

Criterion 7 – Institutional Values and Best Practices (100)

Key Indicator–7.2. Best Practices (30)

7.2.1. Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per the NAAC format provided in the Manual

Response-

Best Practice 02-

1. Title of the Practice

READERS CLUB ACTIVITY

2. Objectives of the Practice

- a. To introduce students to the joy of self-learning through reading by having a regular interactive session open for all students across the school.
- b. To enable students to understand, participate and form opinions of world affairs as well as issues and concerns of the built environment through reading and reacting.
- c. To create a platform where students could bring their thoughts, and viewpoints and share their choice of texts with other students.
- d. To create a comfortable and relaxed space to perform the intellectual task of reading, understanding and responding.
- e. To reduce students' time on social media and increase their interaction with great minds of past and present through their works stored in the library.

3. The Context

According to the last 5 year's statistics, 85% of students of VPSOA have come from rural and semi-urban areas. Many of them have a very poor command of the English language and they are suddenly pushed to the fringes of the academic discussion since the class discussions and expected assignments require a certain level of proficiency in English. Many of these students are otherwise intelligent and have a good aptitude for architectural design. However, the extracurricular English learning classes organized by the college to help these students get a poor response.

It was observed that formal education is often restricting students' enjoyment of subject matter. Unless there is enjoyment there can't be any real learning.



It was necessary to begin some activities in which students are exposed to the English language in an informal, playful and interesting manner. On the other hand, students rarely visit the library; they don't have a habit of regular reading, not even a newspaper.

4. The Practice

The activity began as an experiment. Even though the objectives were in mind as a response to the situation described in the context, the student's response was uncertain. The initiator, Dr Seemantini Chaphalkar was sure that she did not want to add any more to the student's already heavy academic burden. She imagined this as an informal interaction between faculty and students on matters of the built environment. It began as a series of informal 1-1.5 hour sessions conducted every Thursday in the courtyard or library's adjoining hall. The sessions were announced with a poster shared on student's Whats App groups and through ERP. The choice of space was purposefully decided so that it would not have any association with formal learning spaces.

Fountainhead, the novel by Ayn Rand was chosen as the initial text, to increase students' interest in the activity. Dr. Chaphalkar read some parts of the book with a discussion of the context in which the book was written, the ideology of the author and the influence of the book world over. The reading and discussions continued over many sessions. The discussion and reading were continued over 6 sessions. The response of the students to these sessions varied, a minimum of 5 students to a maximum of 25 students attended the sessions.

The students even at the age of 18-22 years had a one-sided or limited information/ understanding about many important aspects of life, more specifically those related built environment. The reading club sessions highlighted the lack of exposure to many aesthetic, literary and cultural concepts/ experiments which influenced the globe in last 2 centuries. In the broader context of India's higher education, the experiment underlined the need for more such efforts. There is no time/course/syllabus in an average student's first 17-18 years of life where he/she is introduced to these very



important ideas, innovations and fields of knowledge. There should be some scope for interdisciplinary exploration to inform students' world view. The world of books can be such a platform.

5. Evidence of Success

In the first set of sessions, 10 sessions spread oven a semester, the choice of books was entirely directed by Dr Chaphalkar's own inclinations. The sessions still needed to be conducted. But gradually students were encouraged to read some parts of the text, to ask questions, to look for meanings of unfamiliar words, to conduct discussions for better understanding unknown concepts. Some newspaper/journal articles were also read for their topical value before commencing the main reading session. Some references of the discussions in Readers Club were also made during class discussions. Gradually some students warmed up to the idea and the pattern of faculty reading and the students listening began to change. Some students more frequently attended the sessions than others. Many students could not attend because some other audit / corrective classes were scheduled at the same time. But it could be seen that the students began to enjoy the sessions and had some suggestions too. This was the most encouraging part of the activity. It may not be termed as success, but a way towards achieving the objectives. It indicates that even though the progress is slow, it is catching on and students shall own it soon.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The time slot for Readers' Club activity is after the academic sessions are over; still, the students do not attend in large numbers. The major hurdle is students' perception of the activity as some elite group and that learning can only happen in a classroom. The other reason is that students in the first 2 years still have the habit of going home/hostel once the classes are over. They don't visit the library on their way back, even though it is easily accessible. Cultivating that habit is also the objective of this activity, for which the activity needs to be consistently conducted over 2-3 years.



More faculty members and students need to be associated with the activity. The activity gets suspended on a public holiday and near the term ends when the submission load increases.

7. Notes (Optional)

Such sessions may be conducted more frequently as debates, group discussions or reading on a particular subject/theme. The students should be motivated to organize and conduct these sessions so that they are more involved and more enthusiastic. Speakers may be invited for individual sessions for introducing subjects other than architecture. We conducted these experiments in further semesters which were quite successful.

I/C PRINCIPAL
Vidya Pratishthan's
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, BARAMATI
Vidyanagari, Baramati Dist. Pune 413133





Title: Reading Club Activity

Date: Every Thursday Time: 4.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M.

Venue: VPSOA Courtyard or any other class as the climate permits

Organized and Conducted by: Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar, Academic Head (VPSOA)

Introduction:

Vidya Pratishthan's School of Architecture has established Reader's Club under guidance of Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar from 27th January 2022 to infuse reading habit among students for holistic development. All students studying architecture are expected to participate in this club every Thursday in college courtyard after the regular classes. Various faculty members are expected to contribute their time and reading experiences with students in various sessions. Various books are to be discussed.

Aim:

To inculcate reading habit in students to help increase their understanding of the world around us.

Objectives:

- 1. To improve student's proficiency of English language.
- 2. To improve student's communication skills through written and verbal mediums.
- 3. To expose students to the knowledge and experience shared through books.
- 4. To introduce students to the world of English literature, general knowledge and latest happenings in the field of spatial design at various scales.

Mode:

Reading from books as well as introducing the book. The sessions are conducted physically on campus.



Report - books discussed so far were

'The fountainhead' by Ayn Rand – discussion by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar in five sessions Laurie Baker: Life and Works by - discussion by Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhion date 24/03/2022 Spatial Ecology of Water by Dr. Meghal Arya- discussion by Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar on date 07/04/2022

Reader's Club Session Details are given below

Sr.	Date	Session	Book Title & Author	No. of	Organized By	
No.	Date	No	DOOR TALL CO TANADA	Readers	,	
1	27/01/2022	01	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	15	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
2	03/02/2022	02	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	27	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
3	24/02/2022	03	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	07	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
4	03/03/2022	04	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	28	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
5	17/03/2022	05	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	05	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
6	24/03/2022	06	Lauire Baker Life and Works	09	Ar. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi	
0			by Gautam Bhatia			
7	31/03/2022	07	Fountainhead by Ayn Rand	05	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
0	07/04/2022	08	Spatial Ecology of Water by	05	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
8			Meghal Arya.		Di. Scottantin Chapitana	
9	21/04/2022	09	Charles Correa by Kenneth	11	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
9		09	Frampton			
10	28/04/2022	3/04/2022 10	Housing & Urbanization by	11	Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar	
10	20/04/2022		Charles Correa	1.		



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READERS' CLUB



Session 1

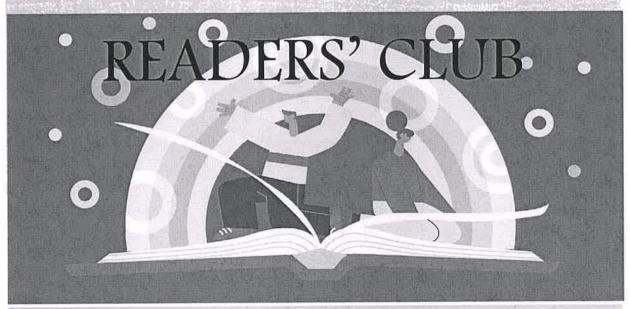
27/01/22 | Thursday

Book:

The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian -American author Ayn Rand) Venue: VPSOA Courtyard Time: 4pm to 5pm.







Session 2

03/02/22 | Thursday

Book:

The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian-American author Ayn Rand) Venue: VPSOA Courtyard Time: 4pm to 5pm.





READERS' CLUB

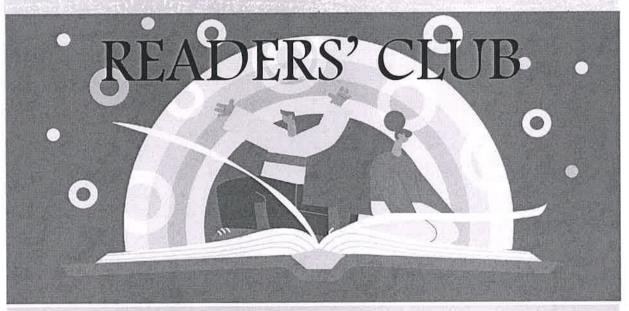


Session 3

10/02/22 | Thursday

Book: The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian-American author Ayn Rand) Venue: VPSOA Courtyard Time: 4pm to 5pm.





Session 4

Book:

The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian American author Ayn Rand)

03/03/22 | Thursday

Venue: VPSOA Courtyard Time: 4pm to 5pm.





READERS' CLUB



Session 5

17/03/22 | Thursday

Book:

The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian-American author Ayn Rand) Venue: VPSOA Courtyard

Time: 4pm to 5pm.



READERS' CLUB



Session 6

24/03/22 | Thursday

Venue: VPSOA Courtyard
Time: 4.30pm to 5pm.

By: Ar .. Hrishikesh Pratinidhi.

Book:

LAURIE BAKER (Life, work & Writings.)

By Gautam Bhatia



READERS' CLUB



Session 7

31/03/22 | Thursday

Book :The Fountainhead (a 1943 novel by Russian-

American author Ayn Rand)

Venue: First Year B. Arch Class

No.217

Time: 4.13pm to 5pm.



READERS' CLUB



Session 8

07/04/22 | Thursday

Venue: First Year B. Arch Class

No.217

Time: 4.13Spm to 5pm.

By : Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar

Book: Spatial Ecology of Water

By Meghal Arya



READERS' CLUB



Session 9

21/04/22 | Thursday

Venue: First Year B. Arch Class

No.217

Time: 4.00pm to 5pm.

By: Dr.. Seemantini Chaphalkar

Book: Charles Correa

By: Kenneth Frampton

VPSOA READER'S CLUB

session no 10 Thursday

Date: 28/04/2022

Time: 4pm to 5pm

Book title: CHARLES CORREA

housing & urbanisation

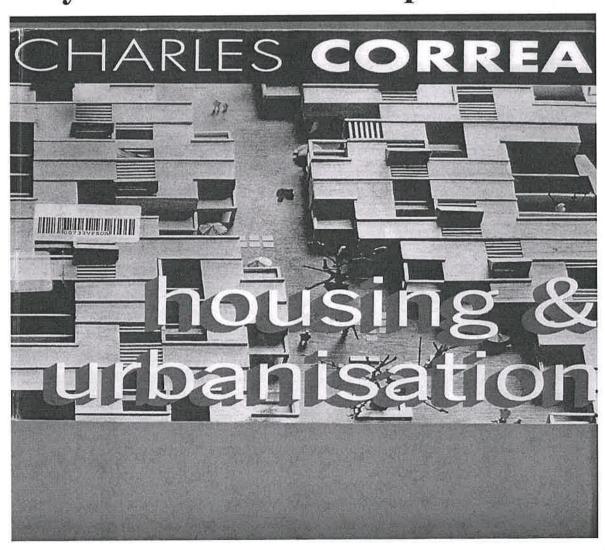
Author: CHARLES CORREA

By Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar





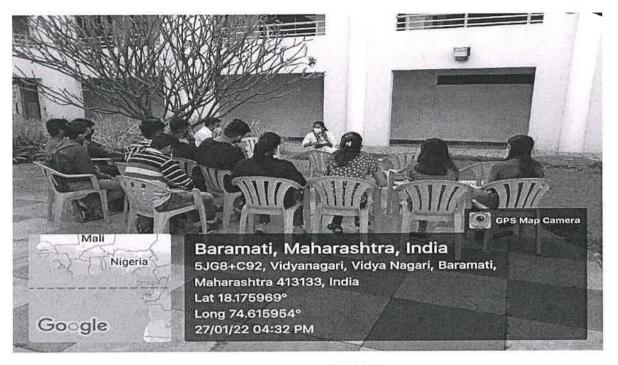
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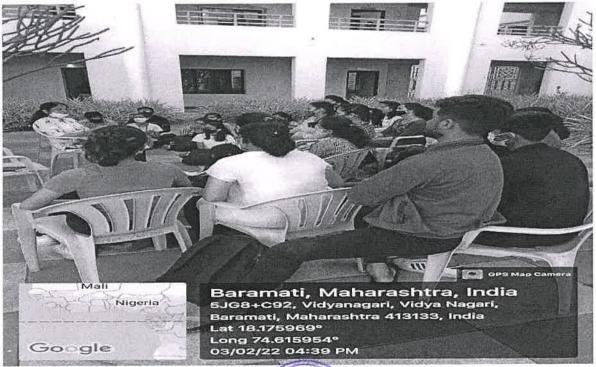




Reader's Club Photos of all Sessions



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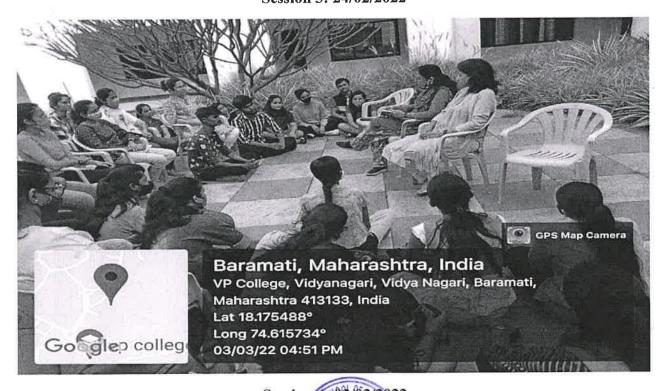


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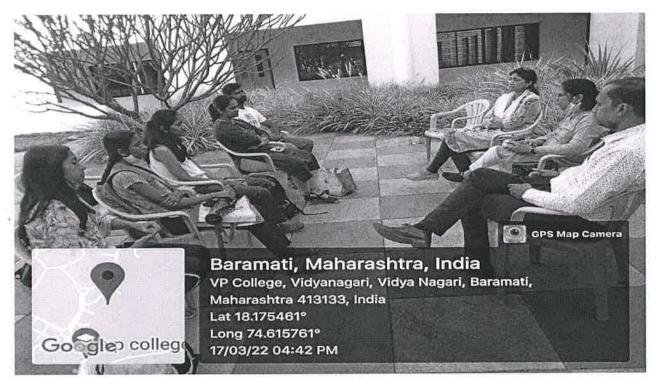


Session 3: 24/02/2022

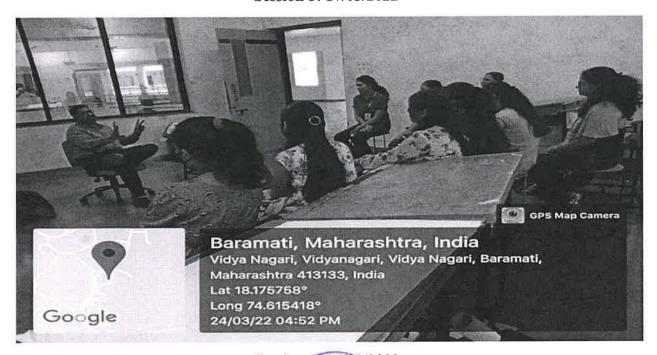


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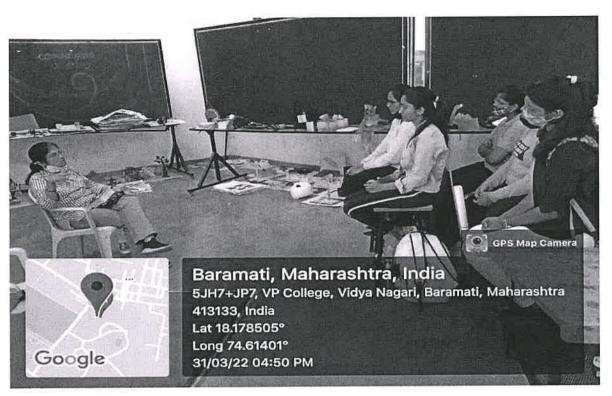
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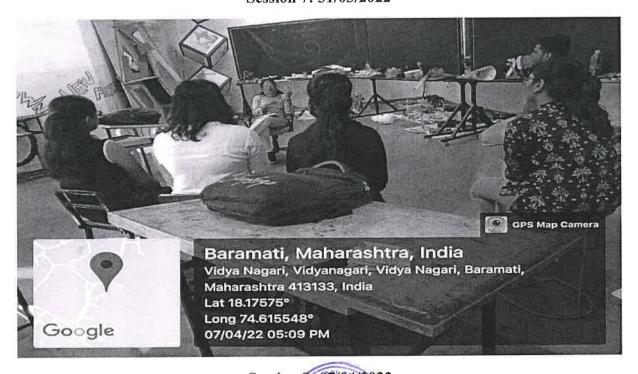
Session 6: 24/03/2022





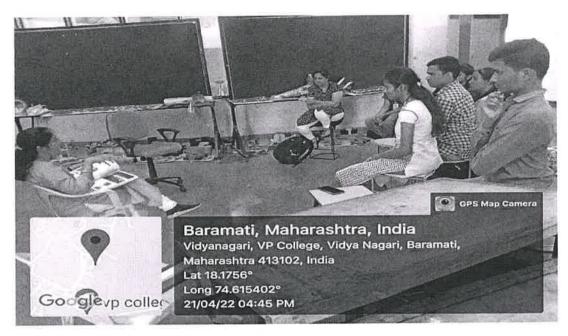


Session 7: 31/03/2022



Session 8: 07/04/2022





Session 9: 21/04/2022

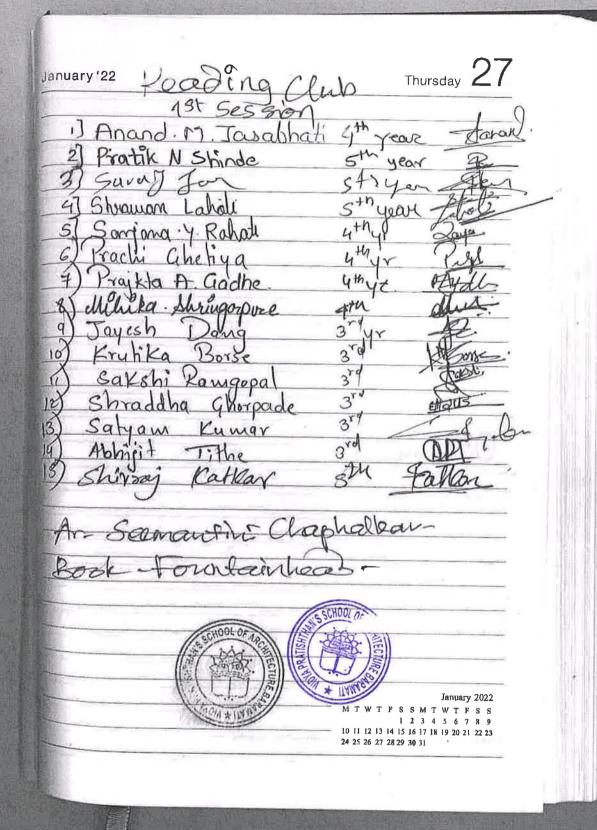


Session 10: 28/04/2022

Dr. Seemantini Chaphalkar Coordinator



Ar. Rajshree Patil
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School of Architecture, Baramati
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VPSOA READERS
Session No-05

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