BESTPRACTICE 2

1. **Title of the Practice**

   DEVATHEERTHAM

   Conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake – Ramsar Site

2. **Objectives of the Practice**

   - To conserve Sasthamcotta Lake
   - To create awareness in the students, and thereby the future generation, about the importance of the unique features of freshwater ecosystem.
   - To maintain and ameliorate the precarious ecological balance of the locality that has been considerably depleted by human interference especially Sasthamcotta Lake.
   - Tocreate a sustainable environment in and around the campus.
   - To conserve the indigenous plant species around the lake and to keep a check on invasive alien species.

3. The Context

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 campus flora 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. Also, it is necessary to enhance the role of youth in sustainable environment. The College has already embarked on the journey towards an eco-friendly campus. These initiatives strive to take us further to traverse uncharted territory.The Practice

This conservation initiative has been launched for the stakeholders of Sasthamcotta Panchayat and also those who depend on the Lake as the major drinking water source. Its workings are monitored and codified by the Principal, the IQAC, the Department of Botany, NSS, NCC, Sasthamcotta GramaPanchayat, the Biodiversity Club, Bhoomithra Sena club and the Environmental Club. 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. A team of dedicated teachers and diligent students have been formed to protect and preserve the ecological treasure existing in and out of the campus. The eco-friendly initiative has found a strong resonance in our Sasthamcotta locality towards the conservation of Ramsar Site. We are proud to say that our staff and students have created a sensation for the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake.

The Department of Botany has ignited and raised the level of environmental consciousness among students and made them responsible towards the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake. The College plays an active role not only in promoting environmental consciousness among the stakeholder's community but also in promoting environmental conservation among society. Local field trips were conducted about the invasive species in Sasthamcotta Lake and the information was taken into consideration for the study. The study was carried out with the help of the local community who provided necessary information about the indigenous species around the area.

4. Evidence of Success

As response of these initiatives, our students have become vocal presences on matters of conservation of fresh water ecosystem- Sasthamcotta Lake. They have been actively participating in the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake and biodiversity. As per ardent demand of the current scenario and keeping importance of youth's role for sustainable environment, the college has ignited and raised the level of environment consciousness among students and made them responsible towards the conservation of Sasthamcotta Lake.

5. Problems Encountered

Overexploitation of resources and services of Sasthamcotta Lake is one of the problems. Adequate financial assistance is required for the maintenance and up keep of the various projects for conserving the Lake.