

BEST PRACTICE-2

Title of the practice: ENVIRONMENT CONSCIOUSNESS

The context that required initiation of the practice:

Growth and development are essential for any community to flourish and progress, however man has initiated a process which has gone beyond his control. One of the worst affected aspects of our life is the environment and its degradation. We, as global citizens of the world, need to focus and make sure that the environment is preserved so that our future generation can enjoy the benefits. At Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel, it has been our constant endeavour to practice as well as inculcate the values and practices that will help conserve and preserve our environment. Our institution being a teacher education college gives us the scope to change the attitude of our students who in the future as teachers will be able to multiply the message of environment consciousness.

Objectives of the practice:

- To understand the various aspects of the environment that are important for our survival
- To integrate the values of environment consciousness in our daily activities and teaching
- To promote environmental consciousness to the students and community

The Practice:

Environment consciousness can be developed through environmental re-engineering. Environmental re-engineering is a fundamental rethinking and redesigning of the process / actions leading to better performance and quality environment. It is mainly concerned with the environment and management of natural resources. The emphasis is on creating a pleasant and conducive environment around us by rethinking and reengineering our thoughts, actions and concern for our environment. In this context, our institution has been organizing a national-level seminar since the last six years based on the United Nations declared theme for environment. Through these seminars, we have inculcated certain practices like solid waste management, micro green cultivation, water resource management, energy conservation, appreciation of the environmental resources like forest, soil, water, alternate forms of energy. We also apply environment- friendly practices during any activity by avoiding use of plastics, use of mineral water bottles, tissue papers, excessive use of paper, etc. We use reusable materials, make use of eco-friendly materials like jute bags, chocolate bouquets and potted plants to offer our resource persons and as far as possible air conditioned auditoriums are avoided.

We have an active 'Nature Club' with activities like kitchen waste management, cultivation of micro greens, best out of waste, creating awareness in the community through street plays, rallies and talks.

A very interesting aspect of our best practice is "Micro Greens". Here, we germinate pulses, legumes, and cereals and when they reach about an inch in height they are eaten either raw as salad or as garnish on our food items. These micro greens are loaded with nutrients and help us get all the vitamins and minerals we need in our daily life. This is an alternate method of farming which gives our organic food items without the use of pesticides/insecticides.

Obstacles faced, if any, and strategies adopted to overcome them:

Even though these efforts are going on well now, we had our share of obstacles in the beginning. Since B.Ed and M.Ed., being a one-year course, it became more of teacher's responsibility to maintain the continuity. When we started with solid waste management efforts, we had dug up a pit in which we used to accumulate all the waste. But due to unseasonal rains, the entire pit got flooded and the efforts were a waste. After this we started doing the waste management in a basket which can be accommodated inside our classrooms. The idea of micro greens to be accepted by the students also took a little bit of time and effort but these activities are being appreciated by all.

Impact of the practice:

Environment consciousness which started as an effort is now a part of our daily life. The impact of our efforts can be seen in the attitude change that we see in our students and teachers. The participants of our seminar series take back the ideas and implement in their own colleges which motivates us to further strengthen our efforts. The positive feedback we get from our participants and our eminent guests also is a source of inspiration for all of us to continue our endeavour in environment preservation and conservation.

Resources required:

The resources required for these efforts are provided by the college. The yearly seminars series on Environment is an activity looked forward to by us as well as others who attend these. All the financial and infrastructural backups, if required, are provided by the institution. We believe that any activity leads to success with 100% attitude and actions.

Contact person for further details:

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