



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
DARJEELING GOVERNMENT COLLEGE
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Best Practice -I

Title of the Practice: Towards 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 the 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.




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Environment and sustainability issues sensitization are imperative. Educational institutions 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.

* **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




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mode when not in use. Solar water heaters are installed in hostel buildings as to promote renewable energy.

* 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.

* Various awareness programs/ workshops are organized regularly by the NSS and NCC Unit 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 values to its stakeholders.

Best Practice -II

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

Objectives of the Practice

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




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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 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

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

*Many teachers are engaged in research activities in frontier areas of their subjects and in some 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.

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




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Problems Encountered and Resources Required

In most 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 on-going 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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