

Best Practice: I

Title of Best Practice: Eco friendly Activities

Goal

The institution is upholding environmental consciousness and values and thereby to inculcate these values in mind of students and thus to create an environmentally responsible citizens.

The Context

The campus, spread out in a hilly stretch surrounded by lush greenery, is a sure sight of delight for a lover of nature. The college is also in close vicinity to the river Periyar and very near to the city of Kochi and the International Airport, Nedumbassery, Kochi. With around 2200 students and 200 staff members, there needs measures and practices to integrate with nature and the impact on the nature can be severe if its waste disposals, recycling etc. is not properly managed. The college assumes responsibility and commitment to keep the ecological balance intact.

The Practice

The College follows a code for environmental protection and every department in the college follows the code within their constraints. There is a Green Office at the heart of its campus to make it an inspiring and 100% sustainable place to work and study. As an initiative towards paperless office, College carries on its student and faculty related records and reports using Total Campus Solutions (TCS) for office automation. The institution greatly depends on ICT practices thereby reducing the usage of papers, printing is strictly limited to necessary and unavoidable situations with optimal use of papers. The eco friendly activities also include sustainability practices in all facets of the programs organized by the institution, processes in the institution and student experiences. The college library is computerized with OPAC system. Various measures as Green audit reports, Energy audit Solar panels, vermicomposting unit, biogas plant, Expenditure on green campus, organic farming, rain harvesting structures, eco-friendly sign boards, 'Shanthistal', massive replacement of light bulbs with more efficient LED lighting are major practices. Building and refurbishing to high environmental standards, saving energy, reducing waste and improving health and wellbeing is not only within the pillars of the institution. It has reach to the local community in terms of workshops in Energy saving devices to the local self help group, Cyclothion Campaign and rally, nature camps to vulnerable ecological spots, waste management sessions by experts, cleaning water resources in the locality and recharging water tables by rain pits are major practices adopted for environment and sustainability.

Various departments take initiatives in collecting used plastic pens for recycling and creating crafts, Observance and environment sensitisation on various days related to environment like Environment Day, Ozone day, Wetland day etc. to create an awareness among students and people in the locality. Greater measures are adopted to turn the campus into a green zone by planting trees during Alumni Meets, NSS Camps, Festive times of Onam etc. Campus also promotes organic vegetable farming in the college premises with the support of students. 'Santhisthal', a garden which nurtures rare plants and trees is developed and maintained by the college with the support of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

Evidence of Success

- Installation of Solar Panels
- Rain harvesting system
- Vermicompost, Biogas Plant, Organic farm at the college

- 'Santhisthal', a garden which nurtures rare plants and trees maintained by the college with the support of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board.
- Bamboo Planting in the college premises to keep up with the principles of Carbon Neutrality.
- Funded projects and activities sponsored by the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment (KSCSTE).
- Plastic free campus
- Green conferences and seminars- e-brochures, cloth banner, ecofriendly plates and glasses.
- Paperless Office
- LED Lighting for save energy resources
- Majority of the students use transportation facility provided by the College. It has services to nearby districts.
- Programmes to inculcate greater consciousness towards nature among college students, staff and local community.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The major problems encountered in the implementation of the programme are;

a) Financial: Initial investment in the installation of solar panel required a lumpsum amount. Maintenance of green campus requires support staff.

b) Procedural: Strenuous process of collection, assorting of wastes and active students' participation is hindered by rigorous schedule of semester system.

Best Practice: II

Title of Best Practice: Women empowerment

Goal

The institution aims in promoting girls' education and empowerment making them self-determined and self-reliant. The principle followed is *educating a women is educating a family*.

Objectives

- To promote girls education, especially among students from minority and backward groups.
- To prepare girls to face challenges in life by offering career oriented courses and skill development

The Context

The institution is located in a rural area and majority of the students are girls from minority sections of the society. The greatest challenge institution faces is the dropout rate of girls students owing to marriage and other familial responsibilities. College is taking greater efforts in creating an awareness on the need of education and career in women's life.

The Practice

A separate cell for Women functions in the college that caters to the needs and issues related to the girl students of the college. The Women's Cell has a faculty coordinator and student representatives. It regularly organizes various programmes for skill development, gender sensitization, legal awareness, domestic violence and sessions from experts on women hygiene and health. There is a tailoring unit and an instructor in the College and students are given training. Girls are given equal participation in various bodies of the institution as Union, quality Circle, Nature club, NCC, NSS, Red Cross, other cells and clubs in the college. They assume key roles in various College bodies which instils in them leadership qualities and participative decision making. Self-defence and legal awareness classes are organised for girl students to boost their confidence and to live with self esteem. Equal opportunity and zero discrimination on the basis of gender is ensured in campus. Special sessions are given by the college counsellor for girls exclusively to discuss and find solution to any problems they face. To protect their privacy and avoid hesitation of girl students to approach and make use of counselling services, the counsellor of the college is a Lady. There are separate rest rooms, comfort zones and Hostels for girls in the college premises. There is 24x7 security and CCTV surveillance across the campus primarily for the safety and security of the students. It is also interesting to note that the lion's share of staff of the college are Women.

Girls students are financially supported by special scholarship schemes instituted by central and state governments. College management also supports girl students in their studies by providing scholarship and freeships.

Evidence of Success

- With the organizational support as scholarship, empowerment of the female students have considerably increased.
- Sports Hostel for Women in the campus and provision for training and support in sports activities.
- Pre-marital counselling Centre is set up funded by the Kerala Minority Welfare Department.
- Equal representation of Women in academic and administrative bodies
- Greater success or pass rate among girl students, with many of them bagging prestigious university ranks.
- Entrepreneurial training and sessions
- During placement programs, there's steady rise in the number of girls getting placed in various placements.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The major problems encountered in the implementation of the programme are:

- a) Financial responsibility in conducting workshops and providing scholarships.
- b) Constraints related to making the students take up formal employment/entrepreneurship sometimes hindered by marriage and psycho social reasons.