Best Practices

Best Practice: I

1. Title of the Practice: Sobujer Majhe (Green Campus Initiative)

The molecules of life are organized in a definite pattern to form cells, tissues, organs, system, and organism. An interaction of different organisms and with the surrounding environment forms populations, community and ecosystem successively and all form a biosphere in the planet. In order to maintain a balance and integrity between each of these components, our college has taken initiatives for maintaining a healthy ecosystem necessary for sustainable development of the society and environment.

2. Objective:

The institution is incessantly working to conserve the natural environment, inculcate the idea of sustainable environment and train the youth in smart management of the renewable and nonrenewable resources for a clean and green environment.

3. The Context

Situated on a national highway, thousands of automobiles pass the college gate every hour, leaving behind a stream of carbon dioxide rich air. The trees and herbs of the college campus not only counteract pollution, but also supply oxygen to the college community and its surroundings. The practice is to maintain the existing greenery and help flourish the biodiversity of the college which serves as an oasis amidst polluted environment.

4. The Practice

- Restriction on the number of vehicles entering the campus to combat air and noise pollution

- Water Conservation - Rain water harvesting for use in gardening and in the toilets.

- Eco Club Activities

    o   Awareness campaign

    o   Plantation program

    o   Organizing seminars

- o Combating malaria and dengue by testing water samples and searching for mosquito larva

- ● Waste recycling and management -

  - o Maintenance of a compost peat

  - o Usage of empty plastic bottles as planters for sapling plantation

  - o E-waste disposal through electronic waste recycling company Hulladek.

- ● Energy conservation

  - o Installation of two solar panels on the rooftop of New building and Annex building

  - o usage of LED lights

- ● Celebration of Environment day, "Aranyo Saptaha"

- ● Green Auditing:

  - o waste management

  - o water management

  - o energy management

  - o evaluation of carbon footprint.

- ● Documentation of Biological diversity in the college campus by the teachers and students of the Botany and Zoology Departments.

- ● Setting up of a medicinal plant garden by the Botany Dept. and butterfly garden by the Zoology Dept.

- ● A plantation drive comprising 50 plant saplings sponsored by the WWF

- ● Air quality monitoring by a display board set up by the State Pollution Control Board

- ● Installation of two Bio-Toilets

5. Evidence of success: There are more than one hundred species of trees and plants, 12 species of butterflies, 31 species of birds, and mammals like Indian Civette thriving within the college campus. New trees are planted in the campus

every year on the occasion of World Environment Day and Aranya Saptaha as a significant number of trees and solar panels have been destroyed by the cyclones Amphan and Yaas.

The State Biodiversity Board has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1, 20,000/- for the establishment of a new butterfly conservation area after the demolition of our old butterfly garden in Amphan during 2020.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Awareness about environmental conservation is a continuous process and needs a dedicated team of environmental soldiers, which is somewhat difficult to maintain under the CBCS system of higher education. There is also financial crunch to meet the need of the hour.

Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice: Flipped Classroom

Each department of the college organizes students' seminars every year to observe Teachers' Day on or around 5th September. Students are asked to prepare a presentation on a topic, mostly at popular level or related to their curriculum and deliver a lecture of 10-15 minutes duration. The best presenter is selected by each department and is awarded in the annual prize ceremony.

2. Objectives of the Practice

Although students' seminars are not a mandatory component of the undergraduate curriculum, it plays an important role in the training of the students to communicate with a large audience and also widens their knowledge in different thrust areas.

3. The Context

At the entry level, the students come from diverse socio-economic background trained in different subjects of science/humanities/commerce under various boards/councils of school education. As such, some students have good communication skills whereas others lack behind. In this context, students' seminar serves as a training platform to orient themselves to recent advancements in different fields and also shape their future career by enhancing their communication skills.

4. The Practice

Every year on the occasion of Teachers' day, all departments of the college arrange students' seminars. Students are informed to choose their topics for presentation well in advance. Normally 10 to 15 minutes duration is allotted for each student for their presentation. Sometimes the weaker students are guided by the teachers for their presentation. The discussion session at the end of each presentation is most interesting where there is an exchange of ideas among the teachers and the students. To encourage the students, the college awards prizes for the best presentation in the annual prize distribution ceremony.

5. Evidence of Success

There is a field project component in the curriculum of some subjects and students are encouraged to present the outcome of the field projects in various national and international level seminars organized by other colleges or universities. In the recent past some of them have also received awards for best presentations.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

There is a limitation of allocated slots for every student due to the fixed number of teaching days in the semester system. In some cases, departments select only a few students for presentations and in others, a group of students prepare a single topic to accommodate all of them within a specified duration.

All departments do not have a projector of their own and the only seminar room of the college is not sufficient enough to support the shortage of projectors of those departments. So, funds are required to procure more projectors so that students of every department can get equal opportunity to take part in this exclusive and rare practice.

Other Best Practices

Other Best Practices I

Title of the Practice: INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The college teachers, alumnae, and students have been working to provide educational support and health awareness in the Dumdum and adjacent areas. This includes providing study materials, organizing health camps with experienced doctors, and launching general health awareness campaigns. The NSS unit of the college also launched the 'Swach Bharat' campaign, which includes different

activities within the college campus and nearby localities. Alumnae of the college have also formed self-help groups to produce home-made items with expertise shared by college members. There has been a positive impact on the adjacent localities so far, but maintaining consistency and regularity of this work is challenging due to a lack of manpower and skilled personnel. To overcome this, more people can be involved in these works on a rotational basis.

Other Best Practice II

Title of the Practice: SNCW EXTRA CURRICULAR SCHEME (SNCWECS)

The SNCW EXTRA CURRICULAR SCHEME (SNCWECS) at Sarojini Naidu College for Women is an integral part of the college curriculum, with the goal of developing students' skills and abilities outside of the classroom. The program includes a wide range of activities such as sports, music, dance, drama, public speaking, creative writing, and more. The college encourages participation in these activities as they allow students to develop and display skills that are not accommodated by class work and to form social relationships with their peers. The program has been successful, with students winning prizes in various competitions, and a high number of students selected for campus interviews. The main problem encountered is managing the time table to ensure that all teachers can meet their classes and prevent any academic loss. Additionally, there can be challenges in getting students from conservative and non-supportive families to participate in the program. Resources required include human resources, professionals for training and counseling, funds for quality training and services, and dedicated spaces for different activities.

Other Best Practice III

Title of the Practice: Creation of Heritage Awareness in our Students

The title of the practice is "Creation of Heritage Awareness in our Students." The goal is for the students of Sarojini Naidu College for Women to learn about the rich heritage of DumDum, a historic area in which the college is located. The context of the project is that DumDum has many heritage buildings, including the residence of Robert Clive and the first colonial arms factory, and has been a home and

business spot for many Europeans throughout history. The objective of the project is for students to study the socio-economic and cultural transition of the Mal area of DumDum from the colonial period to the present day. The practice involves a project led by the department of history in which students will learn to handle archival data, understand the difference between primary and secondary sources, and be aware of the significance of studying local history. The project is conducted in collaboration with an NGO and was initiated with a research proposal and a sum of Rs. 20,000. However, the training program was interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, which made it difficult to continue the work as planned. The main problem encountered is scarcity of funds to continue the project and lack of resources to continue the training program.

Other Best Practice IV

Title of the Practice: Journey towards Women Empowerment

The title of the practice is "Journey towards Women Empowerment." The goal is to help students of Sarojini Naidu College for Women, who come from financially weaker backgrounds, to be able to face the challenges of the real world once they graduate. The context is that the college is located in a semi-urban area and many students face financial difficulties. To address this, the college has taken several steps to empower its students. The practice includes offering diploma and certificate courses in areas such as self-defense, computer training, physiotherapy, NCC training, sports and games, and drama workshops. These courses are intended to give students the skills and confidence they need to be successful in various careers, including security agencies, the police force, and the military. The college has evidence of success, with students participating in and winning competitions and being selected for events such as the Republic Day March Past. However, the college faces challenges such as limited time and financial resources, as well as difficulties in balancing the training classes with regular classes and internal examinations.

Other Best Practice V

Title of the Practice: Creating Social Awareness among the Students

In summary, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, a government-sponsored institution, has implemented a practice called "Creating Social Awareness among Students" with the goal of promoting the all-around development of students and raising consciousness about their role in society as agents of change. The practice includes observing birth anniversaries of national leaders, national and international days, and participating in programs such as COVID-19 awareness and environmental conservation. The college has seen increasing student participation and some have taken on leadership roles in spreading awareness. However, the college has encountered some challenges due to limited time for effective teaching and the shift to online learning due to the pandemic. The college also bears some financial commitment for these activities.

Other Best Practice VI

TITLE: Introduction of ICT-enabled tools for effective Teaching- Learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic period

This practice describes the efforts made by an institution to expand their use of ICT-enabled tools for teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes conducting webinars and orientation programs for students and teachers on online platforms, creating a YouTube channel for broadcasting educational materials, introducing a Learning Management System using G-Suite, and providing internet access to all areas of the college. The institution also conducted surveys and collected feedback from teachers and students to improve their curriculum. The objective is to enhance academic excellence and help teachers and students acclimatize to the use of ICT technologies during the pandemic.

Other Best Practice VII

TITLE: Implementation of outreach programmes and extension activities for community development

The objective of the outreach programs and extension activities at Sarojini Naidu College for Women is to develop the students into responsible and socially conscious individuals. These activities are planned and implemented through the National Service Scheme (NSS) and aim to improve the students' holistic personalities. The activities include functional literacy, tree plantation, health

education, disaster management, women empowerment, and celebration of national days. The program is unique as it combines education with participatory learning and experiential learning. The college has a successful track record of carrying out various extension activities in collaboration with industry, community, and non-government organizations. Examples include relief efforts for victims of the Cyclone Amphan, online yoga training, and celebration of Independence Day and Constitution Day, and awareness programs on World AIDS Day.