

Institutional best practices

Best practice - I

Title of the Practice: Green Practices

Objectives of the Practice: Going green is a mindset that involves the continual pursuit of knowledge regarding how to live life in an environmentally friendly and responsible way. AV College Green Campus is a place where environmentally-friendly practices and education combine to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

The green campus concept aims at :

- Providing the institution with an opportunity to take the lead in redefining its environmental culture, improve human well-being, and balance ecosystems
- Reducing the negative impacts of campus activities on the environment and health.
- Maintenance of clean and hygienic conditions and reduction in the quantity of solid waste
- Creating awareness through proper Segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of solid waste & e-waste.

The Context: College has few areas, which are to be addressed to make the campus environmentally sustainable, like Judicious water consumption, water sources, appliances, wastage, etc. Leakages and overflow water from overhead tanks were identified.

To reduce energy consumption and augmenting the alternate energy sources across the campus buildings requires large expenditures, which is difficult to raise.

Waste management and disposal pose a challenge at the implementation level.

To motivate students in large numbers to cultivate the social and environmental attitude is a huge responsibility.

Optimum use of stationary by students, faculty, and administration has to be more effective.

Green initiatives taken up by the college will benefit the campus through reduced resource consumption and waste diversion.

The Practices: Solid and E-waste generated in the college is segregated and disposed of with the help of GHMC and other authorized E-waste Disposers. The college is in communication with an NGO for effective disposal of the waste.

Small segregating bins are provided for students to dispose of the waste at a few designated points in the college campus where students assemble commonly.

In addition to conventional sources of water, the water availability in the campus is augmented by harvesting rainwater from roof-tops, hence all our water needs are met without any external supply of water.

Green Practices:

The students and staff are encouraged to use the public transportation system and on average only 5% of the students use motorbikes or cars as a means of conveyance. We started practising the **No - Vehicle - Day** concept.

Eco-club has been organizing eco-friendly celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, and Holi, to create awareness among the students, staff and the immediate community.

Enumeration of campus flora is done annually, to help, identify the new flora that may be added or the flora at the risk. Trees were planted and saplings of various species were distributed to staff and students of the college and the neighbourhood as part of Telangana Government's pet projects Haritha haram and Vanamahotsava.

To maintain environmental sustainability on campus we are conducting a **green audit** annually since 2016. Based on the report we are taking the necessary measures to balance the ecosystem on the campus.

Plastic-free campus:

- Awareness programs and seminars were organized to lessen the use of plastic.
- Separate bins are provided in the college campus for disposal of different waste materials.

Paperless office:

- Most of the official communication now is done through *emails; Apps like Whatsapp groups; websites;* other social communication apps and cloud technology aiming for a nearly complete paperless office in the near future.
- Single side used- the paper is reused for internal purposes.

Evidence of success:

There is a visible decrease in the use of paper every year, as most of the communication now is through *emails, Apps like Whatsapp groups, websites,* and other social communication apps and cloud technology.

The awareness programs and seminars have an impact on students, and staff on judicious use of water, energy and effective management and disposal of waste.

To adopt alternate energy resources the college has installed solar panels on a few buildings of the campus and is now planning to install more panels.

The annual practice of distributing eco-friendly Ganesh and Patri has spread far and wide over the years, this year 1500 Patri sets were distributed and few NGOs were permitted to have their own eco stalls.

Eco - Diwali, and Holi have been organized in three nearby schools and the neighbourhood community which met with a good response.

Problems encountered:

In Spite of regular maintenance of valves, taps, and pipes, there is unaccounted wastage of water which can be avoided by having sensor valves and standard taps.

The college is conceptualizing the process of long term solutions by the purchase of ceramic/steel/ /biodegradable/ multi-use plastic cups and plates to reduce and discourage plastic use.

The task of nurturing and maintaining the saplings can be addressed by making the students adopt a tree.

The Botanical Garden needs up-gradation and expansion.

Paperless administration at the implementation level is not achieved effectively as every record and file has to be maintained physically too.

Best practice - II

1. Title of the Practice: Women Empowerment & Gender Sensitization

Objectives of the Practice:

As Women constitute more than 40% of the total student strength the College has established a Women Empowerment Cell with more than a hundred male and female volunteers to empower female students, to enhance understanding of issues related to women; to enrich employability skills for girl students and to make the college campus a safe place for women staff and students. The institution got more female students admitted into various streams.

The Cell aims at maintaining and strengthening the status of women, creating awareness on women's rights, and ensuring the safety and dignity of the female students, teachers, and staff.

Establishing a forum for women where they can exchange ideas and concerns.

Safeguarding women by taking required security measures on the college campus promoting the general well-being and hygiene of female students, and staff. Sensitizing male students about gender issues.

The Context:

- It was a task for Women students to motivate other girls in participating in women related issues like flash mobs. outreach programmes organised out of town.
- The college with an increasing number of women has the challenge of addressing and Motivating girl students to come out with their gender, personal (hygiene) & institutional issues.
- Creating sensitivity among male gender including faculty towards female problems and issues poses a challenge.

The Practice:

Gender bias is still deeply embedded in the family system in our society. The Women Empowerment Cell (WEC) meets once a month and plans for more student exchange programs not only on the campus but also in collaboration with NGOs and other colleges.

The cell initiated programs like '*Women Equality day*', '*Malala day*' and '*Beti Bachao*' programs on the campus.

The Cell realized that initially, girls needed to be aware of their rights and next to bring sensitization among male students. Girls were given a chance to express their views on women's equality. They were enlightened about the first women's equality day and its purpose. Boys brought a presentation of photos with their mothers and shared their ideas. Few male staff members shared their experience in their contribution to domestic help.

Malala Day gave students a chance to participate in open mic '*Mai Bhi Malala*' best speakers were appreciated with certificates. The cell also selected a few new volunteers from freshers.

The Beti Bachao exhibition gave a very different experience for students who were enthusiastic to collect information for stalls. They used charts to express their ideas and spread information about infanticide, child marriage and most importantly about girl-child education, Govt.policies and plans for the upliftment of girls. The flash mob on the girl child was the highlight of the program.

The committee proposed for a sanitary napkin vending machine and disposable bins as per the demands of the girl students.

Evidence of Success:

- The experience of participating in cell activities strengthened the students to organize a one-day session on the campus on gender issues with Mehboobia College.
- A team of students undertook '*Anthar Gunj*' a youth exchange program on constitution and faith in Delhi organized by Martha Foundation and NGO- **Rubaroo**.
- A student of B.Sc. II year participated in a program *Religious Freedom and Pluralism SUSI*, (22 June **2019** to 27 July) at **Dialogue Institute Temple University, Pennsylvania, US**.
- An exhibition was organized on *Beti Bachoo* on campus for students and staff which initiated awareness about gender and female Infanticide and girl child education.
- The students have participated in Marathon **SHE team 5k and 2k run** at People's Plaza, Hyderabad; '**Pink Ribbon Walk** 'Breast cancer awareness walk at KBR Park.
- Students formed into teams and spread the awareness programs in the form quiz, drawing competition, games in many schools in twin cities. This program covered as many as 400 students by each student.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Few students were reluctant to balance their academic work and awareness programmes.

The response of a few faculty to permit students for various programs was found disappointing. Persuading the parents and implementing the schedule was difficult for outdoor activities.

The implementation and installation of vending machines are taking time as modalities are looked into.