

Best Practice 1

Title of the Practice: Tree Plantation Drive

Goal: To sensitize, encourage and engage students, staff, all stake holders of the college and community about scientific tree plantation for increasing green coverage.

The Context: Trees play significant role in maintaining equilibrium of the environment. Many ecological processes like rainfall pattern, monsoon cycle, soil cover, balancing the level of greenhouse gases and oxygen production are governed by trees. Vegetation protects wild life and provides habitat. Besides, trees have social, spiritual, commercial, medicinal significance.

The Practice: Initially an interactive meeting of forest officials with the Principals of all colleges in Pune district was held in our college to decide strategies of tree plantation. In response to this, the college planned to carry out tree plantation drive at the Progressive Education Society's Modern College of Agriculture Biotechnology, Kule-Dakhane campus every year in the rainy season as the college has fifty acres of land near Pune. Every year about 100 saplings are planted and maintained. The GPS location of planted trees are recorded. Plant growth is checked by continuous monitoring by the college.

Members of Sevaprathishthan (NGO) group have planted 334 native trees and shrubs on 9,300 sq.ft area in Panchvati area near our college by removing exotic plant species. The exotic plants are a threat to native

plants because of the rapid spread. Students of Botany Department have measured the tree growth parameters on monthly basis to build up a data for the first three years of the tree's life. It is a unique urban forest project where natural ecosystem is being established by rejuvenating biodiversity over the past four years. It has become a model project which is being adopted by the Pune Municipal Corporation to introduce in other parts of the city. Students have collected the plant data in that area. Native Plant Nursery is established in the college. The seedlings raised in the nursery are used for plantation at various places in and outside of the city. A variety of plants like cacti, succulent, ferns, gymnosperms, medicinal and aromatic etc are grown in the college campus. Some common fruiting trees like, Mango, Coconut, Sapota, Ficus Sp. etc. are planted in the campus which provide food and shelter to many species of birds. Students are actively involved in growing and maintaining the plants.

All the plants in the campus are tagged with their botanical as well as common names.

Evidences of success: The College Campus is enriched with a variety of plant species. The College has bagged various awards like "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vanashri Puraskar" in the year 2017 as well as "Green Army Certificate" hosted by the Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, "Green College Clean College Trophy" hosted by Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival Group, Pune in the year 2019, for the green initiatives. College also received a grant to Rs. 5000/- under NGC (National Green Corps) programme initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to sensitize students about environment, its problems and conservation.

Problems encountered and resources required: As institution is located in city area the institution does not have more space for plantation in the campus.



Best Practice II

Title- “Experiential Learning”

Goal- Purposeful engagement with students in learning and our stakeholders through experience, exploration and reflection.

The Context- Learning through experience is not a new concept; as our ancient traditional system of education emphasizes on the same. Gandhiji's 'Nai Taleem' is the ideal example of experiential learning. This pedagogical approach based on mutual cooperation and reflection enables their stakeholders to think critically, Innovate, reformulate their skills and apply the knowledge. Also it is an attempt to hone soft skills of the learners.

The Practices-

“Litcarnation- A Literary Carnival”- is a festival of language. It is an effort to expose students to a world of creativity and imagination and motivate young minds to unleash their potential and showcase their talent in researching fiction, drama, cinema, designing, planning and execution. Every year more than 500 students from all streams, schools and colleges participate and share this common platform.

“Tribal Handicraft Exhibition”- This is our small step to fulfill 'social commitment to most marginalized groups. This exhibition is being organized by Department of Sociology at college level for Two days in association with the NGO working in the area of tribal development. Outreach of this exhibition has been consistently growing and has reached to around 3000 footfall. It includes students from different colleges, staff and other stakeholders.

“Psy World”- is an event where students place their knowledge in the form of interactive presentations, games, personality assessments and projects related to information dissemination regarding cross cutting issues with the hand holding from their mentors.

With 500 plus visitors during the reporting year it includes students, NGO members, parents, alumni participating in this fest.

Cost Fest- Under this event various competitions and activities are conducted related to Banking, Accounting, Costing and Management to

develop entrepreneurial skills. Many of the students create their own brands and manufacturing units.

This is the engaging platform to bridge the gap between education and industry.

“Anubhuti”- Science Exhibition- An activity of our college that encourages learning by doing and catalyzes an interdisciplinary approach in science education leading to versatile applications. Science Students are provided opportunities to handle new technologies/instruments from various laboratories and do experiments beyond the curriculum.

Financial assistance extended by national institutions like CTEP cell of Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and Sharada Shakti, a Pune based institute working for women empowerment endorsed us. This year 490 participants from college and 377 participants from Pune region got actively involved with “Anubhuti”.

Conserve the mother earth- From last four years this activity is being organized by Department of Zoology and Physics under the DBT star college scheme. Under this activity, students and teachers from our college visit various rural and urban schools where interactive sessions are conducted, experiments are performed to sensitize school children under the theme “Conserve biodiversity and protect environment.” Every year about 500 school children and 55 students from our college participate in this activity.

Evidence of success- All these activities are the best examples of ‘Experiential Learning’. As an outcome it has helped our students for exploring their capabilities and also expand their horizon of knowledge which is evident from the awards received by the institution.

Problems occurred - The scarcity of space has always been the major concern as there has been an enormous response to the mentioned events and the participants’ size has been growing at a galloping pace.