

CRITERIA 7.2.1

Best Practice: 1

Title of the Programme: Go Green Campaign

Objectives of the Practice:

1. To establish a green campus environmental awareness campaign
2. To create awareness among students
3. To address issues such as pollution prevention, waste minimization and energy conservation
4. To impart comprehensive recycling and composting and green landscaping in the campus.

The Context:

The focus is to ensure the sustainability of sufficient water, materials and other resources for future generation. The college inculcates and appreciates the sensitivity, biodiversity and responsibility through herbal garden, water harvesting, biogas plant, solar panel and vermicompost pit. Environmental studies serves as a mandatory subject for all undergraduate students.

The Practice:

The Herbal Garden is maintained with the active involvement of the Enviro-club volunteers . It has various medicinal plants and encourages the students to pursue research. The garden has 10 rare and 30 common medicinal plants. The students are encouraged to know the medicinal plants and phytochemistry. The biogas plant is a source of renewable energy which is produced from the food waste from the canteen. Vermi composting plant was installed and has helped to train students to recycle organic waste in a productive way.

The college has solar lights as initiatives for energy conservation and use of renewable energy. Few solar panels have been installed inside the campus. Environmental studies are taught to the students to understand environmental policies and also to understand the ethical, cross-cultural and historical context of environmental issues and the links between human and natural systems. The campus was filled with many rare species of trees which are marked with bar codes. The college celebrates the birthdays of staff and students by planting saplings inside the campus.

Evidence of Success:

- Students and staff have started planting medicinal herbs in their homes.
- The biogas plant is used for cooking purposes as a replacement of charcoal and cook stoves.

- Vermicomposting has helped to train students to recycle organic waste in a productive way
- This practice has solved a problem of disposal of organic waste and the college is getting good quality compost for its own garden.
- Students used vermicompost to earn income, some of them are using it for own agricultural purpose.
- The Solar Panel provides power to the entire college and all the major electrical appliances are supported.
- Integration of Environmental studies into the curriculum has made students more enthusiastic and engaged in learning.
- Sapling plantation has beautified with 250 trees and shrubs making the campus more lush and green

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- There is a need for expenses for preparing the land suitable for planting and field visits
- The college has taken an imperative initiative towards maintaining a cleaner and eco friendly campus.
- The college has taken imperative initiative towards maintaining a cleaner and eco friendly campus
- It is essential to utilize the produced biogas in other areas too (apart from cooking) in order to make the consumables inexpensive in the campus
- To ensure maximum efficiency of the solar panels, the position on the roof has to be checked properly.
- Trees planted outside the campus are not monitored properly

Best Practice 2

Title of the Programme : Service Learning Programme

Objectives:

1. To promote a value-based education to the school and orphanage children
2. To understand the society and develop consciousness to motivate them
3. To educate the student community and imbibe employability skills.
4. To promote learning with individuals and groups in their communities.
5. To impart knowledge to students through teaching leaning.

The Context:

Service Learning is pedagogy of integrating academically relevant service activities that address community needs into a course. It helps to cultivate a sense of social responsibility among the student community. This entails teaching beyond books and bringing it closer to context. Service learning caters moral values, standards, self belief and motivation for the benefit of students and faculty.

The Practice:

The college has effectively initiated the service learning programmes in various fields. The Government Adi dravidar Higher secondary school in Thaiyur got benefited with quality teaching by the faculty of HCAS. They were taught mathematics, English, and computer science for the betterment of language skills and aptitude skills. The students were evaluated through assessment to ensure their learning. The students of the college taught orphanage children in and around Padur. The Punjab Destitute Home which is located in Kazhipattur got benefited. Around 40 students were taught grammar, communication skills and spoken English. The children from Kuzhipandhandalam village were taught some basic computer skills like MsWord and excel. The village people were educated through rural camps. The students visited Reddypallayam village and educated them the various government schemes and their benefits. Also they enacted street plays and fostered the importance of studies. They were educated about health and hygiene. Special classes were conducted after school.

Evidence of Success:

- Staff and students adapted new teaching methodology
- Increase in self-efficacy and a sense of confidence among students
- created a positive impact on students' academic learning and critical thinking
- Around 95% of students joined and finished the classes successfully
- children learned how to operate computers and learned basic computer skills
- The children gained creativity, critical thinking and reasoning skills
- The literacy rate has increased in schools and villages like Reddypallayam, Kazhipattu, Thaiyur, Kuzhipandhandalam
- The schools gave appreciation award to teachers and students.

Problems Encountered and resource required:

- It was very challenging for the faculty to reach the schools and teach students.
- Faculty is concerned about the time commitment involved in developing a service-learning course and student assessment.
- Lack of time to take up a service-learning project
- Cases like poor sanitation and cleanliness to be rectified.

- The college provided transport facilities for faculty to reach the school on time.
- The school helped the faculty to teach students in their existing school hours.