

Best Practice

Title of the practice:

Nature club – Youth for Environment (NCYE) -

Objectives of the practice:

1. Establishment of Nature club – Youth for Environment (NCYE) as an effective college-based environmental club that is linked with agencies / institutions dedicated for the conservation and preservation of natural resources required for sustainable development.
2. To preserve and conserve our natural resources through environmental increase in the awareness of the community. This may result in their active involvement on environmentally related issues.
3. To achieve sustainable development and protection of mother nature through different activities.

The Context:

Nature is beautiful and needs to be preserved. With this context, it is our collective responsibility to contribute to the nature. The college established Nature club for conducting various activities oriented towards environment preservation. These activities may include setting up a recycling system in the college campus, planting a small organic garden that will provide fresh vegetables and flowers club, give an opportunity to the students to work with various agencies / institutions. The students can also support local wildlife and reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere by planting trees, shrubs and flowers in the college premises.

The Practice:

As an attempt in this direction, member students under the guidance of teachers, have been monitoring biodiversity of the campus. There were also engaged with many environment conservative activities. The IQAC and the Department of Geography along with Nature Club have been working on various issues related wildlife and nature conservation.

The waste from the college was managed through solid waste management, liquid waste management and E waste management. From the view point of water conservation, the teachers and students are sensitized about saving water. Several activities like Tree plantation, Cleanliness drives, Save fuel etc. are taken up on regular basis by the NSS unit of the college. The Nature Club organized numerous activities that created awareness amongst

students about environment conservation. The NGO CARS (Center for animal rescue and study) developed app with name ARRM (App for rescue and road kill mapping). Students are using this app to count road kills of animals, monthly road kills, statistics collected through this app. The students collected primary database for initiating research work in wild life. Students were encouraged to do research projects on Wild Life and Environment Conservation.

Evidence of Success:

1. Cleanliness drives :

The college organized Cleanliness Drives in campus where students made sure that everything is kept clean and litter free, right from classes to college grounds. They were made responsible for keeping all the campus spotlessly clean. They were also be encouraged to participate in cleanliness drives in their localities.

2. Embedding environmental preservation in the curriculum. The environment preservation was taught to them. The field visits were organized to locate the water bodies like lakes and rivers in the nearby areas. These activities appraised the students about water scarcity. They were also asked to creatively think of different ways of water conservation such as rain water harvesting, building dams. They were involved in various activities leading to keep water bodies clean and so on.
3. Environment-friendly policies: Various environment-friendly policies were implemented such as energy conservation, plastic-free campus, green days etc.
4. Other activities such as Environment preservation posters, flex boards, environment-friendly selfie spot. This helped in making environment friendliness a part of their subconscious learning.
5. Organization of posters, drawings, quiz, poems, article competitions etc. was done by the college.

6. Adopt a plant programme:

An excellent practice of **Adopt a plant programme** was conducted by the college. In this programme, the teachers and the students were asked to adopt “one plant in college and one the home”, taking pledge to provide complete care to it by entire family. This has given excellent results.

7. Empathy for living creatures :

By keeping the track of road killing of animals, participating in animal census programmes, by providing care to the injured animals etc. the empathy for livings creatures was developed in the students.

8. The Data of road kill rescue of animals through ARRM was kept.
9. **Walk to environment:** The Nature Walks were organized in nearby Saatpuda Hills for making students well aware about the nature.
10. Various activities such as Environment Day, World Wild Life Week, National Energy Conservation Day, Tiger Day etc. were celebrated in the college.
11. Nature Club in collaboration with NSS Unit of the college has organized several activities under “Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan.

Problems encountered and resources required:

1. The students were unaware about different environment conservation activities.
2. The activities were physically vigorous. So it was difficult for the students, especially girl students, to take active part in some of the activities.
3. It required guidance from persons specialized in environment conservation activities.
4. It was difficult to make arrangements required for conducting these activities and manage the schedule of these activities.
5. More financial resources and equipments were required for organizing and conducting these activities.
6. Availability high-end technology and instruments was required.