

The two best practices implemented by the institution are:

Promotion of sustainable environment Social commitment and community outreach.

BEST PRACTICES – 1

Title: Promotion of sustainable environment

Objectives of the Practice

Environment sustainability is of utmost importance in the light of increasing environmental degradation; and the same can be accomplished with the implementation of eco-friendly facilities and practices. The objectives of promoting environment sustainability are:

- To reduce overall carbon and ecological footprints, to find innovative ways to reduce pollution, to promote the sustainable use of natural resources by implementing simple everyday practices to larger, innovative ones.
- To nurture generations of students who are sensitive to environmental concerns. The need of the present times is to educate the youth and the public about sustainability. The efforts of each of us can bring about significant positive changes in the pollution levels and ensure healthier lives for all of us.
- To maintain a waste-free, pollution-free, healthy, and eco-friendly green campus

The Context

As Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College has abundant plants and sunlight, it had become important to transform productively green waste and sunlight into sources of sustenance. To this end, the college has implemented mechanisms by which wastes can be utilised for the production of compost, and for its use as fertilizer in the college lawns and garden. The greenery on Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College campus is an oasis amid the neighbouring commercial establishments and the traffic on the roads. Tapping the sunlight for generating solar energy is an important step towards reducing carbon footprints. The energy thus generated fulfils about half the energy requirements of the college.

In order to sustain the clean and green environment of the college, balance between utilization and transformation/disposal of wastes has to maintain. Routine generation of piles of used-paper presents challenges as well as possibilities. Waste papers can thus be recycled into new ones for multiple uses. Large quantity of green waste is generated in the college premises, which is effectively composted as manure.

The Practice

Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College is steadfastly committed towards creating an eco-friendly and sustainable campus.

Instilling the urgency of environmental conservation and environment sustainability is realised through the following practices:

(i) Events and campaigns

The college regularly organizes various events and campaigns to spread environmental awareness:

Refill the pen campaign

Campaigns for discouraging the use of polythene

Several campaigns by Eco-Club and NSS for creating awareness through social media are conducted. Student volunteers interact with the public to generate consciousness among them about the responsible use of natural resources.

Students also visit biodiversity parks, wetlands and other places of ecological importance and learn ways to protect and conserve the environment.

(ii) Maintaining a green campus and a herbal garden

Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College has a lush green vehicle-free campus. Dedicated area for parking has been allotted in the sports ground; vehicle movement and parking in the main campus is prohibited.

The college has about 700 varieties of trees on campus that balances the ecosystem of the surrounding area.

A herbal garden in the premises, with different species of medicinal plants, provides a healthful ambience in the college.

(iii) The Solar Power Plant

A 75 KWH solar-power plant was installed on the college rooftop and has been operational since January 2017. Since the installation of this plant, the college has not only been saving expenditure on electricity but also effectively reducing the use of non-renewable resources.

(iv) Vermicompost Unit

The vermicompost unit at Smt Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College converts green and food waste to vermicompost, which is used in the college garden.

(v) Paper recycling machine

Waste paper is recycled into fine quality paper for several uses in the college.

Evidence of Success

Reduction in electricity bill – The electricity bill of the college has considerably reduced after the successful operation of the rooftop solar power plant.

Reduced carbon footprint – The college has significantly reduced carbon footprint that occurs because of conventional sources of power generation.

Use of solar lamps – Following the example of Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College, other institutions have made efforts to install solar power plants in their premises. Students and staff in the college are using solar lamps instead of electric lamps.

Heightened awareness among staff and students – We have been able to create awareness amongst staff and students of our college regarding environmental challenges and the need for sustainability. Our students have received appreciation from the public during several campaigns; many people have promised to use the resources wisely and make all efforts to protect and conserve the environment

Problems encountered and resources required

Greater initial cost and investment - Shifting to renewable resources is a costly affair and support and involvement from the government front is prerequisite in terms of financial assistance and subsidy.

Challenge in motivating people - The public needs to be educated and motivated towards sustainability. Continuous efforts are made to create a general shift in the mindsets of the students and college staff towards generating an environmental consciousness. Lifestyle changes - Lifestyle needs to be modified for sustainable living by judicious use of energy sources. Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College has made continuous efforts through rallies, campaigns, competitions and regular posts on social media to create awareness towards sustainable living.

BEST PRACTICE – II

Title: Social Commitment and Community Outreach

Objectives of the Practice

This practice aims to foster the spirit of social service in our students so that they learn to recognize it as a larger conditioning framework of their education. We aim to generate awareness amongst students towards existing social disparities in income, education, health and nutrition; and to instill compassion and empathy in the minds of youth towards the needs of the underprivileged sections of the society. Education without social commitment is incomplete. We work for the betterment of marginalised section of the society and help them through various outreach programmes.

The Context

Social inequities and lack of opportunities characterise the lives of people from low socio- economic background, be it the lack of sustainable livelihood or educational opportunities, or be it the low access to healthcare and hygiene. Education, however, is the only leveller of such disparities. Education system in India can bridge these gaps by creating awareness among the youth of the nation. Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College imparts a holistic education with the aim of sharpening the social sensibilities of the students. Several committees and societies in the college develop a comprehensive action-plan to address social issues in the long run. Students at Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College are involved in the

execution of these plans and are offered several opportunities to engage in community service empathetically

The Practice

The college creates a synergy between its community work and outreach platforms such as the NSS, the WDC, the Eco-Club, and the Alumni Association, thereby creating a multivalent and mutually renewing forum for meaningful dialogues, actions, and interactions. Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College organises programmes to sensitise youth towards the needs of the under-privileged.

Efforts towards inclusion: The NSS volunteers regularly visit Raen Basera (night shelters) near Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College. Students visit and interact with the occupants and discuss issues related to health, hygiene and education. The volunteers also teach young children living in the Raen Basera. They celebrate festivals like Diwali and other major festivals with them as a small effort towards inclusion.

Educating the underprivileged in Ambedkar Nagar: Ambedkar Nagar is a “jhuggi-jhopri”, a colloquial name for unauthorised slums located on bypass near to college. The college organises literacy and health and hygiene awareness campaign in this area.

The NSS organised a programme Pehal: Ek Prayaas; as part of this programme, children from Ambedkar Nagar visited the college for a month-long literacy programme. In this programme, the student volunteers taught these children under the supervision of the faculty members in two shifts – morning and afternoon.

Recreational activities for the underprivileged children: Several competitions like dance, painting, poetry and sports events were also organised for children from Ambedkar Nagar

Sharing and caring: Festivals like Ganpati festival, Saraswati Pooja and Independence Day were celebrated by organising various activities for them.

Awareness programmes against alcoholism and drug abuse: Alcoholism and drug- addiction is one of the major problems in Ambedkar Nagar. Not only do the men waste a major part of their family income on alcohol and drugs, they also indulge in fights with family and neighbours, under the influence of these substances. One of the major problems reported by the women of Ambedkar Nagar area is domestic violence. Student volunteers perform plays and organise rallies to highlight the evils of substance abuse through interaction with the people from Ambedkar Nagar

Generating employment by teaching skills: Students taught bandhni dupatta and sanitary pad making techniques to the women living in slum areas to make them self-reliant.

Financial aid and help: Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College organises visits to destitute homes like Apna Ghar and Earth Savivors Foundation. These homes offer shelter to people who have been abandoned by their families due to financial or health issues. Our students interact with them, share their problems, and extend help wherever possible.

Awareness for protecting the environment: The Eco Club has played a seminal role in educating the students about the pressing needs to conserve the environment through eco-friendly practices. Multiple approaches to addressing environmental issues like effective organic and e-waste management procedures and locality cleaning drive have become a model of sorts for green initiatives in the area.

Evidence of Success

Sensitisation of students and awareness of social responsibility: Various practices adopted by the college have been extremely successful in the intensity and reach of its vision and action. The college has not only been able to sensitise its volunteers and other students about the need and nature of social work but has been successful in reaching out to the residents of Ambedkar Nagar

Enrolment of children from slums to schools: Owing to the efforts of student volunteers and their commitment to provide basic literacy among slum children, the volunteers witnessed increasing interests among the children to be educated; some children from slum areas have enrolled in schools.

Empathy in students: In general, students have become observant of the requirements of homeless people sleeping under flyovers, in Raen Basera, and on the roadsides. Looking at their poor living conditions, students and the staff expressed compassion and empathy by initiating food and clothes distribution drives. Sanitary pads and other daily use items were collected in the college and later on distributed to these needy people.

Relief to drug addicts: Women of Ambedkar Nagar, who are the worst receivers of substance abuse, have appreciated the efforts of the NSS at Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College in alleviating alcoholism and drug addiction. Through plays, rallies and other campaigns, we have been able to garner the attention of the slum dwellers and the public towards these issues.

Steps toward women empowerment: The NSS and the WDC, through its path-breaking work of training underprivileged women and making them self-reliant, have created a sustainable entrepreneurship model among the women. This in itself is an inspiration to the students while favourably influencing socio-economic conditions at the grassroots level. By teaching Bandhani dupatta making and sanitary-pad making to underprivileged women, students have helped them achieve livelihood. Shree Leuva Patel Trust B.B.A. Mahila College has made continuous efforts to make a little difference in the lives of underprivileged people, and by far the college has accomplished these goals in small measures

Problems encountered and resources required Resistance by the slum inhabitants towards change:

The mindset of the inhabitants of the local

slum had to be gradually changed by the NSS volunteers and faculty advisers. The volunteers could eventually convince them of their well-meaning intentions through their sustained efforts at social amelioration.

Challenges of convincing people about the importance of education: Illiteracy and poverty are interrelated and deep-rooted problems of our society. For a poor person, food is more important than education. Convincing people to send their children to school instead of sending them to work is very difficult. Consistent, continuous efforts are required to convince parents to send their children to school with very little success.

Difficulty in sensitising to alcoholic abuse: Alcoholism is a rampant problem in our society.

Alcoholic abuse aggravates domestic violence. Student volunteers have made efforts to convince young men in the neighbouring area not to take up alcohol and save their future and their families.

Cost and funding issues: Planning visits to destitute homes requires resources. Hiring a bus costs approximately Rs. 6000 to Rs.7000 per trip, depending upon the location of the destitute home. For

regular visits, a large amount of funding is required. More financial resources and local partners in this comprehensive endeavour are required.