



Goa University

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature

Discipline of French and Francophone Studies

Report on Student-Centric Practices: Reflective Practice in the FYBA Course on Intercultural Communication

In the academic year 2023-24, the First Year Bachelor of Arts (FYBA) course FRE 142 Intercultural Communication Competence incorporated Reflective Practice as a key pedagogical strategy. This student-centric approach aimed to deepen students' understanding of intercultural dynamics by encouraging them to actively engage with course content, reflect on their experiences, and critically analyze their observations. Students maintained a reflection journal throughout the course, where they recorded their reflections on practice activities, compared and contrasted their background knowledge with new insights gained, and developed a more nuanced understanding of intercultural communication.

Overview and Implementation: Reflective Practice was integrated into the course to foster a more introspective and critical approach to learning. The method was designed to help students bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world intercultural experiences by encouraging continuous reflection and self-assessment.

Maintaining a Reflection Journal: Students were required to maintain a reflection journal throughout the course. After each practice activity, which could range from case studies and role-plays to intercultural simulations and discussions, students were prompted to record their reflections. They were encouraged to focus on their personal reactions, the effectiveness of their communication strategies, and any cultural nuances they observed. The reflection journal served as a personal record of each student's learning journey, capturing their evolving perspectives and the application of theoretical concepts to practical scenarios.

In order to encourage critical thinking and the development of intercultural competence, students were provided prompts to help them analyse the differences between prior knowledge and new experiences.

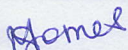
Outcomes and Impact:

The implementation of Reflective Practice in the FYBA course on Intercultural Communication resulted in several significant outcomes:

- **Deepened Understanding:** By continuously reflecting on their experiences, students developed a deeper and more nuanced understanding of intercultural communication. They became more aware of their own cultural biases and how these influenced their interactions with others.
- **Personal and Professional Growth:** Maintaining a reflection journal allowed students to track their progress throughout the course, providing them with a sense of personal achievement and growth. This practice also prepared them for future professional roles that require intercultural competence and reflective thinking.
- **Improved Communication Skills:** As students reflected on their communication strategies and adapted them based on their observations, they developed more effective and culturally sensitive communication skills.

Enclosures:

- Screenshots of parts of the digital journals of participants
- Screenshots of reflection prompts provided to students

Signature: 

Name of coordinator: Dr. Natasha Gomes

Designation: Assistant Professor

Ms. Kshama Dharwadkar, BA, Program Director

Date: 02/09/24

Signature

Dean: Prof. Anuradha Wagle

Seal of the School/University



Enclosures:

- Screenshots of parts of the digital journals of participants

Stereotyped and biased language

The two articles are written on gender biased stereotypes in the culture, the very first thing is language, it's the key to communicate and hence has many gender biased nouns and personal pronouns.

Taking English as an example , it doesn't have many gender biased words but some issues arise based on the profession names like businessman and nurse, the feminists around the world has also been fighting about equality and preferences.

Some examples which creates problems in communicating and learning are like people assume that the professions have their own gender like a woman cant be a director of a company or assumes **like all company directors are men and all secretaries are women.**

The other is assuming that all members of a gender share a characteristic, for example believing that all **women love to shop or that 'boys don't cry'**.

Talking about Punjabi there are many stereotypes about people who are from Punjab like they drink a lot ,they are blunt and they show off ,yes we drink because we can but not every household is like that, we are not blunt we are the sweetest people around its just we don't hesitate speaking up our minds when needed and we don't show off you just trust on what u hear. In Punjabi there are gender neutral proverbs as well as gender biased words most typically for example when a relative visits they know that the family has daughter also but they don't ask about her career opportunities she is often asked to do domestic household work only and the first thing they ask is "tuhada putt kive aa, ki karda aa aj kal? Ohnu bhar bhejo" and when the son is grown up they ask him to marry a "gharelu kudi" but why? Why cant be a man gharelu? Punjabi and hindi are pretty similar and urdu is the source and each language has its own importance and stereotypes but these gender biased words and phrases used to differentiate between a profession and gender , race and cast are accepted and invented by the society only.

Indian culture Do's and Don'ts

1. Take photographs of people or objects only after receiving permission. Always ask first, and if they say "no," respect it.
2. Leather articles such as wallets, belts and bags are prohibited inside many Hindu temples. Be cognizant that these are sacred places where people come to pay their respects and recognize that photography may be inappropriate.
3. Avoid touching people with the left hand, as it is considered unclean and will cause insult. Keep this in mind and use your right hand when giving or accepting any object. To use both hands is even more respectful.
4. Do not drink or smoke in public places and don't do drugs
5. Always touch your elders feet as a symbol of respect.

->AI generated image of GOAN man and woman going viral

When AI was made to generate a man and a woman of different states, this is what it generated for Goa. Its not just about AI but also about how many people around the country perceive Goa and Goans. They believe that Goans are drunkards and druggies. This is the worst and the biggest stereotype about Goa which has been around for ages. It is usually the tourists who come to Goa for alcohol and drugs which causes the others to believe that Goans encourage and are a part of this practice. It is true that these two items are quite easily available in the state but that does not mean that the Goans in any way support it.



- Screenshots of reflection prompts provided to students

Task 1: What's in a name?

No due date

This is **Task 1** assigned for Thursday, 18th January.

- Read the articles on names
- Note in your journals your comments and opinions on these articles. Note the tone in which the articles are written.
- Analyse and note down the names of people that you have heard of. How are names given to children when they are born?
- Ask your family, relatives, friends about any memorable names they know people have. Find out the emotions (funny, shocking , etc) that they associate with the examples. Note their answers in your journal.
- Where does your name come from? Share the story of where your name comes from and what your name means. Helps to build intercultural respect and understanding

Activity 3

1. Create a list of terms for professions that are exclusive of women and non-binary people (Terms to avoid) and propose more inclusive terms (Preferred terms)

Terms to avoid	Recommended language
Fireman	Firefighter
Congressman	Legislator

2. Identify the positive and negative slang words used for people of different genders in the languages that you speak.

In English / other languages	Male	Female	Transgender
Slang positive			
Slang negative			

Then observe the number of words in each category. What do you observe? For instance, English (unlike Polish, for example) has literally no positive slang terms for women. What does this convey about language, culture and power dynamics?

3. Identify the non-inclusive element(s) in the sentence. Then revise the language in the sentence to be more inclusive
 - a. Each participant must choose his/her preferred method of communication.
 - b. The chairman will lead the meeting