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Best Practice -I

Title of the Practice: Towards a Green and Sustainable Campus

Objectives of the Practice

The rapid urbanization and economic development at local, regional and global level has led to several environmental and ecological crises. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt the system of Green Campus for the institute which will lead to sustainable development. Darjeeling Govt. College is deeply concerned and strongly believes that there is an urgent need to address these fundamental problems and reverse the trends. For creating and sustaining an eco- friendly campus the College with the assistance of NSS and NCC Unit focus on the following major tenets and commandments of Sustainability

- * Water Conservation
- * Save Energy
- *Reduce Waste
- *Recycle
- * avoid use of Plastics
- *Reduce and Reuse Paper
- *Protect flora and fauna
- * Think and act Sustainable

The Context

Environmental issues and challenges have received major attention from all section and field in recent times. The rapid depletion and degradation of environment due to urbanization, industrial development and sustaining over population has led to excessive exploitation of environment which has resulted in adverse effect on ecology, health, sustainability and posterity. Environment and sustainability issues sensitization are imperative. Educational institutions



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nurturing young minds provide an opportunity to create awareness and take self responsibility to conserve and protect it. Clean, Green, Environmental friendly and sustainable practices focus on reducing, reusing and recycling resources, conserving water and energy, reduction in carbon emission, protecting bio-diversity and promoting economical and sustainable practices.

The Practice

Main Campus has a total area of 87,120 sq. feet with 38,976 sq. feet built-up area. Thus, the college has a green area of 55% which consists of different variety of trees, plants and gardens with local medicinal plants and herbs. It is surrounded by protected forest of PNZP from three sides and thus has thick green both inside and in the vicinity. Every year various tree plantation programs are being organized at college campus and surrounding villages. This program helps in encouraging eco-friendly environment which provides pure oxygen within the institute and awareness among villagers. The college takes initiative and promotes Clean Green, Environmental friendly and sustainable practices some of which are mentioned below-

* Water Conservation- Being situated in a hilly terrain at an elevation of 2000 m water is very precious in Darjeeling. Thus, the optimal use of it without any wastage is of utmost importance. College strives to minimize its dependence on piped water supply from Darjeeling Municipality through year-round awareness campaigns among its stakeholders, reducing its water usage, reducing water wastages through leakages and maximum use of rain water through rain water harvesting. The college has a rainwater-harvesting system that includes water tanks which can store around 40,000 liters of harvested rain water which cater to the needs of around 3000 students and staffs of the college. The water collected from the roof of the college building is stored in these tanks and are supplied to laboratories, washrooms/ Toilets, Canteen and even to water plants and flowers.

*Plantation programs-The College every year organizes various Plantation programs in the College Campus. The Plantation Program plants various indigenous species of ornamental, flowering, medicinal, wild Orchids, climbers and fruits trees. The NSS and NCC Unit of the college organizes and participates in various plantation drives outside the college in collaboration with local organizations and community.

*Save Energy- Energy use is clearly an important aspect of campus sustainability. Energy source utilized by the campus is electricity only. The college promotes energy conservation and has taken initiative to minimize energy consumption with the use of LED lightening bulbs, tubes etc and maximum use of natural light in each classroom and laboratories making it energy efficient and usage of low energy consumption appliances. Computers are set to automatic power saving mode when not in use. Solar water heaters are installed in hostel buildings as to promote renewable energy.



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*Wall of the classrooms are painted white or light color to facilitate the maximum utilization of natural light

*Utilization of Organic waste- The College has created a compost pit for generating leaf compost/manure to be utilized for maintaining the Gardens and greenery around the college. The compost pit is filled by collecting the fallen and decaying leaves during regular cleaning drive. During major campus cleaning programs the outgrown/ overgrown vegetation especially the bushes are pruned and deposited in the compost pit. Hence, the campus vegetation remains clean.

*The Organic waste from College Canteen is collected for making vermicompost.

*The college adopts proper methods for segregation and management of different types of wastes generated within the campus.

* The college is declared as a plastic free zone, the use of plastic bags is discouraged within the campus. The college has been maintained as a No-smoking Zone, Tobacco-free Zone, and Plastic-free Zone.

*Safe Recycling and disposal of E-waste - E-waste generated in the campus is very less in quantity. Awareness programmes regarding E-waste Management are conducted regularly. The E-waste and defective item from computer laboratory are stored properly. Hulladek, Kolkata, a CPCB certified vendors collect E-waste from the campus and its stakeholders bi-annually and send it to Kolkata for safe recycling and disposal of E-waste.

* Various awareness programs/ workshops are organized regularly by the NSS and NCC Unit and different Departments to make the students aware regarding environmental issues.

* Minimizing use of paper for printing and printing both the sides.

*Minimum use of vehicles – the Staffs and Students prefer walking to College whose residences are of walk-able distance.

Evidence of Success

The success of Environmental friendly, Green and sustainable practices and initiative of the college is palpable. The vicinity of the campus is clean and tidy. The wastes are discarded in appropriate bins. Students have inculcated the habit of keeping the classroom and campus clean. Staffs and Students do not use plastic. Rain water harvesting have reduced its dependence on



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piped water supply from Municipality and to some extent reduced the water problem. Plantation programs have made the surrounding green. Compost manure is utilized for maintaining the Gardens and greenery around the college. Initiative to use LED lightening bulbs, tubes etc and maximum use of natural light in each classroom and laboratories and usage of low energy consumption appliances have reduced the energy consumption which is economical and sustainable. The student enthusiastically participates in Plantations, cleaning and Environment, awareness drives organized by the college.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- * funding is required to invest on Renewable source of energy especially on solar energy
- * The capacity of rain water harvesting tanks should be increased or constructed so that maximum rain water is tapped.
- * Waste recycling machines / systems have to be installed.

Notes

The success of Environmental friendly, Green and sustainable practices and initiative taken by the college can be adopted or implemented in educational institutions. This initiative of action and awareness shall inculcated environmental friendly habits and values to its stakeholders.

Best Practice - II

Title of the Practice: Gender Empowerment, Sensitization and Promotion of Gender Equity

Objectives of the Practice

Darjeeling Government College is a co-educational institution established in 1948. Throughout the last 75 years of its journey it has been a center for disseminating values of gender equality and equity. It has not only been only a center of academic pursuit but has taken regular initiative regarding gender sensitization and catalyzing the sensitivity of people at large towards the needs of every gender. The



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objective is not only the equality and empowerment of male and female but transgender also. The college strives to provide a harmonious and fertile environment for all students to excel physically, mentally, intellectually and emotionally upholding ethics and values. It is necessary to change their perspective about gender and create safe and secure environment where all genders coexist harmoniously. It aims at creating a gender discrimination free society.

The Context

Gender prejudices are profoundly entrenched in Indian society. Gender sensitization is imperative to understand the sensitive needs of a particular gender. It aims at favorable change in attitude and behavior towards gender equality and equity. Sustainable development relies on termination of discrimination on the basis of gender and providing equal opportunities for education and employment. Education institutions play a pivotal role for progressive changes in society. To achieve the desired changes in people and society, we have to develop a well-thought-out strategy for gender awareness that takes into account the socio-cultural, economic, and psychological environment. Women constitute more than 50% of the total student strength of the college. The institution caters the need of the socially and economically backward students and majority of them come especially from the Tea Gardens and rural areas who are mostly First Generation Learners where disadvantageous conditions of economic backwardness, illiteracy, ill-health and superstition take hold of their lives. Thus they are doubly affected by the backwardness and discrimination. Hence, the college has a mission to take up the cause for promotion of gender equality and equity. This can be achieved by conducting various sensitization campaigns, workshops, awareness programs, lectures and seminars etc. The institute sensitizes the students about gender equality and equity, gender roles, gender discrimination, good touch - bad touch, domestic violence, women illiteracy, child labour, preference for male child, menstrual and general hygiene etc.

The Practice

Apart from academic pursuit the institute takes regular initiatives and outmost care in ensuring Gender equality and equity among students. The college conducts regularly every year Orientation programs for new Student to explain the values, vision and mission of the institution. Among the values and mission of the institution, gender equality and equity are given substantial importance. This practice is implemented by training the students and encouraging them to participate in various gender related



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activities and programs. The college conducts various sensitization campaigns, workshops, awareness programs, lectures, seminars counseling and outreach activities through NSS, NCC, Gender Sensitization Committee, Anti- Sexual Harassment Cell Committee and the Internal Complaints Committee to create gender awareness and instill a responsibility among students. The college has undertaken the following initiatives in this regard:-

- Every year Orientation program for new students are held to explain the values of gender equality and equity.
- The college has an active Gender Sensitization Cell Committee , Anti- Sexual Harassment Cell and Internal complaints committee
- Female students are encouraged and provided ample opportunity to participate in extracurricular and extensions programs.
- The college has installed Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Incinerator and workshops are organized regarding Handling of Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Incinerator.
- CCTV surveillance system has been installed in the common spaces of the college. The College ensures that all students are protected and treated fairly.
- Gender sensitization awareness programs and Seminars are held regularly every year. The institute conducts regular awareness programs, competitions, workshops, and lectures, etc. which cover various gender-sensitive issues like gender equity, sexual harassment, and the importance of education for female child, maintain personal hygiene, save girl child, etc., and also provide awareness about various legal rights of men and women
- An awareness and interactive programme are regularly organized by Youth against trafficking (YAT) club of Darjeeling Government College unit. Resource persons from NGOs are invited to the deliver talks on trends on human trafficking
- The college every year celebrates International Women's day. Gender awareness program are conducted on this occasion. The college also observes the Mother's Day, World Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day
- The NSS and NCC Unit of the college regularly organizes awareness program on menstrual hygiene, good touch and bad touch, Human trafficking, Gender Discrimination, domestic Violence etc, within the campus and outside the campus in nearby local schools and locality.
- Deployment of Guards in College and College Girls Hostel
- CCTV surveillance system in the College as well as in the hostel



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- Installation of Student complaints box separately for Boys and Girls.
- The Members of Gender Sensitization Cell Committee provide counseling to students who request for it. It also addresses different issues such as psychological well-being of the students and creating awareness of gender sensitization.
- The colleges also have a common room for female Students, Functioning Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Girls toilets/washrooms.

Evidence of Success

- The college has not witnessed any issues or incidents regarding Gender prejudices or Gender Discrimination. Both Boys and Girls actively participate in academic as well as extracurricular activities of the college. The success of these Gender programs is evident from large number of Girls enrolment in NSS, NCC, Clubs and overwhelming participation in extracurricular activities. Through the effective implementation of Gender Sensitization the Institution is able to create a woman-friendly atmosphere on campus and women are participating in all the activities of the college.
- Gender sensitization programs brought the change in the behavior of the students and instilled in them an understanding of the thoughts and views of the other gender.
- Students of the college excel in all the areas of social and professional life
- The confidence in the girls students is palpable with overwhelming participation in all activities of the college.
- The faculty is motivated to participate and present women-related articles in various seminars.
- The objective of these practices is to educate the young students about gender issues for a better society. The outcome of these programs is not just limited to the campus and the students but it has encouraged these students to spread these gender values to their family, locality and Society, on returning home. Therefore these students are the real agents of change. Thus, the consequences of these programs are far reaching.



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Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Paucity of funds for organizing programs is always a concern.
- Regular Class work, Practical, and other Academic related works pose time constraints for conducting programs.
- The institution caters to the need of the students especially from the Tea Gardens and rural areas they have to return home immediately after their classes hence time for extracurricular activities are limited.
- Regional backwardness, orthodox family backgrounds and Cultural and Social views on gender roles prevents some female students from rural areas from actively participating in gender awareness programs.

Notes (Optional)

Education Institutions plays a pivotal role for any progressive changes in society. The programs and teachings in the college are not just limited to the campus and the students but it penetrates to their family, locality and Society, on returning home. Therefore, these students are the real agents of change. Thus, the consequences of these programs are far reaching. Gender sensitization, Gender equity and equality in society can be achieved in society if all educational institutes work towards these causes.

Best Practice -III

Title of the Practice: Fostering Academic Research activities and Culture among the Teaching Faculty

Objectives of the Practice



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In any institution of repute, teachers must be encouraged to make a proper balance between teaching and research activities. The college has the responsibility to encourage the teachers, both young and experienced, to pursue their research interests in all earnestness. The responsibility of the college lies in creating an ambience conducive to research work: providing necessary library and laboratory facilities, encouraging the teachers to apply for research projects from different funding agencies, to help publish articles in reputed national/international journals and arrange seminars and conferences to make associations with the research communities thereby widening the scope of research work and collaboration.

The Context

But unfortunately there is no Modern library with appropriate facilities in the city, nor are there any reputed research centers or laboratories. The college has, however, continued to encourage teachers to pursue their research activities by providing research infrastructure as far as practicable. The effort of the college has always been that teachers must not feel disinterested to pursue their research activities for any reason whatsoever.

The Practice

- Encouraging the teachers to apply for different research projects, both Major and Minor, from reputed national funding agencies.
- Encouraging the teachers to publish papers/articles/chapters in reputed national/international journals and books published from reputed publication houses.
- Upgrading the laboratories of the science departments by utilizing the State Government and UGC Grant.
- The college has taken subscription of e- Library N-list, INFLIBNET, which will facilitates the faculty to have access to quality research Journals, books and articles.
- To encourage research the college has also provided Internet connection in every Department.
- The College encourages inter department assistance of infrastructure. The faculties are encouraged to have regular discussions, suggestions or mutual use of their expertise on their ongoing research.
- The Institute encourages and supports symposium or informal congress to foster new ideas and discussion which is healthy for academic research.
- The teachers in the PG Departments guide the dissertation papers of the PG students. It not only hones the research faculty of the young students but also prepares the teachers as research guides.

Evidence of Success



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The positive attitude of the college towards research has led to success:

*Many teachers are engaged in research activities in frontier areas of their subjects and some in interdisciplinary areas too. They are publishing their findings in reputed national/international journals.

*Some of them have published books from reputed publication houses and some are working on it.

**The details of publications are provided in section / Criterion 3.3 of this year's AQAR*

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

In many of the departments many teaching posts are lying vacant. Teachers of those departments could not devote enough time on research activities with complete earnestness as they have to manage the regular teaching beyond their assignment. With the new recruitment of fresh batch of teachers by the government this problem may likely to be reduced in near future.

Another problem identified is that being a Government College, the college in itself cannot grant study leave to the teachers to pursue their research works. All leaves are to be sanctioned from the Higher Education Department, Government of West Bengal. The Principal can only forward the application of leaves of the researchers, sanction of leaves will follow from government and at times, it takes a long time. The college has upgraded to some extent the library and laboratories of different science departments with the grants sanctioned by the state government and UGC, but that is not enough for good experimental research. Modern experimental research requires costly equipments those are beyond the purchase capacity of the college. However, teachers are going with theoretical research and some experimental research too. If college can arrange research fund from industry or other funding agencies and create a separate research pool it has the potential to leap up at par with any of the better institutes of our country.



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