

Green Initiatives

Date of commencement 5 June 2019

The college administration of the Maharana Pratap Government P.G. College Chittorgarh decided to adopt '*Green Initiatives*' to lessen the impact of a wider carbon footprint and as a move towards realizing the goal of sustainable development.

Acting upon the suggestions of the IQAC the 5 of June 2019 was chosen as the day of commencement for 'Green Initiatives' in the college campus, the day is marked as the World Environment Day, the theme of the year was 'Ecosystem Restoration'.

Objectives of the practice

- Increase in the green cover within the college premise through plantation drives.
- Campus beautification through solid waste recycling.
- Effective and timely disposal of non-recyclable waste.
- Decreasing the level of pollution in the college campus.
- Focusing on renewable energy resources and rain water harvesting.
- Conservation of flora and fauna within the college campus.
- Segregation of the waste and proper utilization of bio-waste.
- Increased awareness among students about Eco-conservation.

The college administration decided to increase the 'green cover' within the college campus through coordinated effort of the various student-centric agencies working in the institution e.g. N.S.S., N.C.C., Rover & Ranger, and external agencies including N.G.Os (Rotary International and other socio-cultural organizations).

Several plantation drives have been organized in the college campus and they have been successful in increasing the greenery in the campus. The trees planted in the campus belong mainly of the indigenous variety such as Neem, Mango, Palm, Gulmohar, Banyan, Jamun, Sheesham etc.

The IQAC advised the college administration to develop the idea related to the solid waste recycling; it was deemed as necessary because the solid waste inc. plastic, worn out metals, scrape etc. is considered as an environmental hazard, and needs quick and effective disposal. It was further suggested that an agency involving students i.e. NSS could be accorded the task for its speedy and time-bound implementation. It is noteworthy to mention that the college has four functioning NSS units having one hundred students in each of the units. The IQAC assured all help relating to official sanctions and other budgetary provisions, and it was advised that the services of a professional could also be obtained for the purpose.

The plantation drives carried out in the college campus not only resulted in the increased green cover but also tackled the problem of noise pollution emanating from the honking of vehicular traffic from the roadside.

The college administration worked in tandem with the Government of Rajasthan in implementing the scheme for rain water harvesting in large governmental buildings. The college building has a rain harvesting system with cemented soak-pits for ground water recharging.

In order to save the indigenous species of plants and avian animals the college IQAC suggested planting of certain indigenous fruiting trees, and creation of water points and artificial nesting sites for birds.

The college administration started earmarking of the solid waste in college premises. The process started with the collection of the solid waste in a remote place within the college premises not frequented by students and visitors. Thereafter the segregation of the collected waste is done and waste is disposed off accordingly. These solutions are aimed at sustainable development.

The Context

The college is entirely self dependent for its water needs; the campus has three traditional wells and a bore well, but due to the increasing demand the underground water reserves were depleting at a rapid pace. The Government of Rajasthan assisted the departments who were having their own buildings and a promise to construct a rainwater harvesting system that will recharge the underground water and pave the way for maintaining the fragile ecological balance.

It was often argued that the solid waste dumped in the college premises became a menace which needed immediate attention. The college administration granted the responsibility to the NSS involving all the four units. The college administration did some concrete efforts to conserve the environment; the measures include restricted use of plastic in the campus, speed up of efforts for harnessing renewable energy, and undergoing audits to ascertain the environmental needs and the outcomes of healthy practices adopted for Eco-conservation.

The college campus spans over an area of 105600 m. sq. of land, the green cover of the college campus is less than one-third of its land mass therefore the plantation drives are carried out in the college campus on a regular basis. Various governmental and non-governmental agencies are involved in plantation drives on a regular basis.

The Practice

The institution collaborated with a Union Government body 'M.G.N.C.R.E.' (Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Hyderabad), a member of the faculty Dr. Bharati Veerwal was designated as 'District Sustainable Mentor' for carrying out the activities of environmental protection with the support of MGNCRE and she attended a two-day orientation program at Hyderabad. Thereafter, the college organized a 5-day Training Program and Competitive Exam themed as 'Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development'. Several other programs within and outside the campus were organized under the banner of M.G.N.C.R.E.

The process of solid waste disposal started with the earmarking of the waste in college premises. The collection of the solid waste was done in a remote corner within the college premises. Thereafter, the segregation of the collected waste was done. The waste collected was scrutinized by the artist Sh. Appal Raju Surkala (renowned scrape artist). Sh. Raju helped the students in generating ideas and conceptualizing the art forms while scrutinizing the waste: making use of bigger objects like worn-out overhead plastic water tanks, iron bars and bicycle. The technical assistance involving welding equipments and other instruments was provided by Sh. Raju.

The college also got support from several charitable organizations and N.G.O.s for '*Green Initiatives*'. The governmental support in the form of funds and other assistance was also instrumental in speedy implementation of the '*Green Initiatives*'. The agencies working in the college viz. N.S.S., N.C.C., Rover and Ranger, etc. apart from the teaching association were also involved in green campus activities.

Evidence of Success

- The college is witnessing regular plantation drives by NGOs such as Rotary International, Maheshwari Women's Organization, student organizations, teaching organizations, among others. The donors have also contributed towards the development of Herbal Garden.
- Various '*Green Initiatives*' were launched in collaboration with MGNCRE, including a 5-day 'Training Program & Competitive Exam' which was attended by a large number of participants. At the culmination certificates were awarded to all the participants. A video-shoot of '*Green Initiatives*' in the college campus was done and presented on the MGNCRE on the eve of World Environment Day on June 5, 2022 .
- The '*Green Initiatives*' of the college were deemed as successful when the institution won the 'District Green Champion Award' in the year 2022.
- The college administration was helped by the district administration in setting up Gandhi Vatika in the college campus.
- The college became beneficiary under the D.M.F.T. (District Mineral Foundation Trust) CSR scheme for installation of a rooftop solar power plant.
- The underground water in the campus was recharged to a considerable extent with the installation of rainwater harvesting mechanism.

- The college administration has constructed a compost pit for utilizing the bio-waste in the campus.
- The 'Green Initiatives' have increased the level of awareness among the students for environmental protection. A college student has prepared a report on 'carbon sequestration' by the trees in the college campus. A few student volunteers came forward to help the college administration for the upkeep and maintenance of the herbal garden.
- The discarded wooden doors of college were utilized for creation of new office furniture, while the old metal and wooden furniture was made reusable after minor repairs; the effort was widely published in the media and appreciation came from all the quarters.
- The old electric bulbs and tube-lights were replaced with the new LED ones; the new electric and electronic appliances with star-ratings benchmarks were purchased in order to save the electric power.
- No vehicles day was observed once every month and restricted use of plastic in the college campus was promoted.

Problems encountered and resources required

The '*Green Initiatives*' were deemed as successful to a great extent, but not without a fair share of the problems being faced by the institution in their implementation. The raising of funds from governmental agencies requires a lot of effort; the governmental procedures and formalities are too much time-consuming and work on a slow pace. Some of the '*Green Initiatives*' were not funded appropriately and were conducted on an experimental basis.

The rainwater harvesting system requires a regular inspection and maintenance by the authority supervising its functioning; the governmental agency hired for this purpose did not show much interest after installing the system. The level of water percolation was not regularly monitored by the agency.

The college administration tried to sign a MoU with MGNCRE, but it evoked no response from the agency. The agency stopped communication with college administration after two academic sessions, bringing the activities associated with it to a staggering halt.

The artifacts made from the discarded solid waste with the help professional artist could only be done during one-academic session only, Sh. Raju agreed to participate without honorarium in the event but had other constraints and professional obligations to carry out which resulted in his limited presence during the activity. The student volunteers involved in the activity were amateurs and were not having adequate skills. The activity was conducted for two-days only and achieved limited success. The activity involved high risk and handling of hazardous machinery (gas cutters, welding, file work etc.) therefore girls had a limited participation. The activity involving recycling of the waste (scrap) evoked much enthusiasm among students and enhanced their creative abilities and skills. The students created beautiful artifacts and objects making best use of the plastic and other waste. The students were briefed about the proper handling of the waste and its subsequent recycling. However, the activity needs more financial assistance and a wider platform to bring out the desired results.

Pink Initiatives

Date of commencement: 24 January 2021

The college administration acting upon the suggestions of IQAC decided to initiate a slew of measures aimed at empowering and infusing a sense of self-resilience among the girls studying in the institution, these measures were collectively titled as the 'Pink Initiatives'. The date of commencement of the 'Pink Initiatives' coincided with the 'National Girl Child Day' i.e. 24 January.

The college IQAC performed a pivotal role in leading the 'Pink Initiatives' and came up with reviews and suggestions from time to time.

Objectives of the Practice

- Promotional and awareness campaigns.
 - Setting up of 'Pink Study Corner.'
 - Effective handling of governmental schemes for girls.
 - Setting up of exclusive amenities for girls.
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- Encouraging the girl students to participate in career oriented activities and also focusing on improving their physical and mental abilities. Educating girls about the issues concerning their day to day lives including their health and hygiene, the challenges that lay before them and their effective remedies to be undertaken.

- Providing quality study material to girl students for better preparation for appearing in competitive exams. Procuring books according to the latest syllabus of UPSC, RPSC, and NET, etc. exams. Purchase of books in Hindi language to promote national language and foster the spirit of nationalism. Making competitive books accessible to girls free of cost.
- The college IQAC ensures effective and timely handling of the governmental schemes (initiated by Government of Rajasthan) aimed at the welfare of the girl students; these schemes include Kalibai Bheel and Medhavi Chhatra Scooty Yojana as well as Devnarayan Scooty Yojana. The Government of Rajasthan has also initiated a novel scheme entitled 'Udaan', under this scheme adolescent girls are given free of cost sanitary napkin pads.
- Keeping in view that most of the girls studying in the institution hail from rural and impoverished backgrounds. The college administration on the behest of IQAC took certain initiatives to ensure privacy and provide better amenities to girls while catering to the needs of girls hailing from rural background. The IQAC also stressed on creation of a new facility for day scholar (regular) girl students.

The Context

In today's world it is felt that women who comprise half of the world's population are in need of special care and attention. Various international agencies are working for women's development worldwide; the governments across the globe are ensuring that no woman is left behind. The Government of India and state governments have launched many schemes for betterment of womenfolk especially girls. The governmental promotional activities, incentives, campaigns and drives have yielded good results. The drives against social-malpractices have resulted in increased awareness among women and girls, and they are now adequately empowered to assert their rights in a fair manner.

It is often argued that the students living in today's digital age are drifting away from books and literature; however no concrete efforts are being made to attract students, keeping in the mind the above mentioned fact the college IQAC decided to undertake an initiative directed towards a remedy for this problem. The situation is even worse in the case of girl students which are coming mainly from impoverished and rural backgrounds. The college IQAC decided to involve a student-centric agency i.e. the NSS in carrying out the task for creating a book-bank consisting of competitive exams related books exclusively for girls. The book bank was aptly entitled 'Pink (study) Corner'.

The practice

The college Women's Cell initiated many awareness and promotional activities to create a sense of self-resilience among the girls, the women's cell organized a series on webinars on cross-cutting issues related to emancipation of women. The resource persons in these webinars delivered lectures focusing on topics such as women's rights, legal remedies, health and hygiene among others.

The NSS committee was assigned the task for the creation of a book bank named as 'Pink (Study) Corner' exclusively for girl students. Each student volunteer was assigned the responsibility for seeking a donation (for creation of Pink Corner) of rupees five from each family for 7 days, a student volunteer could collect donations from twenty such families living in his/her neighborhood. The student volunteers went all out to collect donations and many families agreed to donate larger sums of money for this noble cause. The students collected a sum in excess of thirty eight thousand rupees for this purpose. The collected amount has handed over to the college Principal in a function. The college Principal accorded the responsibility for purchase of books for 'Pink Corner' to the department of geography.

The college administration ensures that the governmental schemes which provide incentives to the girl students in the institution are managed properly and followed in letter and spirit. The grievances which occur during the process are disposed off efficiently in a time bound manner. The distribution of two-wheelers (Scooty) to the girl students under the government schemes has benefitted them immensely.

A study conducted by the Government of India has revealed that lack of basic amenities for girls in the schools has resulted in the increased rate of their dropping-out from the educational institutions. The college IQAC came up with suggestions to improve the standards of basic amenities provided to the girl students.

Evidence of success

The conduction of webinars by women's cell on gender issues has yielded good results, the webinars saw enthusiastic participation of girl students, and their level of awareness has increased. They got a chance to interact with academicians and subject-experts of repute, and their inhibitions surrounding health and hygiene issues have also lessened to a considerable extent. Two famous personalities were approached by the women's cell and they agreed to become brand ambassadors for college women's cell, this move also motivated the girl students for setting up higher career goals.

The students were successful in collecting a sum of thirty-eight thousand rupees for 'Pink (study) Corner' which could be considered as a handsome amount. The launch date was selected 24 Jan. coinciding with National Girl Child Day. The Chairman of the Municipal Corporation was invited as a chief guest on the occasion of its inauguration. The books purchased were published by renowned publishers specializing in various subject formats suitable for national and state level competitive exams. The books evoked good response from girls preparing for competitive exams. The books were all published in Hindi which is a unique idea in itself.

The governmental schemes such as 'Scooty Distribution' have achieved satisfactory results over the years, the drop-out rate of college-going girls has decreased manifold, their mobility has increased, the girls living in far-flung rural areas have become self-dependent to commute and their attendance in classrooms has improved drastically. The government scholarship schemes have benefitted girl students especially the girls hailing from backward/SC/ST/OBC/Minority communities.

The college administration has over the years worked on providing better basic amenities to the girl students, clean and hygienic toilets, a girl's common room, and an under-preparation day-care provision.

Problems encountered and resources required

- The promotional activities and awareness campaigns for girls require excessive funding and it is often difficult to make arrangements such programs in the college hours. The webinars organized through digital platforms have limited participation and the duration of the program remains an issue which could be addressed only through software purchases. Technical glitches during the webinars play a spoilsport.
- The idea of collecting of donations for 'Pink (study) Corner' was initiated for a limited period of time. Only NSS volunteers participated in the funds collection drive. The idea was implemented with limited resources and manpower. The student volunteers faced many issues while collecting the donations. The books meant for competitive exams are expensive. The books were not placed in the college library due to the shortage of manpower as a person could not be designated for the transaction of books on a regular basis.
- The governmental schemes have now being operated through online digital platforms thereby making the registration and form filling process more difficult for girls living in rural areas, the college committees for implementation of these schemes face acute shortage of manpower, besides that proper communication and online grievance redress remains a challenge, nevertheless the committees overcome all the odds and deliver effective and timely solutions.