult level is followed in this streaming system.
5	Evidence of Success	Students coming from various educational backgrounds do not get panic with the General English paper. At the end of the course, the students qualify with necessary standard in English. Pass percentage has increased. Students motivate one another because they possess similar abilities and move ahead at the same pace because there are no major disparities in ability within the stream. The entire class is challenged at a level gauged to be appropriate for the whole group.
6	Problems Encountered and Resources Required	Conduct of Internal Assessment and External Examination was more difficult because more question papers had to be set. The work of the teachers increased. Selection of text materials for each group was difficult. Financial assistance was necessary to conduct remedial classes.