

BESTPRACTICE 2021-22

BEST PRACTICE :1

1. Title of the Practice: Organic Farming (Extension of Subhiksha)

2. Objectives of the Practice:

1. To make student community aware of the importance of sustainable agriculture.
2. To make students engage in useful productive work.
3. To restore ecosystems at the landscape level; soil health, water quality, biodiversity etc.
4. To maximize nutrition and public health.
5. To build connection between consumers and production.

3. The Context:

Agriculture plays a chief role in economy and is considered to be the backbone of economic system for developing countries. For decades, agriculture has been related with the production of vital food crops. Self sufficiency in agriculture has been prioritized in every Five Year Plans. Food production should increase to meet the demands of the growing population. It is to be ensured that our food system is ready to meet the challenges like shortage of food, adulteration and quality. Many people are switching their food habits and are depending more on organic food produce. It is our duty to promote a healthy way of living. In this context, K.S.M.D.B College promotes sustainable agriculture ecosystem.

Farming in sustainable ways without compromising the chance of future generations to meet their needs is of high importance. The college campus and surroundings have vast areas of arable land which is utilized for farming.

4. The Practice:

Subhiksha-2020 is an organic farming done by K.S.M.D.B College in consultation with the Agriculture department and Dairy Development Board at Sasthamcotta and executed with the help of Grama Panchayath, Sasthamcotta. In order to infuse environmental consciousness and to develop kinship with environment, an initiative named "Harithakeralam" is also started in the campus.

A nature centered approach is promoted through the programme. Each NSS volunteer has to plant a tree and nurture it while in the campus. A large area of land is kept aside for cultivation. This comprises of land inside the campus and also outside near the college. The main crop items includes Plantain, Tapioca and different vegetables. Pineapple cultivation has attracted buyers from the campus and also from outside. This is a golden opportunity to procure pesticide-free pineapple. The fertilizers used in the farm are obtained from the animal farm setup in the campus itself. The produce is sold to staff members, students or to the nearby shops and markets. Workers on the farm take great care in maintaining the plantation by regular weeding and cleaning. After the harvest the vegetables and fruits are displayed for selling. There is a huge

demand for the produce which are sold very fast. The buyers include staff, students and they can buy the produce at a reasonable rate. Based on the availability, outsiders also get an opportunity to buy products.

BEST PRACTICE 2

1. Title of the Practice

Sasthamcotta Lake Conservation

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.
- To create 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.