

Best Practice I:

1. Title of the practice: Eco-friendly initiatives

2. Objectives:

- Create awareness about Environment among all stakeholders
- Take environmental friendly steps like conservation, recycling, propagation and protection
- To address pollution

3. The context:

We being the higher education institute here in the lap of Mother Nature it becomes our prime most concern to sustain environment. We carry out a number of activities as regards. We do attempt to address the pollution to the best of our capabilities.

4. The practice:

Conservation and Propagation of Medicinal/Aromatic plants:

Nursery for Medicinal/Aromatic plants is developed. Plants in wild habitats are identified & collected. Soil treatment, CCT formation, plantation of the said plants and water management practices are carried out. Field survey, identification of the distribution pattern and current status of medicinal plants are studied.

Training forest field staff for grasslands management

It includes training on: Demarcation of grassland areas with GPS, identification and enlisting of grass species, collection and broadcasting of grass seeds, weed eradication and management techniques, grasses biomass management practices in mosaic pattern, identification and cultivation of wild fruit trees.

Energy Awareness Programme: A stall is set-up at Chikaldara "Tourism Festival" wherein importance of energy conservation and use of non-conventional energy sources explained to visitors. Awareness about energy saving is spread through display boards. Energy audits are undertaken.

Say No to Plastic drive creates awareness about plastic pollution. Students and local communities are made aware about evil effects of plastic. Old clothes are collected to prepare bags, which are distributed among local people including tourists. One one-day workshop on preparation of recycled newspaper bags was organized.

Rainwater Harvesting awareness campaign was carried out in Chikhaldara and surrounding villages wherein residents were educated about proper uses and importance of water. Need, rules and regulations, construction of structure regarding rainwater harvesting were explained. Water to the mark of 3.5 laks litres is collected through rain harvesting.

Heritage Trees in the Chikaldara are **identified, counted and conserved** to strengthen environment with the help of Municipal Council.

5. Evidence of Success:

Cultivated lands are converted into grazing grasslands; food chain is strengthened increasing density of herbivores. Ecosystem has improved, grass seed banks are developed. Melghat region severely suffering from water scarcity, ethnobotany garden can subsist only upon the collected rainwater and also meet various water needs of women hostel. Important medicinal/aromatic plants are available and plantation is being used as an open-field laboratory for botany students. Ecological restoration of the plants in suitable habitats is achieved and plant propagation, and natural regeneration are facilitated. We sensitized plastic pollution, rainwater harvesting and other environmental problems. Chikhaldara Municipal Council appreciated our efforts.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Inadequate funding, lack of instruments and technology low manpower is problems for grassland management. Tribal are educationally backward and poor, difficult to convince to use eco-friendly items and to afford additional expenditure in order to get rainwater harvesting in place. Besides they don't directly encounter any pollution-related problems. The tourists cannot be re-contacted or re-counseled. The concerning local authorities need to be more sensitive as regards eco-friendliness.

Best Practice II:

Title of the Practice: Encourage and Facilitate Tribal Students for Higher Education

2. Objectives:

- Create awareness about higher education among Aborigines in Melghat region
- Strive hard to facilitate higher education for tribals
- Encouraging students by paying them academic and personal guidance
- Felicitating and encouraging students by rewarding
- Create a conducive and competitive atmosphere among students
- Develop awareness among students towards cross-cutting issues

3. The Context:

College is situated in a hilly, tribal & remote area and is under-privileged hence has socio-economic problems. It is our responsibility to create awareness about higher education among the inhabitant and encourage them. Education can play a vital role in addressing and solving their problems. Few students make it to higher education. As per NEP-2020 guidelines, we are also trying hard to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio of Melghat Region.

4. The Practice:

Following activities in our institute are conducted to achieve the set goal.

Awareness Campaign:

We try to meet all eligible students, dropouts, teachers and parents by visiting the junior colleges in Melghat and nearby areas. We try to tap their needs to offer them need specific programme. We use manuals, brochures, audio-visual aids in our talks with students. Wide publicity is given to available programmes, activities in college. Alumni help us in this regard.

Palak-Yojna

Under this, an allotted number of students are adopted by each teacher who provides academic and personal guidance to his wards and keeps in touch with parents. Counseling is provided to parents when required.

Felicitation of Meritorious Students

To motivate and appreciate the students, we felicitate students scoring highest marks in the subjects with cash prizes and freeships is awarded to needy.

The Best Student Award

Students are nominated on the basis of examination results, attendance, performance and participation in all activities. Top ten students are selected from the nominations who go through written test, group discussion and interview. The best student of the year is selected on the basis of total marks obtained by students in these tests.

5. Evidence of Success:

As our vision and mission states we could increase the number of admissions of tribals. Tribal students now opt for technical and other advanced subjects. They take part in sports, cultural and other activities and share their difficulties, discrepancies with us. This has improved the regularity and students' participation in various activities. Some students after passing out of institute seek still higher education. Some could bag various college-level awards.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Melghat is a hilly and widely stretched region where conveyance is not smooth. Public transport is not adequately available. Other means of communication are either lacking or very poor like internet, mobile and landline connectivity. Adverse, at times extremely bad weather conditions are an issue along with people's migration. Parents are reluctant to send their wards to other places as they require them as helping hands for livelihood. Hostels cannot accommodate even 50% of the needy.