Best Practice – II – The Carmel Archives

1. Title of the Practice:

The Carmel Archives

2. Objectives of the Practice:

The Archives was established to evoke a sense of pride and consciousness about the history of the Foundress and the college among the students, faculty and public.

3. The Context:

Accessibility and visibility were influential factors in the setting up of the Archives. Hence, finding a space that would address these factors was a challenge.

4. The Practice:

Regular guided tours to the Archives and activities on the Foundation Day of the college are part of the best practices to preserve the past of Mount Carmel College. A video showing the life of the Foundress and the humble beginnings of the college is also played for the visitors to have an immersive experience. We are currently working on procuring documents, records, magazines and other memorabilia related to college.

5. Evidence of Success:

By providing a chance to visit the past, the awareness amongst the students is high as the footfall at the Archives has increased. This is also because the Archives is open throughout the day and the students who have visited archives bring in others from other institutions as well.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

It was difficult to get copies of magazines, calendars and records from the initial phase of the college. Another difficulty was to control the temperature and humidity in the Archives so as to not affect the artefacts present.

7. Notes (Optional):

Institutions need to recognise the importance of preserving the past for the future generations. It would be helpful to consult museums or galleries with regard to a framework for the physical structure and the daily working of the archives.