

Best Practice: - 1

1. Title: Go Green, Be Sustainable

2. Objectives:

- To increase awareness of environmental issues and their effects on global ecosystems among the students, staff and public.
- To encourage sustainable practices on campus and in daily life, such as recycling, energy conservation, water conservation, and eco-friendliness.
- To foster collaboration with local communities, environmental organizations and other educational institutions to promote environmental protection.
- To design effective Behaviour Change Campaigns and inspiring action for environmental sustainability.
- To promote engagement in environmental campaigns and advocacy initiatives aimed at tackling environmental challenges.
- To preserve resources like clean air, water and wildlife for future generations.

3. The Context:

- Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues, worsened by rapid environmental degradation in our industrial, consumer-driven society. Our college actively promotes behaviour change for a clean and sustainable environment both on and off campus, including initiatives to clean the Panchganga River.
- Ichalkaranji, a hub for sugar, textile, and sizing industries, suffers from significant pollution, leading to waterborne infections and dangerous situations. Despite attempts by companies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Panchganga River remains contaminated as a result of socio-economic and cultural activities such as ceremonial waste disposal and animal bathing. The vital resources of the river are immediately harmed by this pollution.
- Environmental protection is crucial in addressing climate change, preserving biodiversity and ensuring sustainable resource use. It safeguards human health, supports economies, and upholds cultural and ethical standards. Prioritizing environmental conservation ensures a healthy planet for all, promoting sustainability and resilience globally.

4. The Practice:

The college has established various sustainable practices and efforts to raise environmental awareness and incorporate green ideas into its operations.

On-Campus Activities:

- The college emphasizes behaviour change towards a clean and eco-friendly campus, aligning with its institutional motto.
- Regular campus cleaning drives and special campaigns on Gandhi Jayanti ensure high cleanliness standards.
- Initiatives like banning plastic, tree plantation, energy conservation, effective waste management, rainwater harvesting, solar panel installation, solar street lamps and "No Vehicle Day" contribute to a clean and green campus.
- Events during World Wildlife Week and National Science Day raise awareness on wildlife conservation and significant ecological sites.
- Annual energy audits, Green audits and a Green Practice Policy enforce sustainability practices. MoUs for recycling and e-waste management are also established.
- Exhibitions on Best out of Waste and Organic Farming promote sustainable practices.
- Workshops such as "Bonsai, The Living Art" and the Vanmohotsav tree planting festival enhance campus greenery. Environmental awareness is furthered through flex boards and sign placements.
- The Seed Ball Preparation and Plantation Programme engage students in enhancing campus green cover.
- World Environment Day events and Swachhata Abhiyan campaigns promote environmental protection.
- Activities on International Ozone Day raise awareness about ozone layer protection.
- Installation of solar panels, wind power plants, vermi-compost units, rainwater harvesting systems and energy-efficient devices fosters an eco-friendly campus culture.

Off-Campus Activities:

- Regular clean-up drives at Panchganga ghat and Pollution-Free Panchganga Rallies aim to achieve a garbage-free river and raise community awareness about river cleanliness.
- Public awareness campaigns during festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Diwali promote eco-friendly practices, while effective crowd management during immersion processions and ritual waste collection contributes to river cleanliness.

- Seed ball and Beej Mataka distribution promotes plantation drives, enhancing biodiversity in areas like Kunthugiri and Mangaon, restoring vegetation and serving as a model for sustainable conservation.
- Awareness activities such as rallies, campaigns, shramdaan, and plantation drives educate communities.
- Tree plantation drives at Oxygen Parks in Jambhali and various locations encourage students to plant trees locally.
- Cleanliness drives at Ichalkaranji's bus stand and IGM Hospital support public health and hygiene. Swachhata Rallies at heritage sites like Kopeshwar Temple stress cleanliness importance.
- Community engagement through bird watching and counting support wildlife conservation.
- Beej Matka initiative at Panhala Fort enhances vegetation. Social activities raise awareness about pesticide impacts and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

5. Evidence of Success:

Our environmental efforts have made a big difference both on-campus and in our community:

For more details:-

https://www.dkasc.ac.in/uploads/naac/Criterion%20VII/72/best%20practice%201/7-2-1_Index%20Doc.pdf

On-Campus Results:

Instead of driving, many teachers and students opt to walk, cycle or take public transit, which reduces pollution. In addition to banning plastic, we've planted trees and properly disposed of electrical waste.

Regular cleaning drives have made our campus much cleaner and healthier. Celebrating events like World Environment Day and Swachhata Abhiyan has raised awareness about protecting the environment. Activities during World Wildlife Week and National Science Day have taught us more about conserving wildlife and understanding ecology.

Off-Campus Results:

Our volunteers have convinced local people to stop washing animals and clothes in the river. Students involved in River Clean-up Projects have gained leadership skills and confidence. Public campaigns during festivals have encouraged eco-friendly celebrations. Planting seed balls and Beej Mataka have increased biodiversity, especially in places like Panhala Fort. Tree planting drives add more greenery. Cleanliness campaigns in rural areas have improved hygiene and sustainable practices. Additionally, our initiatives have been recognized with awards from environmental organizations, highlighting our impact and dedication. These achievements show our strong commitment to creating a sustainable environment and empowering our community to help ensure a greener, healthier future.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

1. Limited awareness among students and the public poses a challenge for engaging them in environmental issues and sustainable practices especially with busy academic schedules.
2. Financial resources are needed for infrastructure projects, events, and workshops with support from grants and sponsorships, but securing funding is difficult due to limited college budgets.
3. Maintaining long-term engagement is challenging as members may lose interest over time, hindering continuity essential for sustaining impact.
4. People dump waste into the Panchganga River, especially during festivals because of religious beliefs. This pollutes the river and makes it dirty. It's hard to stop this because it's part of people's faith. Industrial areas also add to the pollution, making it a big problem for the river's health.
5. Educational materials and tools for social media campaigns are necessary to raise awareness. Technical support for eco-friendly technology installation and maintenance is essential.

Best Practice: - 2

1. Title of the Practice: Inculcating Indian Values and Diverse Competencies: A Holistic Pathway to Empower Youth.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

1. Foster holistic development by actively engaging students in National Cadet Corps (NCC), sports and cultural activities.
2. Instil discipline, teamwork, leadership skills and a sense of social responsibility.
3. Promote physical fitness, cultural awareness and confidence through diverse events.
4. Develop students' skills for personal and professional growth.
5. Equip students with the values and competencies necessary for positive societal contribution and community engagement, shaping responsible and proactive citizens.

3. The Context:

Our college noticed the need to bridge the gap between academic education and essential life skills development among students. In India, higher education tends to focus heavily on academics, leaving little room for other important areas of growth. We wanted to change this by creating a balanced environment where students could thrive intellectually and in extracurricular activities. Our goal was to give students opportunities to shine in leadership, physical fitness, cultural expression and community service. We wanted to make sure our activities were inclusive and meaningful for students from all cultural and regional backgrounds. This approach was envisioned to cultivate well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills and values necessary for personal growth and positive societal impact.

4. The Practice:

Over the past five years, our college has developed a strong and varied program that includes NCC, sports and cultural activities to help students grow in many areas.

In NCC, students participate in events like Yoga Day, blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, disaster management workshops and national unity celebrations. These activities not only promote physical fitness and discipline but also encourage students to get involved in community service and feel proud of our country. The NCC program includes rigorous classes

and parades designed to instill essential values such as honesty, truthfulness, self-sacrifice, perseverance and hard work. The cadets of the NCC carried out various Social Service Activities annually, both on and off-campus, to foster a sense of social responsibility and environmental awareness. 160 students have participated in CATC camps and seven students have participated in Annual Training camps.

In sports, our college has supported many athletes who have excelled at state, national, and international levels. Students have won medals in sports ranging from athletics to boxing, showing our commitment to sports as an important part of education. We regularly hold training sessions, workshops and competitions to ensure our students are well-prepared for various sports events such as Taekwondo, athletics and team games at university level. These events promoted healthy competition and physical fitness among students.

Culturally, our college is very active. We engage in youth festivals, one-act plays, folk dances, the annual 'Yuva Spandan' event at the Manoranjan Mandal in Ichalkaranji and various other competitions. These activities give students a chance to showcase their talents and learn about teamwork, creativity and cultural diversity. Our cultural events are diverse and engaging. The Cultural Central Youth Festival features folk dances, one-act plays, and traditional arts, offering students platforms to shine. Competitions like Vasant Karandak, Vasundhara Karandak, and Purushottam Karandak allow students to display their skills in dance, drama and music. Participation in national events, such as the 36th Inter-University National Youth Festival in Delhi, has also showcased our students' talents on a larger stage. We also hosted and took part in various cultural competitions, including the Kalagram Dance Competition, Shanti Niketan Folk Dance, and the Kolhapur District Youth Festival. These events featured mime, group singing, solo dance, and spot painting. Our students consistently secured top positions and awards, reflecting their dedication and talent. This well-rounded approach ensures our students develop in all aspects of life, not just academics.

5. Evidences of Success:

The success of our program is clear from the many awards and recognitions our students have earned over the past five years. In NCC, students have participated in national-level camps and received praise for their outstanding service. Notably, two of our students were selected for the prestigious Republic Day Parade in Delhi, highlighting the high level of training, discipline, and dedication in our NCC unit. 110 students have cleared the B Certificate examination and 65 appeared for C certificate examination and out of them 53 students have earned the

certificates. One cadet Arpita Gadde (Junior under officer) from our college has participated the Advanced Leadership Camp at Gujarat in 2022-23 for gaining valuable leadership skills and preparation for future military careers. In sports, students have won gold, Silver, Bronze medals at international, national, university levels and Khelo India University games including athletics, boxing, and yoga. Our cultural teams have also excelled, winning gold medals at university youth festivals, state competitions, Purushottam Karandak and national events. Four students have won gold medal at 36th Inter-University National Youth Festival in Delhi. These achievements show that our program effectively helps students excel not just in academics but also in extracurricular activities.

For more details:-

[https://www.dkasc.ac.in/uploads/naac/Criterion%20VII/72/Best%20Practice%202/7-2-2_Index%20%20\(1\)%5Bsigned%5D.pdf](https://www.dkasc.ac.in/uploads/naac/Criterion%20VII/72/Best%20Practice%202/7-2-2_Index%20%20(1)%5Bsigned%5D.pdf)

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- The implementation of this practice faced several challenges, including the need for adequate infrastructure, training facilities, and expert coaches for sports.
- Financial constraints were also a significant challenge in organizing events and providing resources for students' participation in national and international competitions.
- Additionally, balancing academics with extracurricular activities required careful planning to ensure that students could participate without compromising their academic performance.
- It is challenging to seek support from alumni, local organizations and government grants to enhance facilities and provide financial assistance to deserving students. Continuous efforts need to be made to improve infrastructure and resources to sustain and expand these activities.