

**2018-19**  
**Best Practices 1**

**Practice I: Eco-friendly Campus Initiative**

**1. Title of the Practice**

Eco-friendly campus Initiative

**2. Goal of the Practice**

To ensure that our campus becomes a sustaining and eco-friendly campus.

**3. The Context that required the initiation of the Practice**

The Eco-drive was launched with the unique aim of promoting a new campus culture that envisions the dream and ideal of a sustainable environment. The college and its various stakeholders wish to preserve the Flora of the campus and to adopt measures that will endorse our vision for a viable and constructive approach. This initiative will also focus on the conservation of Sasthamcotta lake and feasibility of adopting alternate energy sources for meeting the increasing demand for clean energy. Though we have already embarked on the journey towards an eco-friendly campus, this initiative strives to take us further to traverse uncharted territory.

**4. Objectives of the Practice**

The main objectives of the Eco-drive initiative are:

- 1) To create awareness in the students, and thereby the future generation, about the importance of the unique and diverse flora within the campus.
- 2) To maintain and ameliorate the precarious ecological balance of the locality that has been considerably depleted by human interference especially Sasthamcotta lake.
- 3) To create a sustainable environment within the campus.

## **5. The Practice**

The Eco-friendly initiative has been launched for the entire campus and its workings are monitored and codified by the Principal and the IQAC. The implementation of the various objectives and proposals are carried out by the members of the Biodiversity Club, Bhoomithra Sena club and the Environmental Club.

The Biodiversity Club members have planted rare plant saplings in the campus and students are encouraged to visit and plant seeds and saplings in their allotted area. By encouraging the students to take an active interest, the initiative hopes to instill a sense of community. The students who learn the value of preserving our ecology will in turn propagate such ideals into the society, thus taking our message out into the larger world.

The Bhoomithra Sena Club seeks to amalgamate the values of ecological preservation with viable models of resource management. The students are given seminars on conservation of nature and Biodiversity. The club promotes on-campus composting against the burning of bio wastes. The college has already installed a compost pit within the campus and then used as organic fertilizer for the various vegetable gardens maintained by the College.

## **5.Evidence of success**

A team of dedicated teachers and diligent students have been formed to protect and preserve the ecological treasure existing within the campus. The eco-friendly initiative has found a strong resonance in our Sasthamcotta locality and conservation of Ramsar site. We are proud to say that our staff and students are taking this model to their homes and surroundings to preserve homestead flora and fauna.

## **6. Problems encountered**

Our eco-friendly initiative is going strong due to the strong support extended by all our stakeholders and the only hurdle we have faced so far is the lack of adequately skilled labour and expense in the implementation of alternate energy sources.

**2018-19**

**PRACTICE II – “DEVAHASTHAM”**

**1. Title of the practice**

**Community Outreach in Sasthamcotta Grama Pan**

**2. Objectives of the practice**

- To expose our students to the issues and problems that many communities face, especially in our adopted village in order to embolden their hearts and work with zeal and compassion to alleviate the sufferings of the needy.
- To organize fundraisers and identify potential sponsors on a year-to-year basis depending on immediate needs.

**3. The context that required the initiation of the practice**

Our college inculcates social value and responsibilities to the faculty members and students by imparting extension activities in the neighborhood for holistic development of the society. Every year, the institution identifies a particular region based on indices such as health, education, income, occupation and standard of living. Then the institution renders need based services using the human, material and social resources at its disposal. Students are engaged in the extension activity which comes under the curriculum. Apart from them, National Service Scheme and National Cadet Corp also serve the society through One- day and Special Camps. In addition, outreach programs and invited lectures are also given to the community.

**4. The Practice**

The College is committed to moulding a generation who would utilize their skills for the betterment of society. With this aim in view, extension services are made available to nearby schools, villages and communities. It is mandatory for a student to participate in any one of the following extension activities prescribed by the University of Kerala for not less than 40 hours in the third and fourth semesters.

The students and faculty voluntarily offer their time and other resources to address immediate issues. This was evident during the **2018 floods** when our institution served as a

**Flood Relief Camp** with the help of staff and students. The victims were given food, clothes, medicine, books, study materials and various needy relief materials in the camp. The institution also served as one of the collection centres of the public. The teaching faculties and administrative staff donated their one month salary to the Chief Minister's Relief and Distress Fund. The management, staff and students also donated money and relief materials for the flood victims to the various collection centres.

The Rapid Impact Assessment of flood on Biodiversity is conducted as a collaborative effort of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) and Kerala State Biodiversity (KSBB) with the technical inputs from a wide range of research institutes and stake holders. The objective of the process was to undertake a rapid assessment of the damages to ecosystem and Biodiversity after the floods and to lay the foundation for a recovery and ecosystem based reconstruction process at local level. The biodiversity club coordinator has participated as Field Expert in the "Rapid Assessment Survey on Impact of Flood on Biodiversity- Community Perspective" conducted by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Government of Kerala from October 2018- November 2018.

A Joint team of subject experts (Dhanya S.R , Biodiversity Club Convener, Department of Botany and Dr Manju M, Department of Zoology ) and 5 Biodiversity club members ( Rahul.S , Adarsh.M, Jegath.S , Arun.P and Sonu.S ) with representation from KSBB was constituted to conduct a rapid impact assessment of floods in Munroe Islands. The team visited the affected areas and data was collected in a prescribed format using Open Data Kit software. Our team visited the affected areas in Munroe Islands to understand the extent and the nature of damage and record the findings.

This year the college identified the Sasthamcotta Panchayat (Town ward) to organize activities such as clean up drives, green initiatives in the form of sapling distribution, waste management etc. As the area is deficient in potable water, the college organized a drinking water analysis campaign. The students also have taken classes on topics of general interest to the students of nearby schools.

NSS provides an excellent opportunity to the students who desire to serve the community and to develop interpersonal relationships and skills. Engaging in social activity to bridge the gap between the fortunate and the less fortunate through empowerment is the main

focus of NSS activity. The activities of the NSS extend to organizing regular blood donation drives, free medical and eye camps for the members of the institution and local community, conducting tree planting campaigns as well as regularly participating in cleaning drives under the initiatives of the institution.

Considering the inherent aptitudes and inclinations of NSS volunteers they are given the opportunity to work in close collaboration with some voluntary and statutory welfare agencies such as Community Centres, Residential Institutions for children/women, the old age homes and Institutions for physically handicapped and disabled. This helps the NSS volunteers in understanding the problems of a vulnerable section of the society.

## **5.Evidence of success**

Through extension and outreach programs, we sensitize the students to develop social values, widespread their responsibilities and knowledge in societal issues and problems by making them to involve with the community people. Through this, we establish a good relationship with the society. The college has tie up with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to serve the community. Students with profound interest attain the social values and responsibility. Above all, the students get hold of social justice, value, responsibility and sustainability.

Adequate finances are required to ensure the successful completion of all the activities undertaken by the institution. Moreover, parental support and participation is to be ensured.

## **7. Problems Encountered**

Finances are the main concern for which various fund-raising events are considered and sponsors (alumni, parents, present and retired staff and other organizations) are identified and approached according to the needs that arise. Time constraint due to semester system is a major problem. Adequate finances are required to ensure the successful completion of all the activities undertaken by the institution. Moreover, parental support and participation is to be ensured.

