

BEST PRACTICES I - ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

Goal: To promote eco-friendly practices in the institution

The Context: Even children of today have realized the dangers of ecological imbalance and pollution and are fighting for a greener planet where they could live in peace. With this idea in mind, the members of the institution have taken many steps to curb harmful practices and encourage and promote eco-friendly activities.

The Practice: Many activities were begun and continued for the past five years:

1. Awareness about the benefits of using herbal products as food and medicine was created among students by conducting herbal fair, herbal food fair contests, contests promoting the use of millets and other food grains for eating healthy diet, awareness on preparing healthy food without cooking, contests on best recipes for nutritious diet, books or booklets prepared on healthy food recipes and so on.
2. World environment day, International week celebrations on pollution control, Hand washing day, were celebrated to create awareness about clean and green environment.
3. Rallies were conducted by the Departments of Biochemistry, Microbiology, Nature Club and Exnora Club to create awareness on healthy practices like Saving Water, Growing plants and trees, Deforestation, use of reusable, recyclable, and reduced use of plastic, pollution control and use of environmental friendly products.

4. Green walk was organized to promote the use of herbs and herbal products among people.
5. Awareness of environmental preservation and conservation was promoted through visit to Butterfly garden, visit to nurseries, visit to kolli hills, Yercaud gardens and conservatories, Kumily hills, and several such natural tourist spots with the support of the Tourism club.
6. Students were engaged in cleaning the river beds of the Cauvery and removing junk from the Uyyakondal canal and other water bodies under the Save Uyyakondan project. Awareness on maintaining our water bodies was also conducted.
7. Students also learnt how to control dust and pollution in air by growing special kinds of plants that produce more oxygen. These plants were grown in the college and home by students.
8. Hanging flower pots were installed throughout the campus to inculcate the habit of growing plants.
9. Saplings were also distributed on special occasions like teacher's day, women's day etc. to promote the cultivation of plants at home and in terraces.
10. Terrace gardens were installed by students in the roof of the blocks
11. Rain water harvesting pits were installed to collect rain water in the ground.
12. Incinerators were installed to safely dispose used sanitary pads.

13. Tiles were laid throughout the college grounds to prevent dust and pollution
14. Eco-friendly air conditioners were installed instead of window A/Cs and slit A/Cs.
15. Solar Panels were installed to generate power from solar energy.
16. Green landscaping was done to create a nice environment in the college for students.
17. Vermicompost pits were installed for production of vermicompost from vegetable and other food wastes. The initiative was highly successful and the compost was sold to staff and students at a small price to nurture their fields and gardens.
18. Vermiwash was prepared as an equivalent liquid substitute to Vermicompost.
19. Students were given training in preparing Vermicompost and Vermiwash by taking them to visit the Vermicompost pits installed in our college garden and at Santhanam Vidyalaya and giving them demonstrations.
20. Some students still prepare their own vermi wash at home and use it in their gardens.
21. Students of NSS are given training in the use of renewable energy, sanitation and hygiene and ecofriendly practices during orientation camps. They carry these messages to people in the form of skits, mime, drama and songs to promote ecofriendly practices

22. Distribution of pamphlets to prevent the use of plastic in everyday life was organized.

23. Workshops on preparing seed balls to improve green foliage was conducted.

Evidence of Success:

- It was found that students have taken back the message of cleanliness and eco-friendly practices home. Many students are successfully growing their own terrace gardens, and hanging gardens at home.
- They even grow pollution controlling plants at home.
- Some even prepare seed balls and distribute them to people around them during festivals.
- Students use bark plates and leaves in the place of plastics. Paper covers were even used instead of plastic bags.
- Some students have produced a multifold yield of flowers and fruits in their garden by using Vermiwash prepared at home.
- Even wasted drinking water is used to water plants in the herbal garden.
- Many students have taken saplings and planted in their garden
- Students regularly buy vermicompost to use in their gardens and fields.

Problems encountered and Resources Required:

- No problems were encountered in conducting awareness programmes or rallies.

- Even visits to natural habitat and herbal gardens was a form of entertainment.
- The required resources were time and space. Saturdays were fixed for such outings and activities.
- We regularly conduct workshops on eco-friendly practices as a part of Saturday activities or Festival celebrations or National Day celebrations.

Therefore any limitations encountered in the process were eliminated through alternative arrangements. As students and teachers were very serious and enthusiastic about the cause of environment preservation, they found a way to make things work. The management also provides all support for conduct of such events.

BEST PRACTICE – II

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: ACTIVITY DAY ON SATURDAYS

GOAL:

- To encourage all departments to carry out special activities to engage students in a novel and interesting way
- To bring out the talents and potential of students and teachers from a creative perspective
- To allot a time for activities, so that departments can plan ahead
- To concentrate on academic pursuits on other days without hindrance

- To make students happy to work on Saturdays and expectant to showcase their potential and enjoy the activity with team and class mates.
- To practice activity based learning

The context:

The college practices activity based learning and student centric learning through conduct of training programmes, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, debates, group discussions, competitions, skill training, outreach and extension, industrial visits, field visits, and inter and intra collegiate competitions for sports, finearts, literary events and subject based events. These programmes are normally planned on any working day, based on availability of resource persons, venue, students and other related things. The departments plan for big events at the beginning of the year while small events are planned at short notice. This may result in clashes in conduct of activities, disarray in planning or execution, etc. The hidden talent is brought from the student since all Saturdays are Activity days enabling them to “Learn Beyond the class room”. Students enjoy involving in various activities.

The Practice:

All departments submit their plans on Mondays and Tuesdays to the Vice-Principal. They also interact with each other to avoid clashes. Some departments plan for Outreach, some for serious activity like seminar, workshop, debates etc., some plan for field visits or industrial visits and others plan for class room activity. A meeting of all Heads of department with the

Principal and Vice Principal is convened to discuss about the feasibility of the activity, any other problems in execution etc. to confirm about the implementation of the activity on the Saturday. If there are any hurdles, some activities may be postponed to the next Saturday.

Evidence of Success:

This practice has been really successful in planning, and execution of activities. Moreover, it has become a routine to conduct some useful activity every week. Students enjoy their Saturdays and come out with more ideas, suggestions to conduct novel events. They also seem to learn better and tell us so. They give teachers new ideas to teach certain concepts, which when followed encourage them and also engage them. So they thoroughly welcome these activity Saturdays. The dynamism of students has increased in the classes. Many students have now been recognized for their skills and talents, this has made them more self confident and earned them a good recognition in class. So they totally enjoy this practice. Performance of students in tests has also improved. Most of the events are organized, planned and executed by students themselves. So they are able to learn even more. Leadership skills are promoted. Teamwork has got a boost. This will go a long way in earning them placements.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Initially it was a little difficult to plan for activities. Even the kind of activities to be organized was not quite clear. But now after conducting events for some time, we have grown accustomed to this practice. The enthusiasm of students has really given a boost to such a practice. Students also join with

teachers in planning, and execution. Even though we have only 1 seminar hall and 2 auditoriums, some activities are conducted in the classes, some in smart classes and computer laboratories, outreach, field visits are conducted outside. So with a little co-ordination among departments, it has become highly feasible to conduct activities on Saturdays. Moreover no department is idle. This has really taken up the activities in the College. (1495 words)