

Best Practices:

Best Practice – I :

Title of the practice

“Green Soldiers Scheme” for “Go Green – Go Clean”

Goals:

- To motivate other students and employee to go for green and clean campus
- To inculcate significance of energy conservation and clean environment.

The Context:

Energy conservation has been a top priority globally. Hence, keeping this goal in focus, institute has taken green initiatives. Department of Geography has launched project “Go Green – Go Clean” and set up Green Soldiers team which aimed at energy conservation and keeping watch within premises on excess use of paper, water, electricity and excess energy consumption; throwing miscellaneous and hazardous waste indoor and outdoor within campus. Spitting here and there in campus is strictly prohibited.

Keeping this in view to conserve energy and natural resources, and contribute in Nation’s energy conservation as well as making campus environment more healthy, eco-friendly, green and clean and pollution free (to access its benefits). The above practice has been adopted by the institution:-

The Practice:-

To maintain clean and green college campus and surroundings following measures are taken and monitored by green soldiers’ team

- Taking of various initiatives in environmental issues and activities, Nature club and eco clubs are set up.
- Adoption of polythene free zone, smoking free zone.
- Inculcation among students environmental awareness among students.
- Encouragement of students not to throw rubbish on floor or ground and appealed to use separate disposal bins for different wastes.
- Prohibition of bringing poly bags in college by staff and students.
- Motivation for responsible use of electricity and water and their conservation.
- Making campus eco-friendly through, collecting suggestions for sending proposals for green infrastructural changes and their forwarding.
- Replacing ordinary incandescent light bulbs to LED wherever possible.
- Monitoring and watch keeping by green soldiers team on putting off unnecessary lights, fans. Shutting down computers when not in used, turning off electric appliances, at day time unplugging after charging the laptops, mobiles etc.

- Taking mandatory initiatives to create, awareness about energy crisis, consumption of effects of carbon emission.
- Making display of posters and placards made by green soldiers on energy conservation, and clean environment in sensitive zones.
- Arranging guest talks on relevant topics to avoid misuse of energy and keeping environment healthy.
- Arranging small competitions on relevant issues among student.
- Motivation of students to bring bicycles to reduce carbon emission and reduce petrol use.
- Prohibition of burning wastes within campus to curb carbon emission.
- Luxuriant tree plantation drives.
- Encouragement of use of energy efficient appliances
- Annual Quality Assurance Report of VIDARBHA YOUTH WELFARE SOCIETY' AMRAVATI'S PROF. RAJABHAU DESHMUKH KALA MAHAVIDYALAYA
- Conscious use of paper through practicing printing of both sides of paper sheets to reduce excess burden of papers.
- Practicing online feedback and other tasks to reduce paper use.
- Practicing greeting of guests with saplings to spread awareness of environmental conservation and inspiration to grow plants.
- E-waste management practicing through diverse measures.
- Strict monitoring and prohibition of spitting on indoor walls, stair cases and campus grounds.

Evidence of success:

- The following outcome indicates the handsome success that the above practice has achieved for the Institution.
- Reduction of electric/water bills.
- Habitualisation of staff and students to put off electric
- appliances and lights and fans time to time.
- Enriched awareness and increment of consciousness
- students and staff about of energy conservation and green and clean environmental practices within and outside campus.
- Campus become lush green and clean and rubbish matter is off sight on ground and class rooms.
- No poly bags and products are sighted with staff and students.
- Responsible use of water and paper is being observed.
- Eco-friendly practices are spread and being followed as much as possible.
- Students no. increased regarding use of bicycles.
- Pan/tobacco chewing practice has been considerably reduced.
- Campus environment become completely smoke free.
- Clean walls, staircase and corridors are being observed.

Best practice - II

1. Title of the Practice: Reuse of Paper Stationary

2. Objectives of the Practice : The aim of this practice was to make the optimum use of the papers partially used by the students. It was also intended to sensitize the stakeholders towards the judicious use of paper as a part of adopting ecologically sustainable practices, especially on the campus of higher education. There are some corollary benefits of the practice including, litter free campus and a substantial drop towards the expenses of office printing/writing stationary. The practice also helped spread the legitimacy of the documents on and around the campus printed on partially used paper. It encouraged the students and the staff members to reuse the papers wherever they could do so.

3. The Context: Every academic year the students of Arts stream used hundreds of reams of papers to write their assignments and practical experiments records. Most of the record is written or printed on one side of the paper as mandated by the university. After the mandatory period of recordkeeping is over, these partially used papers go waste. In order to arrest this great waste of resources the institute decided to use these papers for printing and writing purposes. In order to make it a structured effort, the responsibility was given to the Department of Geography. The HoD of Geography worked as a coordinator for this practice. He collects the partially used stationary from all the departments and distributes it to the office and the departments.

4.The Practice: Higher education in India is still “paper centric” at least the assessment and the valuation practices are concerned. Every year in our college hundreds of reams of paper are used by the students and teachers. In many cases where the students are required to use one side of paper especially in their practical experiments books, the other side remained unused. Such books after the assessments were kept as record for three years. After that, these record books were either destroyed or sold. In a way it was a waste of both natural resources and money. Secondly being a centre for higher education Environmental Science it was our natural duty to show the world a way for adopting ecologically sustainable practices. On this backdrop it was decided to make reuse of any such partially used papers. For this department of Geography was chosen to coordinate this activity. The head, department of Geography devised a mechanism to collect, distribute and keep an account of the usage of “PK” as most of the users called it. “PK” being an acronym for “PathKore” “one side blank paper” in Marathi soon became the unofficial title of the practice. Now every year around 4 reams of PK are reused by the teachers and the administrative staff for various printing and writing purposes. This way we save around Rs. 1000 on the purchase of the papers. Moreover we think that in our small way we are making our contribution in reducing the consumption of natural resources. In addition to that we are being able to spread this message of environmentally sustainable practice among the students, the staff and the other stakeholders. Lastly we hope that other institutes of higher education should also adopt this innovative practice and help reduce our carbon footprint.

5. Evidence of Success: The college has been using “PK” for last 04 years. A systematic auditing has been done for last three years. Due to the use of this practice the college saves about 4 reams (more than 2000 pages) costing about 1000/ every year.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Since the whole point of the practice was to make optimum use of available resources, we did not encounter any problems on this count. However in the initial years, the challenge faced was to overcome the reluctance of the staff in making the reuse of the papers. Many of the staff members felt uncomfortable while printing some documents on used papers. As the office and IQAC started using the PK for printing and writing purposes, the initial reluctance was finally removed.