Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya
বিবেকানন্দ মহাবিদ্যালয়
Affiliated to The University of Burdwan
Sripally ✳ Purba Bardhaman
NAAC Accredited 'B+'

7.2 BEST PRACTICES

7.2.1 DESCRIBE TWO BEST PRACTICES SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE INSTITUTION AS PER NAAC FORMAT PROVIDED IN THE MANUAL

BEST PRACTICE NO. 1

1. **TITLE OF THE PRACTICE**: "CLEAN CAMPUS GREEN CAMPUS"

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE**:

A Green Campus serves as an example of sustainability and environmental stewardship within the educational community. The institution has a significant green land area dedicated to practicing green policies. This could involve initiatives such as energy efficiency measures, resource conservation, waste management, and biodiversity promotion. As an educational institution, Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya likely integrates environmental education and awareness into its curriculum. We have identified the following objectives which are in tune with the practice:

- Planting and maintaining trees
- Preserving nearly extinct plant species
- Developing a medicinal garden
- Efficient use of available water:
- Proper waste management:
- Encouragement of environment friendly and sustainable practices
- Creation of alternative solutions to environmental problems:
- Adoption of a green strategy among faculty and students:
- Encouragement of a plastic-free campus:
- Reduction of energy use and effective energy utilization .

3. **THE CONTEXT:**

Maintaining a clean environment is fundamental for human health, productivity, and overall well-being. The primary objectives of environmental education and awareness are to empower individuals and communities to understand, appreciate and actively engage in addressing environmental issues.

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Environmental education provides factual information about ecosystems, natural resources, pollution, climate change, and other environmental issues.

4. THE PRACTICE:

The college has taken care of the following initiatives to promote green practice:

- **Tree Plantation:** Annually planting trees during the monsoon and on special days such as Independence Day, World environment Day and Republic Day to promote a green earth initiative.

- **Waste Management:** MOU has been signed with a waste disposal company and Burdwan Municipality for regular disposal of various waste products.

- **Solar Energy:** Installation of solar panels for efficient energy use, contributing to reducing the college's carbon footprint.

- **Cleanliness Drives:** Quarterly Cleanliness Drives involving faculty members and students across the campus, fostering a culture of cleanliness and hygiene.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Campus-wide initiatives for promoting the principles of reducing, reusing, and recycling to achieve a sustainable lifestyle. Encouraging students to use paper and cloth bags to minimize plastic usage.

- **Energy Efficiency:** LED bulbs and tube lights are installed in the college buildings. Florescent tubes are renewed by LED tubes to save electricity. Awareness against misuse of energy.

- **Use of higher star-rated electrical and electronic devices:** Energy-efficient appliances are prioritized in offices and science laboratories at the time of purchase.

- **NSS and NCC Initiatives:** Both units play active roles in organizing campus cleaning campaigns, plantation drives and promoting the creation and distribution of paper and cloth bags.

- **Awareness Programs:** Organizing awareness programs on energy issues, eco-friendly behaviour and environmental education.

- A mandatory course on Environmental Studies at B.A/B.Sc. level.

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5. **EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:**

- Our energy conservation policy not only enhanced energy efficiency but also reduced power consumption effectively.

- Our clean and green campus initiatives have earned consistent recognition and praise from local authorities.

- Through periodical tree plantations, Flora and Fauna on the campus have been enriched, which has turned into an eco-friendly campus that stands as a testament to our dedicated efforts.

- Green audit and Energy audit of the campus is done periodically and regularly.

- A Nature Club "VASUNDHARA" committed to organize events to raise environmental awareness among all stakeholders.

6. **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

   o Good public transport in the neighbourhood is needed so that the use of motor vehicles can be discouraged.

   o Frequent power cuts force the college to use gensets which are very polluting to the environment

   o The college needs government support for taking green initiatives like installing more solar panels, automatic switches for saving electricity, and other environment-friendly types of equipment.

   o Green Campus initiatives are challenging so it requires determination and long-term assurance from all the stakeholders.

7. **NOTES:** The College is committed to involve more students and other stakeholders in "Green Campus Clean Campus" initiatives by engaging NSS and NCC units to organize rallies, poster making, and short speeches.

BEST PRACTICE NO. 2

1. **TITLE OF THE PRACTICE:** "RAINWATER HARVESTING- AN ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE OF GROUNDWATER".

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE**

Artificial groundwater recharge is a cost-effective way to replenish groundwater for sustainable water management that provides a lot of benefits to the community. We have identified the following objectives which are in tune with the practice:

- To collect the rain water and make it percolate in the soil more efficiently which will eventually help to recharge groundwater and increase the level of water table.

- To reduce run off loss

- To avoid water logging in the college premises.

3. THE CONTEXT

Due to increasing human settlements, agricultural development and economic activities extraction of ground water (GW) is increasing day by day. The continuous GW extraction has deepened the water table and depleted the shallow aquifers. Rainfall is the primary source of moisture replenishment and natural recharge of GW. Due to rapid urbanization in the nearby areas of the institution, the infiltration of rainwater into subsoil has decreased drastically. The availability of GW is inadequate in lean months, especially for people of low-income groups in the vicinity.

4. THE PRACTICE

The college has taken the following initiatives to o promote artificial GW recharge:

- **Construction of Recharge Pit:** A 80'X 70' X6' pit is constructed in a low land within the campus for natural GW recharge. This method of GW recharge is suitable for alluvial plains like East Burdwan where permeable strata are not below 2 meter deeper from ground surface.

- **Installment of rain water tanks fitted with rain pipes:** Three 20,000 litres rain water tanks are used to collect and store the RW run off from a 120'X 50' roof via pipes. The arrangement is placed on the pit to get an artificial GW recharge.

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- **Fitting of small pumps**: Small pumps of 500 W capacities are fitted with the tanks to get water when needed.

- **Beautification of the area surrounding the pit**: A beautiful garden is set up around the recharge pit.

5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- 600,000 litres of artificial GW recharge along-with 30,000 litres of natural recharge became possible annually with the constructed arrangement.

- Water logging and flooding of the roads surrounding the college reduced

- Quality of drinking water (TDS)improved

- Watering the plants became possible in hot dry summers from those rainwater tanks.

6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Stored water becomes breeding grounds for mosquitoes, algae, and other insects

- Leaves and other debris can get stuck in the opening of rain pipes causing blockage in water flow.

- Weeds grow in the pit soil, decreasing the infiltration capacity

- Systems require regular maintenance to prevent blockages, algae growth, and contamination from animals.

- The college needs financial assistance from the government to run the project.

7. NOTES

A program Jal Dharo-Jal Bharo (Preserve water-Reserve water) was launched by the Government of West Bengal during 2011-12 with the aim to preserve precious water resources as well as to arrest run-off water.

This is indeed a best practice for the college as well as for the nearby community in the recent perspective.

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