

Best Practices -I

ENVIRO CLUB GREEN INITIATIVES

The context

Mankind has contributed to global warming which has led to catastrophic climate change in many parts of the world. People have to work for the benefit of the planet and reduce carbon emission in whatever way they can. Colleges have a responsibility to instill green lifestyle among the young and impressionable students by undertaking green moves which can help to lower the global temperature. Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990. Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades. It is still possible, using a wide array of technological measures and changes in behavior, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Major institutional and technological change will give a better than even chance that global warming will not exceed this threshold. To combat such an alarming situation, the college has taken several green initiatives.

Objectives

- To Establish a Green Campus Environmental Ethic Awareness campaign
- To conduct Outreach and education regarding the environmental issues and sustainable developments
- To Spell out goals to address issues such as pollution prevention, waste minimization, regulatory compliance & energy conservation
- To evaluate daily operations in terms of pollution prevention, waste stream management, and energy efficiency—reducing, reusing, recycling, and repairing wherever possible.

The Practice

i. Green buildings: New buildings in college campus have been constructed in accordance to sustainability principles and methods. Water recycling, rain water harvesting system and recycled materials based projects are in place.

ii. Environmental degrees: All under graduate course curriculum has environmental studies as one of the mandatory subject and which would help the students to understand and work in the field of environmental conservation. We are teaching sustainable agricultural methods to help future farmers to farm without the use of pesticides and chemicals. Natural resources conservation and environmental conservation are examples of programmes which we have conducted to empower young people to innovate and implement eco-friendly strategies.

iii. Energy supply: Colleges need a lot of energy to run their services. One of the green initiatives for college campuses is to start using sustainable energy to supplement their energy needs. So students have been given enough training on water power and biofuels which would pay off in time.

iv. Composting program: A green campus project could be a composting project. We have vermin composting unit to produce vermi compost. Other waste foods from the dining halls and kitchen services have been utilized for biogas production. We are teaching those technologies to students in the form of value added courses.

v. Organic farming: We have huge tracts of land in the college premises. Our college is serious about going green should cultivate organic farming, and using the produce in their kitchens. This kind of sustainability activities might entail the participation of students who might learn how to create healthy meals, right from growing pesticide free, chemical free food. An activity such as organic gardening to students is creating awareness about having their own organic farms/gardens later in life.

vi. Recycling: The College has kept recycling bins which in abundance all over the campus, as it would make it easier for students to give materials for recycling.

vii. Water bottle refilling stations: One of the most important and best green initiatives for college campuses is to install water bottle refilling stations. Reverse osmosis based water purifiers are kept in all the blocks to fill purified drinking water. Plastic water bottles are one of the most hazardous items for the environment. These have choked up the oceans and the landfills creating a huge problem for the planet. Plastic takes hundreds of years to break down, and remains in the environment for years.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them

Though many initiatives have been taken and implemented, we are facing some hurdles yet to be sorted out and the obstacles are listed out as follows;

- Recovering the energy efficiency by improving the thermal insulation of existing buildings;
- Considering architectural technologies in the design and construction process of new developments aiming passive energy savings;
- Adjustments of the internal electricity grid of the college and the main feeder post
- Modification of natural gas pressure-reducing and metering station
- Controlling and redesigning main structures of older buildings to make them resistant to earthquakes.

Impact of the practice

1. Green buildings

Solar panels- Power consumption reduction has great significance

Water recycling – treated water is used for gardening purposes hence water consumption rates reduced.

Rain water harvesting system - The soil in the college campus has a good infiltration rate. For the gardening purpose, water is required daily. For the washing of vehicles large quantity of water is required. This requirement is satisfied by the water stored by rainwater harvesting.

2. Environmental degrees

Environmental studies are a mandatory subject for all the undergraduate students. And the students could able to; Understand core concepts and methods from ecological and physical sciences and their application in environmental problem-solving.

- Understand key concepts from economic, political, and social analysis as they pertain to the design and evaluation of environmental policies and institutions.
- Understand the ethical, cross-cultural, and historical context of environmental issues and the links between human and natural systems.
- Understand that one can apply systems concepts and methodologies to analyze and understand interactions between social and environmental processes.

3. Composting program

We are generating revenue from the vemi-compost and also ensuring organic vegetables and fruits production within the campus.

5. Organic farming

Staff and students are enjoying the benefits of organic garden.

6. Recycling

Recycling practices are very much victorious and waste to value addition is successful.

7. Water bottle refilling stations

Students are benefited from water bottle refilling stations. Reverse osmosis based water purifiers are kept in all the blocks to fill purified drinking water. Plastic water bottles accumulation is reduced.

Resources required

Bar-coding experts and water quality examination kit facilities must be incurred.

Best practices - II

Community Service to dropouts

Context :

We live in a competitive world today wherein people, especially the youth, are constantly striving to attain success in various fields. And, often times, a lot of the youth do not get opportunities despite the talent they possess. Keeping this in mind as our noble motive, we have started the Hindustan Community College in 2010 under Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) headed by Fr. Xavier Alphonse for the school dropouts, women and rural students. The college is affiliated to Tamilnadu Open University. This noble venture aims at giving a chance and opportunity to all those with dreams and talents of reaching the higher rungs of the societal ladder but have been denied the chance because of economic or cultural problems.

- **Objectives:**

1. To serve the school dropouts, college dropouts, women and students from rural backgrounds.
2. To impart social, ethical, and moral education and to develop value based education.
3. To generate employment in order for socially and economically backward students to feel financially stable.
4. To educate women and socially backward students, to empower them and enable them to imbibe new technical employable skills.

- **The Practice:**

Hindustan Community College is a righteous venture that works for the benefit of uplifting those sections of society for whom education, especially college and higher education itself is a struggle to attain. We, however, with HCC have prepared to serve society by providing an opportunity for the socially and economically weaker sections of society including dropouts from schools and colleges and women as well. This inclusiveness definitely breaks away any apprehension the student may have about being a dropout and would only instill him or her with the strength and confidence to move ahead.

The courses offered in HCC under Tamil Nadu Open University are Vocational Diploma in Computer Hardware Servicing (VDHS), Vocational Diploma in Computer Applications (VDCA), Vocational Diploma in Beautician (VDIB), Vocational Diploma in Desktop Publishing (VDTP), Vocational Diploma in General Duty Assistant and Diploma in Fashion Designing and Garment Making. The courses are designed in such a manner that it prepares the students to face the competitive world with confidence and self esteem. The students are also able to gain financial independence and thereby also possess the talent and skills to provide not only for themselves but also for the family.

Not only does Hindustan College of Arts and Science have a social responsibility and commitment towards establishing a Community College but also works to continuously fund its growth and development. To improve the mind and body, sports events like volleyball, cricket, kabaddi, throwback, kho kho and carrom are conducted annually. Thus an overall environment of holistic education is fostered by the College for the upliftment of these students.

- **Obstacles faced:**

One of the foremost and common obstacle faced was the enhancing of confidence and boost up if morale in the minds of students. Due to the fact that students are mostly dropouts and from economically weaker backgrounds of society, they possess low self esteem. In order to tackle this issue, we resort to conducting sessions making them speak up and mingle with one another, thereby breaking barriers and encouraging them. Though initially, students struggle, they are not demotivated but encouraged through competitions and value based education.

- **Impact of the Practice:**

The Hindustan Community College has proven to be highly beneficial for the students as it has resulted in a lot of them getting employed in big firms and thereby earning financial freedom and stability. Some of the firms that have hired students from HCC include Toni and Guy parlor, Naturals Beauty Salon, Health and Glow Store, Smart Vision and Diabetes Clinic And Amazon. It is of worth to mention that students who possess the flair to teach also gain employment as faculty members in Hindustan College of Arts and Science which gives them the further opportunity to serve other students as well. Not only are students trained academically but also trained to face the world with a competitive spirit and outlook.

- **Resources Required:**

At present, Hindustan Community College offers six courses mostly based on computers, technology and fashion. Yet other courses focusing on several other fields like finances, management, photography, etc could be brought forth and much newer infrastructure supporting these courses should be enhanced.

Name & address of the Institution :

Hindustan College of Arts & Science

Padur, Kelambakkam(OMR),

Rajiv Gandhi Salai,

Chennai - 603 103.

hcaspadur@yahoo.co.in