

Best Practice 1

2019-2020

1. Title of the Practice:

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Ecosystem in Sasthamcotta

2. Objectives of the practice:

- a. To help the student community to understand the importance of sustainable agriculture.
- b. To develop self-sufficiency in students and stakeholders.
- c. To instill in the students a love for nature and environment.
- d. To procure organic food products.
- e. To maintain better health
- f. To maintain healthy soil

3. The Context:

The rising concern towards maintaining better health and leading sustainable lives have made people switch to consuming organic food items. The use of chemical-based fertilizers for crop production has started to take a toll on our health. It is not just the human body, these chemical-based products equally harm animals and water bodies, disturbing the overall ecosystem. Organic farming boosts the nutritional value of food and produce crops that consist of more important minerals, antioxidants, and vitamins. It also helps in maintaining healthy soil. K.S.M.D.B College is situated in a rural area which promotes the development of organic farming and sustainable agriculture. This helps in meeting the necessary requirements for food in the campus. Farming in sustainable ways without compromising the chance of future generations to meet their needs is the need of the hour. The college campus and surroundings have vast areas of arable land. The sustainable agricultural programme was started by the initiative of the college authorities and the Management.

4. The Practice:

Sustainable agriculture has been introduced in the college on a large scale. A large area of land is kept aside for cultivation. Plantain, tapioca and different vegetable are the main crops

selected for cultivation. The main attraction of the farm is pineapple cultivation. This is a golden opportunity to procure fertilizer free pineapple. The fertilizers used in the farm are obtained from the animal farm set up in the campus itself. The produce is sold to staff members, students or to the nearby shops and markets. The students here find a way to effectively manage their free time by engaging in socially useful work. Workers are appointed on the farm who does the necessary work on a regular basis. After the harvest the vegetables and fruits are displayed for selling. There is a huge demand for the produce which will be sold very fast. The buyers include staff, students and there will also be a chance given to the outsiders to come and buy products based on the availability.

5. Evidence of Success:

Organic farming has been continuing for the past three years and every year the practice has proven to be a success. The workers, students and staff are getting increasingly involved in the practice.

6. Problems Encountered

The college is situated in a rural and highly elevated area. The extreme heat requires watering the crops frequently which requires tiresome work on the part of the workers. The area is inhabited by monkeys and great care is needed in protection of the crops. Many time the crops are destroyed and this is really a big challenge faced by the college authorities.

Best Practice 2

2019-2020

1. Title of the Practice:

Women Empowerment through Education

2. Objectives of the Practice:

1. To serve as an interface between the society and the students to help initiate and work on socially meaningful engagements with gender equity.
2. To sensitize students to the various precarities faced by human beings on account of their genders and sexualities and to develop a sense of commitment to work to eradicate discrimination.
3. To empower the female students to harness their potential as change makers and spread awareness regarding the need for gender equity.
4. To understand sociological fragility and to work towards empowerment.
5. To act responsibly and strive to create a more compassionate planet.

3. The Context:

The institution has often been lauded for its commitment to the cause of women empowerment and for the dedication it has shown towards environment conservation and protection. Majority of students in the campus are females. They come from different social backgrounds. They have many abilities and skills starting from basic social skills to advanced technological skills. They also possess special skills which are not exhibited by male students like the ability to nurture and care, to be kind and sympathetic, culinary skills etc. These varied skills and abilities of female students have to be addressed by the institution. In order to channelize these capabilities, the college has to provide opportunities for these students.

4. The Practice

The College has been consistently organizing talks, performances, meetings, training exercises and sensitization sessions for the students to help them become responsible and to take their position in society. The institution also provides various facilities for benefit of female students. There are many clubs which enhances the different skills that are possessed exclusively by

women. The Women's Study Centre of the campus provides various orientation, counseling and skill training programmes every year to develop the talents of the students. The students actively participate in the programmes. Also the campus houses rare trees and medicinal plants and is one of the green campuses in the district. As the majority of students are female and the campus caters to nourishing their ability to care and nurture nature. They are members in different clubs like Bio-diversity Club, Bhoomithra Sena club etc and participate in different activities to sustain the concept of Green campus. There are ample opportunities for the female students to protect nature and to become the caretakers of the world. The college is also providing plenty of opportunities for the students empower themselves.

5. Evidence of Success:

Many female students who pass out from the college are placed in various job positions. Many of them have made their mark as teachers, lecturers, politicians, social workers, administrators and the like. The college has established the ED (Entrepreneur Development) Cell with assistance from the Government of Kerala towards encouraging our students to take up self-employment opportunities by offering skill development and training. Techniques of management are also imparted. In the variety of programmes conducted by the ED Cell and Women Cell like Food Fest, female students took the initiative in organizing the events and contribute to its success.

As response of these initiatives, our students have become vocal presences on matters on gender equity. They have been actively participating in seminars, self defense training sessions, yoga sessions to relieve mental tension and to ensure a happier and peaceful life. Women empowerment is the motto of Women's Cell and our college. Be it female students, teachers or the other female members of the staff community, they also contribute in these activities.. The college environment is conducive to promote self sufficiency of the workers who are associated with organic farming. The female casual labourers are earning a bit for their livelihood from their work in the pineapple plantations and garden.

All this has resulted in students taking up initiatives by their own towards providing an articulate response towards issues of local, regional, national and international significance.

6. Problems Encountered

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There is often a resistance towards progressive ideas but this obstacle is overcome through a participative and consensual approach with regard to gender-related matters. More external collaborations and interfaces are needed to truly widen the scope of this practice as it brings together two very important global goals – Women Empowerment and Education.

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