

Best practice I

- **Title- Nurturing Environmental Consciousness**

- **Goal**

As young citizens and future decision makers in society, students have to be instilled with a sense of commitment and responsibility to protect the environment. A unified approach to the protection of the environment inherent in the country's cultural and religious ethos which emphasizes the symbiotic relationship between the natural environment and the human community will benefit student consciousness and future welfare of the greater population. Voluntary participation in activities that enable them to nurture environmental consciousness will have a significant effect upon sustainable environment. Environment sensitivity and awareness can create in them a sense of respect towards nature and be conscious of the collective ethical responsibility to appreciate the mutual interdependence of all species on earth. These are the goals of the best practice conceived under the present title.

- **The Context**

In solidarity with the global concerns to equip the young generation to engage themselves with a life-long value-oriented goal to protect the natural environment, our students ought to be empowered to tackle environmental issues. The human beings' right to live in an unpolluted environment depends on his ability to live in harmony with nature,. Fostering a culture of environmental consciousness among the young generation is the need of the hour. The world-wide endeavours to ensure man's sensible interaction with the biophysical environment have to be carried forward by today's youth enabling them to build a better planet for future generations to live. In a campus sprawling across 105 acres, the need to preserve the fauna and flora, conservation of water, energy, soil etc. will guarantee the foundation for a sustainable environment. To be aware of the conservation of the immediate environment will lead to the safeguarding of the distant environment ensuring an ecologically stable natural environment.

- **The Practice**

The campus follows a very systematic waste collection and segregation process. The plastic waste collected is periodically removed from the campus by the authorities of Mattanur Municipality. There is a vermin compost unit in the campus and pipe composts near every block to process the organic waste. Students are encouraged to create minimum waste in the campus by bringing food in steel tiffin boxes, water in steel bottles etc. They are not allowed to bring plastic carry bag to fold the tiffin.

E-wastes are stored in secured place with a view to reuse some of its working parts. The equipments which cannot be reused are managed by handing over the same to Clean Kerala Mission Project of Govt. of Kerala after official procedures.

The institution conducted Green Audit and biodiversity audit with the support of staff and students of the college. College possesses scattered buildings, old electrical wiring and accessories usually made a hike in our electricity bills. The institution took constructive steps to change the electrification, switch boards, panel boards, lights and fans in stages. Rs 10 lakhs is earmarked for the proposed solar power plant of 10KW under RUSA 2.0 Project.

College took measures to repair the damaged pipes and taps for the effective and judicious usage of water. Rain water is being collected in the inbuilt catchment area of the campus so as to recharge the ground water. Besides we have two rainwater harvesting tanks of 1 lakh

litre capacity each for the general purposes of the campus and a separate tank in the ladies hostel. 50% of water requirement of the institution is met from the rain water harvesting.

Biodiversity audit was also conducted by natural science departments to make aware of the fauna and flora of the campus. Department of Zoology maintains a 'Butterfly Garden' in the campus. Department of Botany maintains a 'Medicinal Plant Garden' and 'Mango Germplasm' in the campus. Plant diversity of our campus is supplemented by the surrounding cashew and teak plantations.

Institution takes extreme care in managing the hazardous wastes like chemicals and acids from the laboratories. They are properly collected and disposed in an eco friendly manner. Department of Chemistry takes initiatives to shift from conventional practices to micro scale analysis.

Our sincere efforts for carbon neutrality include the planting of trees by NCC and NSS volunteers with the support of Social Forestry Department of the Government, dependence on public transport by staff and students, segregation of degradable and non degradable waste and disposal in the campus in eco friendly manner and collection and segregation of plastic waste with the help of students and handing over them to external agency for recycling

Best Practice II

- **Title :Fostering a culture of philanthropy**
- **Goal**

Learning process has to be seamlessly merged with various kinds of service and extension activities both for placing education on firm social grounds and also for inculcating a sense of volunteerism among the students. Often the under graduate curricula and syllabi do not go hand in hand with the immediate social reality from which the student community is drawn. Therefore the college has come up with various kinds of activities which would reinforce formal curricular transactions with service, extension and volunteering activities to make the learning process active, inclusive and socially oriented.

- **The Context**

The students often fail to emotionally involve themselves with the learning process because they fail to see any immediate social relevance to what they are being taught in the classrooms. In the realm of higher education such direct social ties are not always present. Therefore the college felt the need to orient the students towards voluntary activity aimed at social service and renovation. Curriculum also lacked specific society oriented modules which would have given the students an opportunity to socialize with the communities around the college. Such activities reinforced the knowledge seeking, knowledge disseminating and knowledge applying aspects of higher education thereby giving the students a complete opportunity for personality development. Lack of interest in social problems and public themes was another problem that needed to be addressed by introducing various kinds of activities in which the students could involve themselves by their own free will.

- **The Practice**

The deficiency of the curriculum, especially in those areas which calls for extension activities and services, is experienced in the form of lack of interest of a student towards academic matters. Such apathy affects classroom participation and involvement in curricular activities. Organizations like NSS and NCC in the college were carrying out the responsibility of promoting the spirit of social service and volunteerism. They practised innovative ideas like adoption of villages, building homes for homeless or helping to build homes for less privileged classmates, blood donation forums and conducting socio-economic surveys etc in

addition to the already existing itinerary of NSS and NCC. Thus the voluntary activities which had been the practice of these organizations were given a new direction towards the fulfilment of social needs and thereby instilled with an immediate social commitment.

Once this practice began showing results a module consisting of voluntary service was appended to the activities of the various other clubs, forums and associations which were active in the college. These voluntary modules were incorporated after holding consultations with the students who were involved in various clubs and forums. Planting trees, cleaning public places, programs for plastic waste management, conducting socio economic surveys to realize the needs of the people around the college, visit to old age homes, conducting SWAP shops, medical camps and disease detection programs and energy conservation programs were some of the voluntary tasks taken up by the students and teachers belonging to different clubs. The volunteers offered help to people affected in the flood during last year by donating dress, food and other household items who lost everything. They also took part in the cleaning activity of the public places and houses affected by flood. Students are also trained to help patients either monetary or palliative grounds. For collecting the money they conduct food fest by preparing various delicious foods in their home and conducting the fest in the campus. Usually the amount accumulated from food fest donates to a needy person or charitable homes.

Another major endeavour taken up by the volunteer students is awareness programmes which include cycle rally against drugs use, rallies for the conservation of energy, flash mob against contagious diseases etc.

- **Evidence of Success**

The first sign of success was the enthusiastic response received from the students. Activities like building houses for underprivileged classmates saw massive and keen participation. Such activities needed a lot of labour, materials and money. All these were made available through voluntary work and charity. The students are all set to spare their holidays for these works. The project, which was rather heavy, went on to become a huge success under the supervision of the teachers and the volunteers of organizations like NSS and NCC. Once the program succeeded conscious efforts were taken to disseminate the enthusiasm thus generated to other clubs and forums and results began to surface. The College Union, clubs and other forums were able to chart out service oriented activities and they proved to be a huge success with the massive participation of the students.

- **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Scheduling such actions in the midst of hectic academic activities was a major problem in itself. One cannot actively involved in such endeavours without losing the regular contact classes. Raising funds for charity and constructing houses etc was the next problem encountered. Providing funds to match student enthusiasm was not always an easy task.

Lack of skilled hands among the students was the next problem. Maintaining the motivation level in voluntary work and ensuring the wholehearted involvement of volunteers in all the activities was also a problem which requires careful teacher supervision.