

BEST PRACTICES

1. Title of the Practice: Snehasparsham

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To offer a touch of love to the community at large through philanthropic activities
- To extend support to students, teachers and others in and outside the college community
- To provide financial support to students from financially weak backgrounds
- To undertake charitable activities for the welfare of the society
- To ensure food security to students
- To offer emotional and moral support during times of crisis
- To ensure psychological wellness and emotional stability of the college community
- To integrate marginalized communities, including the disabled, with the mainstream.

The Snehasparsham Scheme, as the name indicates, is informed by two of the principles fundamental to the Vision and Mission of the College – love and charity. As a charitable institution, the College has always emphasized on concerted efforts to uplift marginalized groups through moral and financial support.

3. The Context

The scheme was launched as a noon-meal scheme for the benefit of financially weak students. It was observed that many students came to College without having food and many were unable to afford lunch. As an act of empathy, the staff and the management decided to provide noon-meals to needy students. Later, the scheme came to encompass numerous charitable activities. Students often reported incidents where their family members were critically ill and could not afford treatment. There were also talented students who could not attend competitions at the national level owing to shortage of money. Hence, the College decided to support such students by broadening the Snehasparsham scheme to include these.

4. The Practice

Needy students are identified from all departments by the IQAC and noon-meals are provided. The funds required are raised in the form of contributions from the staff. Staff and students who are in dire need of money for health-related treatment are requested to report the issue to the IQAC, which then decides the course of action in consultation with the health authorities. During times of crisis such as floods, pandemics etc, needs are identified and rectified through timely intervention in the form of financial and moral support. The scheme has been very effective in preventing students from dropping out of college.

5. Evidence of Success

The scheme benefits more than 100 students yearly. Besides, families of students have received donations for cancer treatment, surgeries etc. By circulating messages pertaining to the need for funds, the College has been able to obtain support for needy students from the larger community. Our students continue their education and are not forced to drop out owing to poverty. Counseling and mentoring sessions, as well as awareness campaigns are organized to enable them to survive and overcome the crisis. A chain of support is created by encouraging our students to extend a helping hand to the weaker sections of the community at the time of the floods and the pandemic, by providing masks, sanitisers and other items free of cost.

Activities

- Financial support was provided to a student with no other means, to participate in the National Road Cycling Championship held in Pune.
- Members of the staff participated in the Salary Challenge of the Govt. of Kerala after the pandemic.
- Financial support was provided to students who could not afford extensive use of technology, to facilitate e-learning.
- An amount was donated to a bed-ridden person for treatment.
- Financial support was provided to a former worker for the conduct of his daughter's marriage.

- Financial support was provided to a student for the treatment of her sister, who suffered from cancer. The College also did the necessary to obtain financial support from the Church and well-wishers.
- The NCC launched the Mask Project and manufactured 1000 masks, among which 300 were donated to poor patients at the Homeopathic Clinic in Muvattupuzha.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Many students were reluctant to reveal their financial issues to the IQAC. So, support from class teachers and classmates were sought to identify needy students. During the pandemic period, it was difficult to identify psychological and emotional issues since there was no face-to-face contact. Nevertheless, the College organized counseling and mentoring sessions to rectify the issue. Teachers also held online meetings to ensure that students were able to cope with psychological issues created by the new normal.

1. Title of the Practice: Green Campus Initiative

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To promote environment-friendly practices.
- To strengthen the green cover in the campus
- To reinforce the 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle' campaign
- To encourage organic farming
- To follow practices promoting green energy
- To conserve non-renewable sources of energy
- To promote the use of renewable energy
- To adopt environment-friendly methods to dispose of waste

The practice adheres to the principles of the SDGs and MDGs adopted by the Government of India. The major aim is to ensure that our current use of resources does not harm the environment or future generations.

3.The Context

Considering the rising industrialization and the associated issues of pollution and deforestation, the need was felt to follow sustainable methods of living. The Campus, located in a rural area, had to be protected from damage, especially considering the fact that trees which are more than 50years old are found within the College. The institution has been committed to raising a generation of environmentally-conscious individuals. Besides, being aware of the harm caused by the excessive use of plastic and other non biodegradable materials, the College felt that it is necessary to inculcate environmental consciousness in the students and staff for a better tomorrow.

4.The Practice

The College launched various programmes to promote the Green Campus Initiative. Plastic has been banned in the campus and students and staff are encouraged to use cloth bags, steel bottles etc. The 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle' programme has been functioning effectively and students are given training to make art out of trash and reuse items whenever possible. The Green Corner, selling organic snacks, is opened during fests.

Energy management programmes are also conducted. Awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops etc are organized to make the students environment-conscious.

5.Evidence of Success

The Green Campus Initiative has succeeded in creating environmental-consciousness among the students and staff. They take special efforts to protect the foliage in the campus and also focus on organic farming in their homes. The students and staff have stopped using plastic bottles and bags. Waste management, both in the college and outside, is done effectively. Activities are undertaken every year to make the campus environment and energy friendly. This year, owing to the pandemic, most of the activities were undertaken online and focused mostly on awareness generation.

Activities

- Special care was taken to ensure that the terrariums and potted plants in classrooms and other areas were maintained well despite the absence of students and teachers to water them owing to the closure of colleges.
- Energy Conservation Day Celebrations 2020 was organized by the Department of Physics and a series of activities were conducted from 1 December 2020 to 15 December 2020. 79 students participated in the events.
- The College participated in the activities organized by M G University as part of the MOOC course on “Organic Farming”. All first year students cultivated plants at home and vegetables needed for daily use were produced. Pesticide-free, safe food could thus be generated.
- A slogan writing competition on “Energy and Environment Conservation” was conducted on 1 December 2020 and 23 students participated in the same.
- A poster designing competition on the theme “Energy Advice for Your Home” was conducted to promote green practices at home.
- A webinar on “Energy Efficiency in Domestic Sectors” on 3 December 2020 to ensure the optimum use of resources.
- An NSS camp called ‘Punarjani’ was conducted online and green practices, favorable to sustainable development, were promoted. To avoid the damage caused to the environment by disposable masks, students were trained to make cloth masks. Organic farming methods were taught. Waste-separation activities were undertaken to ensure that

biodegradable matter was decomposed and non-biodegradable waste items were recycled and reused.

- Webinar on “Lessons of Sustainability from the Pandemic Era” was conducted by the Department of Physics and 68 students were benefitted.
- Promoted Swachch Bharat Abhiyan.
- Reinforced 'Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Programme'.
- Conducted 'Mega Pollution Awareness Pakhwada' as part of Prime Ministers ‘Swachch Bharat Yojana’ .
- In order to make the campus plastic free, the use of plastic bottles was discouraged.
- Teachers and students were encouraged to walk or cycle to college to conserve fossil fuels.
- Awareness regarding the handling of biodegradable and non biodegradable waste items was provided through webinars.
- Conducted awareness campaigns on energy conservation use in the online mode. Expert sessions were conducted on themes related to environmental protection and ecofriendly practices.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Students were initially reluctant to dispose of plastic items and resort to more environment friendly materials. However, the volunteers made various items made of reusable materials available and all students now use plastic-free items. Many members were not willing to walk or cycle to College since they were used to coming by public/private vehicles. Awareness campaigns helped solved this issue. Students themselves were asked to conduct green audits and energy audits so that they would be able to understand the situation and tackle issues.