

Govt College for Girls, Patiala

Institutional Best Practices

Session 2019-2020

Best Practice I

Title of the Practice: Green Campus Initiatives

1. Objectives of the Practice:

Following objectives are identified in respect of the practice of Green Campus Initiative:

1. To promote awareness of environmental issues among the students, staff and society.
2. To achieve better sustainability on the campus and improve the quality of life of all the stakeholders.
3. To plant rare and medicinal/herbal plants on the college campus
4. To implement 3 'R' (Reduce/Reuse/Recycle) policy on the campus.
5. To study and maintain Flora and Fauna on the college campus.
6. To support and implement "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" for healthy India
7. To organize seminars/workshops etc. on environment-related issues.

2. The Context:

A clean environment is a basic necessity of human beings for health and efficiency. The main aim of them practice is to impart knowledge, create awareness and develop an attitude of concern and to nurture necessary skills to handle the environmental issues and challenges. The green landscaping of college is a necessary feature for shaping and sustaining an eco-friendly campus.

3. The Practice:

1. The college has developed beautiful campus with Lawns, Botanical Garden.

2. The college has preserved Flora and Fauna on the campus.
3. The college has constituted an environmental society to look into issues concerning the environment. The society holds regular meetings to discuss the challenges faced and the measures taken.
4. The college undertakes plantation drives every year in the monsoon, where the students take active part by planting saplings. Besides planting saplings the society has taken steps to protect the existing green cover from termite.
5. The N.S.S. units also play its part in spreading environmental awareness among the students. Environmental activities are an integral part of its program.
6. Environment as a subject is part of the college curriculum. In addition to that lectures are delivered and group discussions are undertaken to discourage the use of polythene and non-biodegradable materials.
7. The biodegradable waste of the college is collected in compost pits dug on the campus. The organic manure prepared in these pits is used as fertilizer for all the plants on the campus. The college also has a vermi-composting pit.
8. The college building is designed in a manner that it is well ventilated and lighted naturally, so that there is minimal usage of artificial lighting and fans in the classrooms.
9. There is very little usage of air conditioners and heaters.

4. Evidence of the Success:

This best practice has proven to be successful through the following activities:

1. Through periodical tree plantations, Flora and Fauna on the campus has enriched, which has turned into eco-friendly campus.
2. Regular campaigns for the plastic-free campus has made the campus plastic free.
3. Through workshops/ seminars/ NSS activities, students are made aware of environmental issues.
4. A mandatory course on Environmental awareness at undergraduate level is made compulsory by the university.

5. Problems Encountered:

While carrying out this practice, following problem are encountered by the college.

1. Green Campus initiatives are challenging so it requires determination and a long-term assurance from all the stakeholders.

2. Green Campus initiative is rather expensive practice. It needs an expert advice and investment of resources.
3. Lot of manpower is required to maintain them.
4. Less awareness of students and community towards environmental issues is a big hurdle in the implementation of green initiatives.

Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice: Mentor-Mentee System(Tutorial Group System)
2. Objectives of the Practice:

Mentor Mentee System goal is to establish a trusted relationship between the Mentor and the Mentee. It is a formative period where the knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired during a program of education are applied in practice. It is therefore a period when a mentee is in need of guidance and support in order to develop confidence and competence. Mentors act as guide by sharing their experiences of challenges and assertions required to progress through personal and professional life to reduce anxiety or concerns and act as role models for students. The mentor acts as a 'Single Point of Contact' for students on all matters. They fulfill their function through formal and informal interaction with their student mentees at various opportunities.

3. The context

This activity has been started for the need for better communication between students and teachers in a more informal and open manner. Of course, there is sufficient communication between students and Teachers in and out of the classrooms. It is noticed that very often such occasions are used by students and teachers to deal with matters related to the course of study. Tutorial groups have been a regular part of our college. Students in each class are divided into groups of fifty and each group is put under the guidance of a teacher. The tutorial groups meet for one period every week and discuss various matters related to the students and the college. The teacher in charge of a particular group is also considered as the mentor of the students coming under his supervision. Here the teachers do get a chance to understand what are the problems and needs of the students. As the college has large number of students in Humanities classes, so it was not possible for the teachers to interact with them individually. In this context, it was felt that there should be some forum in the college where all students and teachers of college can meet and share their problems and needs in an open way so that appropriate actions can be taken to solve the problems.

4. The Practice:

This is an occasion when students are supposed to give their feedback on the various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities undertaken by the college. Students can also give feedback regarding the services they get from the college office and the library. If the students need any additional infrastructural facilities inside the class or elsewhere in the college that also can be discussed in this forum. Always students are given prior intimation through college notice before convening a meeting so that everybody can be present on the occasion. Usually it is organized on a working day during the college hours. Duration of a meeting is one period of 45 minutes. In the beginning of the open forum the Tutor explains the purpose of the meeting and afterwards the students are given time to speak out openly. Attendance is marked on the register by the teacher. The Tutor signs on the College ID cards of the students to ensure that all the students are carrying them and properly maintained by them. After the tutorial period if any issues are raised by the students they are brought into the notice of the Principal.

5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

Mentoring has helped the students to tackle smoothly their challenges and difficulties in day-to-day life. Mentoring has helped the mentor to know and relate with the students. These are some evidence of success:

- Improvement in mentees discipline, interaction, and communication skills.
- Improvement in students' attendance.
- Establishment of a vibrant relationship between teachers and students, which has provided a congenial atmosphere in the classroom as well as on the campus.
- Establishing a trusted relationship between teachers and parents.

6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

The diversity in students' background and upbringing i.e. lack in the art of effective articulation, introversion, indifferent attitude, etc. In some circumstances, introverted student might not be able to express themselves clearly. For informal interaction, the mentor has to put in extra efforts for same. The entire mentoring approach is built on personal interactions with the student and parents.