




Rajiv Gandhi Government College, Saha (Ambala)

(Affiliated to Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra)

Criteria 7.2 7.2 Best Practices


Principal
Rajiv Gandhi Govt. College
Saha (Ambala)

Best Practices 1

Title of the Practice

Promotion of Environmental Consciousness

Objectives

- ✓ To implement sustainable green practices on the campus
- ✓ To encourage young people to adopt a green lifestyle and to promote sustainable green practices through co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
- ✓ To adopt eco-friendly practices to lessen carbon footprint.
- ✓ To generate environmental awareness through active collaboration between students, faculty and society.

The Context

The college understands its duty towards promotion of environmental consciousness and strives to provide solutions to pressing environmental problems. The college deems it as its paramount responsibility to raise social awareness about deteriorating environment and to motivate them to adopt eco-friendly ways. College aims to achieve this through promoting environmental awareness, green policy advocacy, and local participation in environment conservation efforts. The college endeavours to act as a catalyst for change in the society by making meaningful contributions to global environmental concerns through teaching, practice, and service.

Practices

In current scenario, where the world is facing ecological crisis and governments are redrafting their plans for sustainable development, colleges must also focus on sustainable development. The institute understands its responsibility to advance the Sustainable Development Goals via its academics and through engaging extracurricular activities. The college has adopted a Green Policy which the students and staff adhere to. Following initiatives have been undertaken in the college to promote the noble cause of environmental consciousness:

Eco-friendly Sustainable Campus

- The college has an active Eco Club of which every student is a member
- Presenting plants as green gifts is a common practice
- Compulsory environment education classes at Undergraduate level
- Tree plantation drives on and off campus
- Clean and green campus
- *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* is supported through cleanliness drives and camps
- Events organised to raise awareness regarding environment conservation
- Commemorating significant days for environment conservation
- Use of LED lighting and installing energy-efficient machinery
- Ban on single use plastic within the campus

- Carpooling and public transport are encouraged

Water Conservation

- Rainwater harvesting systems to collect the rain and recharge groundwater
- Planting of water-efficient plants
- Zero water wastage

Waste Management

- Encouraging waste management practices like reduce, reuse and recycle
- Two onsite bio-compost pits for organic waste management
- Separate trash cans for waste separation at the source
- Safe disposal of electronic waste

Evidence of Success

Eco Club of the college regularly organises several activities to promote the spirit of environmental consciousness amongst the students. NCC and NSS units also carry out several environment-friendly activities. The enthusiasm of students during such activities is evidence enough of the success. Adoption of Green Policy and promotion of environment-friendly practices in the campus has resulted in a clean and green campus. The rainwater harvesting system and the compost pits show the seriousness of the institution towards implementing practical solutions to environmental problems. Awareness rallies are frequently taken out in Saha and other nearby villages where the villagers enthusiastically welcome the students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Since the college is set in rural area, it faces unique issues such as changing the traditional mind-set of the villagers when it comes to certain environment-friendly practices.
- Resource and budget constraints are faced on regular basis as sustainable practices come with a high budget maintenance cost.
- Time constraint is another major issue. Faculty members have to dedicate time beyond class and their research pursuits. Active collaboration is required between the staff, students and the society in order to truly make a positive impact which sometimes requires a lot of time and patience.


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Best Practices 2

Title of the Practice

Women Empowerment

Objectives

- ✓ To promote gender equity
- ✓ To raise the status of women through education and to empower them to exercise their rights judiciously in their transactions with the society
- ✓ To make the students aware about the ever-evolving gender roles in public domains and about women taking centre stage in various aspects of life
- ✓ To instill the importance of health, hygiene and nutrition for women
- ✓ To work towards improving social status and lifestyle of girl students through development of employment skills

The Context

As the college is established in rural area, traditionally the villagers do not show much interest in the higher education of the girls. The reasons behind this are illiteracy, weak financial background, lack of transport facilities and other problems like eve-teasing and other personal problems. To overcome these problems, Women Cell and faculty members generate awareness amongst people about the education of the girls and to clear their doubts with the help of NSS volunteers. NSS volunteers accompanied by a NSS program officer take out awareness rallies and communicate with the people. Besides this, faculty members also motivate the students in the schools of the nearby villages.

Practices

- The college is promoting women empowerment schemes and *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Project through various cells and committees.
- Women Cell in the college is working actively for women's awareness and betterment. Female students can submit their complaints to Women Cell which tries to resolve the issues in shortest possible timeframe.
- In order to promote the traditionally marginalised gender i.e., females, college has provided special facilities such as Girls Common Room which is located in the vicinity of Women Cell. It is well-equipped with comfortable sofas, chairs and a sanitary napkin dispenser. Female washrooms are equipped with sanitary napkin incinerators.
- Discipline Committee ensures that the female students do not face any issue such as eve-teasing and enjoy a safe environment.
- Activities related to gender equity, female empowerment and menstrual hygiene are frequently organised.
- Self-defence training camp is organised to ensure that girls are capable of protecting themselves should such a need arise.

- Anaemia camps are regularly organised as most women are anaemic. Nutrition camps are also organised to make the girls aware about proper dietary requirements.
- Special initiatives were taken for adding nearest location to college as a bus stop to facilitate the students.
- A PCR van is deployed outside the college to ensure girls' safety.

Evidence of Success

The college has made a deep impact on the mind-set of rural people. A significant change is now visible as the parents are ensuring that their daughters receive higher education. As a result, the ratio of girl students is increasing every year. Percentage of female students was 50% in 2018-19 which increased to 51.1% in 2019-20. It went down during the pandemic years viz., 46.9% in 2020-21 and 47.3% in 2021-22. It then increased to 53.7 % in 2022-23 and has gone up to 60.9% in 2023-24. Two postgraduate courses, M.Sc. (Geography) and M.Com., were introduced in 2021-22. Higher ratio of female students joined both the courses. The female students of the college are confident and aware about their rights. Department of Physical Education witnesses girls' active participation in sports events. Every year, girls achieve excellence in sports. In 2018-19, girls won two silver medals in Inter-College Championship held at KUK, Kurukshetra while in 2019-20, girls bagged two bronze medals. Female students won one gold medal, six silver medals and ten bronze medals in 2021-22 and two silver medals and ten bronze medals in 2022-23. Continuing the tradition in 2023-24, one girl won a silver medal in Inter-College Taekwondo and qualified for Camp of All India Inter-University. In Inter-College Karate Championship, two girls bagged silver medals, and two girls won bronze medals. Two girls qualified and attended Camp of All India Inter-University Karate Championship.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Due to lack of awareness among parents, financial difficulties and traditional mind-sets, girls are sometimes married off and hence are forced to leave their studies midway.
- The girls are often overburdened and sometimes find it difficult to concentrate on their education as they are also expected to carry out domestic chores.
- Some of the students need to leave college early as bus service to their villages are not available. As a result, they tend to miss on their afternoon lectures. Majority of these students are girls.
- More financial benefits to female students and better accessibility would help in upliftment and empowerment of female students.


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