



Title of the Practice: Green Campus, Clean Campus

Objectives of the Practice:

- ✓ To promote awareness and disseminate knowledge regarding environmental issues and the means to combat them among all the stakeholders of the institution
- ✓ To create an environment friendly, plastic and pollution free campus
- ✓ Proper utilization of resources like water and electricity in a sustainable manner
- ✓ Efficient waste management
- ✓ Plantation and maintaining of plants and trees to make a positive contribution to the environment and promote involvement of staff, students and locals alike in sustaining this eco-friendly approach for the general wellbeing of all concerned



People all across the globe are becoming increasingly aware of the consequences of environmental degradation. As an institution of higher education, it is one of the integral functions of the college to raise awareness not only amongst its own stakeholders but also amongst the inhabitants of the surrounding areas regarding the environmental implications of our human actions. For this purpose, the college actively seeks to perpetuate a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of the environment with our everyday lives. Although the syllabi of both the Honours and General degrees covers important topics related to environmental awareness, it is nevertheless crucial to remember that awareness alone is insufficient without proper complementary action. To achieve this end, the college makes every effort to lead by means of example and it works tirelessly to educate people regarding conservation of energy, utilization of natural resources, waste management and the significance of tree plantation.



Maintaining Campus Greenery

- The college has a landscape garden, a medicinal/herbal garden, a vegetable patch, a rose garden and an Adenium garden.
- Initiative taken on mushroom cultivation.
- Maintenance of the gardens by the NSS and Eco Club volunteers on a regular basis

Conducting of Green Audit

- The college conducts an audit of its entire green belt along with the environmental aspects of the campus with the assistance of Burdwan University's Green Audit Team each year.
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Rain Water Harvesting and Water Recharging

- The college has an efficient rain water harvesting and rain water recharging system.

Plastic Free, Pollution Free Campus

- There are placards and display boards declaring the entire campus as plastic and tobacco free to sensitize the stakeholders

Paperless Operating Procedure

- We are striving towards a paperless office to limit the use of paper
- Most communication has been shifted to the digital form
- The departments have an e-material repository which the students can use to reduce paper wastage

Power Conservation

- CFL bulbs have been replaced with LEDs since 2018-19
- All the electrical appliances used within the college campus are energy efficient
- The college has also installed solar panels
- The stakeholders are all regularly sensitized about the need for energy conservation.

Waste Management

- The college is committed to zero waste through the 5R's – refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle.
- Waste segregation is the key strategy towards waste minimization and all e-waste, paper waste and solid waste including degradable and non-degradable waste are all disposed accordingly.
- The institute has built soak pits and a bio-composting unit and has taken an initiative on vermi-composting with appropriate infrastructure

Observance of Important Days

- The college celebrates World Environment Day, Earth Day, Plantation Day and No Motor Vehicle Day on the 25th of every month to raise awareness.

Community Services

- The college has adopted various measures to extend community services to the local inhabitants like the storage water project, generate social awareness for a clean and healthy environment, impart free education to the primary students, setting up of 15 large dustbins for free in the locality and planting and maintaining a garden for the local hospital.
- The purpose is to develop social sensibility amongst the students, teachers and other staff to emerge as a socially responsible institution.



5.Evidence of Success

The drive for a clean and green campus has been met with great enthusiasm and support from almost all the stakeholders of the institute. The natural beauty of the campus together with its eco-friendly atmosphere is appreciated by all and sundry. The insistence on a no plastic, no smoking, and pollution free zone has contributed greatly to the academic ambience that the college is renowned for. Not only outsiders and visitors but the students and staff themselves are truly appreciative of the tranquil and gentle environment within the campus with little to no pollution. The extensive gardens and greenery offer a local haven for countless varieties of birds and animals which has helped enrich the campus even further. The efficient utilization of our natural resources and competent management of our waste has enabled the college to not only improve its ecological footprint but also to set a precedent to its surrounding areas in terms of raising awareness about our environmental concerns and our crucial role in doing whatever is possible for us to do within our limitations to create a positive impact for our current and future generations.



6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

While the green initiative has been primarily successful, some of the inevitable issues encountered along the way include:

- *The constant need to provide encouragement and motivation to the stakeholders to do their part in maintaining the beauty and eco-friendliness of the campus*
- *The need for more human resource in assisting the NSS and Eco Club members to fulfil their obligations and raise greater awareness in general amongst others regarding eco-critical issues*
- *The need for higher funding to implement plans better and to take up new challenges, steps and projects to improve the overall quality of the campus.*



Practice 2

Title of the Practice:

Selling Dreams – An Initiative for Inspiration Towards Higher Education

Objectives of the Practice:

- To establish a bond between the institute and other nearby schools to foster a sense of unity of purpose in imparting quality education
- To promote understanding and appreciation of the need for higher education among all stakeholders
- To enable students at the school level to realize the value of college education in fulfilling their potential and achieving their dreams
- To enable the college to make a definitive contribution in raising awareness regarding the significance of higher education in the locality and surrounding areas in the rural belt where school drop out rates are already considerably high



3.The Context

Chandidas Mahavidyalaya is situated in a predominantly rural area where the lack of educational infrastructure in schools and colleges is quite often a hindrance to be overcome while imparting education. The economic backwardness of the area coupled with other challenges like the scarcity of transport and communication are often crucial factors that inevitably hinder the academic aspirations of students belonging from the region. As a result, it is frequently observed that educational institutes in the area have a high drop out rate where students pursuing their studies are often forced to give up their dreams of higher education due to the lack of adequate infrastructure and other social and economic pressures. To combat such a menace, our college has envisioned a program called the 'Selling Dreams' initiative whose purpose it is to enable school children from the primary sections of neighbouring schools to visit the college premises and experience first-hand what the academic ambience and infrastructure of a higher educational institute feels like so they may be motivated to dream of attaining higher education themselves and thereby become better equipped to face their future challenges.



The 'Selling Dreams' program, which the college initiated in 2017, involves engaging neighbouring primary schools to establish a beneficial bond with them with the view to provide academic motivation and inspiration beginning at the grassroot level. Students belonging to the primary section are brought on a visit to the college campus under the guidance and supervision of some of their selected teachers. A typical visit entails the following steps:

- The visit begins with a welcome address by the principal who welcomes the children and their teachers to the institute
- The children's attention is then engaged by showing them a PowerPoint Presentation on the 'Selling Dreams' program where the college teachers converse with them about the various aspects of higher education including the numerous career prospects that a good education has to offer. They are shown photos and videos of working professionals like doctors, teachers, engineers, architects, police personnel, scientists, pilots and so on to help them understand and envision the potential futures that they may aspire towards with the help of education.
- The PowerPoint Presentation is followed by a few short animated, motivational videos to make them feel more encouraged and positive.
- The children are then escorted under the supervision of their teachers throughout the whole campus. This includes visits to the library, the smart classrooms, the usual classrooms, the auditorium, the gym room, and the indoor sports room amongst others.
- The children are also given a short tour of the college grounds where they are taken through the ornamental garden, the medicinal garden, the

fruit patch, and the vegetable patch. They are also shown the solar panels as well as the rain water harvesting system to help them understand, as far as possible, the significance of the college's efforts to maintain a clean and green campus and of the importance of cleanliness and environmental responsibility in general.

- The tour usually concludes with the giving of a token gift to the school children from the behalf of the college and by taking their feedback about their overall experience of the day.

The visit formally ends with the principal himself extending his warm cooperation and gratitude to the teachers escorting the children and by encouraging everyone present at the program to continue with such efforts to help children from these backward rural areas make their dreams of higher education possible and plausible.



Evidence of Success

Since the initiative primarily focuses on providing academic encouragement and inspiration to students at the grassroots level, it is difficult to measure the program's success in quantifiable terms. However, the qualitative success of the initiative can be gleaned from the overwhelming enthusiasm, positivity and cooperation that has been received from the participating schools. Not only were the teachers and the institutional heads of the schools happy to cooperate with the college on the initiative but they were also remarkably interested in revisiting the college campus with other groups of students from the higher classes to provide them the same encouragement that was given to the primary children. The children themselves were overjoyed about exploring the campus and interacting with the college teachers and the college students. They expressed great interest in revisiting the college as well and were enthralled by their open access to the library stacks, smart classrooms, sports room and other parts of the institute. It is also noteworthy that following the visits of the selected schools since 2017, the heads of other such schools in nearby areas – both private and government – have themselves communicated on different occasions with the faculty members in charge of the 'Selling Dreams' program and expressed interest in visiting the college campus with their students to propagate the motive of the initiative further, which is to inculcate a deep desire and enthusiasm in the minds of young children for higher education to help them realize their dreams for a bright and promising future when they grow up.



Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Even though the initiative has been appreciated by all the schools who have participated in the program, reaching out to schools further away remains a problem despite the enthusiasm since the means of transport in the area are severely limited. Bringing the children to and from their schools thus remains a challenge since funding is not always readily available to arrange for cars or other private means for the convenience of the students.

Apart from funding which remains a fundamental requirement for any initiative, human resources are also required to make the program a greater success. If more and more teachers from schools all around the area and faculty members of the college themselves become more involved, there is a promising possibility of the student drop-out rates getting lowered and of reaching out to a greater number of students to motivate them to enrol themselves in the college courses being offered so that the dream of higher education may become accessible and achievable to those who are as yet outside of the purview of privilege and comfort.