

# **BEST PRACTICES**

## **BEST PRACTICE – I**

### **1. Title of the Practice**

Enhancing Sustainable Green Initiatives

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

- To reduce energy consumption and carbon footprints
- To arrange environment awareness programmes for staff and students and reach out to community through them
- To inculcate eco-friendly behaviors / habits in students

### **3 The Context**

Sustainable green initiatives are much-needed in today's time given the monumental challenges being posed to our health and well-being by the fragile environmental situation. As an environmentally conscious and responsible institution, we are aligned with adopting sustainable green practices on our campus as our contribution towards saving the environment and ensuring reduction in the adversity that future generations may face.

Hence, we have been taking some environment friendly measures like using energy efficient appliances, reducing use of paper and plastic, tree plantation, water conservation etc.

### **4. The Practice**

Green, Environment and Energy Audit were carried out by professionals on college campus with the objective of understanding the current status of our campus with regard to these aspects. These audits clearly highlighted our strengths and outlined areas we could improve upon in order to create a greener space with the help of all our stakeholders. We have made concerted efforts to identify areas where these changes could be introduced. In our march towards a green environment, the following steps were implemented

- A solar power system has been installed on the roof-top of the college building which has the capacity to generate 3430 kWh/month which can meet part of the campus's energy requirements through renewable energy sources
- For reduction of energy consumption LED lights are used
- Energy-efficient star-rated devices are used
- Staff and students are encouraged to ensure that all lights and fans are switched off

whenever they are not required and before they leave the premises. All the air conditioners are maintained at or above 24-degree Celsius temperature

- Awareness programmes were organized for students by the NSS unit with an aim to inculcate green practices in students
- An already existing rain-water harvesting system was renovated to make water harvesting more efficient in recharging the underground well in the college campus and this water is utilized in all the bathroom blocks of both the wings of the college building. This ensures that potable water is not wasted for non-potable purposes.
- Additional modules were added to the document management system to reduce the use of paper. Scanned copies of question papers in the library instead of hard copies help to reduce use of paper.
- We practice simple measures like using two sides of paper for printing and using waste paper for rough work
- A MoU has been signed with Stree Mukti Sanghatana, an NGO working towards effective reuse and recycling of paper and e-waste generated on the campus.
- Potted plants have been placed all over the college building which keeps the environment clean and adds to the aesthetics of the spaces.
- The NSS Unit of the college has been consistently involved in tree plantation programmes in and around the adopted villages and other areas in association with local GOs and NGOs.
- Signages have been put up at various spots on the campus motivating students to prevent the wastage of water and electricity.
- Regular programmes are arranged to create awareness among the students about environmental issues and inculcate green practices even in their homes and neighbourhood.

## **5. Evidence of Success**

The green initiatives undertaken by our institution have had the following positive outcomes:

- We have been able to substantially reduce our electricity bills by ensuring a reduction in wasteful electrical energy consumption by using LED lighting equipment, star-rated ACs and other electrical devices, and keeping lights, fans and ACs off when not required.
- A part of our electricity needs is now being met through the fully operational solar power system.
- Our dependence on municipal water supply is reduced as the recharged well-water can

meet a part of our water requirement.

- We have successfully reduced waste generation in our day-to-day activities and have a well-established waste management system due to our collaboration with Stree Mukti Sanghatana. None of the waste generated on our campus is directly polluting the environment.
- Staff and students exhibit a greater level of awareness and participation in the institutional green initiatives by avoiding wasteful use of these resources.

We are enthusiastically working towards making our environmental protection efforts more robust and achieving quality certification in this area of institutional functioning.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

- Installing the roof-top solar power generation unit was challenging as the load-bearing capacity of the roof-top was inadequate. The institution explored various alternatives which would be best suited in the face of this challenge and finally could identify a vendor who was able to offer a light-weight alternative to enable installation of the solar power generating system.
- Though green initiatives are viable in the long-run, creating these systems is a resource-intensive process. This hurdle was very effectively overcome through the tireless efforts of the management who were very keen that these initiatives must be instituted.
- Creating and sustaining the interest of various stakeholders in these initiatives is challenging and requires sustained and consistent efforts.
- Our college building is right in the midst of a crowded suburban neighborhood which poses numerous challenges to the introduction of changes and modification of existing facilities.

## **BEST PRACTICE – II**

### **1. Title of the Practice**

Enhancing Research Activities in the Institution

### **2. Objective of the Practice**

To build research culture of the institute by encouraging and facilitating staff and students to undertake research activities

### **3. The Context**

The institution was established to provide quality education to girls and become a centre of excellence. Research activities have been identified as a key indicator of a premiere institution. Research skill is also one of the graduate attributes outlined by the UGC. Low performance in accreditation rankings like NIRF and NAAC, was a trigger to facilitate research endeavors of the institute. Though a challenging task, the management, principal and the teachers as a team are working towards improvement in this area.

### **4. The Practice**

- To make targeted efforts to increase the research outputs of the staff and students, the research policy was revised. In the revision made, Special Research leave of 15 days for Ph.D. related field work/research work as an incentive is given.
- To build research activities, the institution applied for a Ph.D. Research Center in Commerce which was approved by the university in the year 2022-2023.
- To encourage staff member to undertake research projects, they were asked to submit research proposal by the management and 3 research projects after scrutiny were sponsored by the Management.
- Financial assistance was provided to staff members and students for participating in seminars, conferences and for publishing papers.
- The institution subscribed to Knimbus digital library platform for easy and round the clock access to e-resources for staff & students.

For strengthening research temperament among students as mentioned in our mission statement, every faculty / department in the institution organizes or participates in research-based activities. Research based competitions like, TRISHOOL – Intercollegiate Undergraduate Research paper presentation Competition is organized by the Dept of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, URJITA - Intercollegiate Undergraduate Research paper presentation Competition is organized by the Faculty of Home

Science. Research competitions are also conducted by the Department of Management Studies. These research competitions aim to inculcate an opportunity to develop research skills and provide an opportunity to analyze information, question assumptions, and evaluate arguments.

The students and staff regularly participate in International Economic Convention, Gujarat Economic Association Conference.

Students and staff from various faculties have been participating in seminars and conferences. Students are sponsored for participating in research paper presentation competition as well as supported for publishing papers in UGC CARE listed journals.

#### **5. Evidence of Success**

- 7 staff members have applied for patents
- 5 staff members have published books
- Research proposal of 3 staff members have been approved by the Trust for funding.
- 22 staff members have presented/published papers.
- 36 students have presented papers in various competitions.
- A Students Edition of Research IMPRINT – an In-House Journal was published.
- Students have been regularly winning accolades at the various in-house and inter-collegiate competitions and events.

#### **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

##### **Problems Encountered:**

- Motivating the staff to undertake research activities.
- Tapping research funding from various agencies.
- Handholding of the staff member interested in research was lacking.
- With all the other activities in college, it is difficult for teachers to dedicate time for research.

##### **Resources Required:**

- Financial support for research.
- A dedicated research room with internet facilities is required.
- Mentors to help interested staff to take up research.