



Govt. Degree College Bijbehara-Kashmir-192124

NAAC Accredited Grade “B”

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Best Practice 1: Spreading Awareness about Rural Sanitization in College Environs

Objective of the practice

Rural sanitization implies the methods and processes of inculcating and spreading understanding of key social, economic, health, and environmental issues within rural communities. It typically aims to change mindsets, behaviors, encourage community participation, and promote positive developmental outcomes in rural and backward areas. Our college is located in a rural area, therefore it was imperative to spread awareness about rural sanitization in the villages falling under its catchment areas.

The intended objectives are:

1. Raising Awareness: Educating rural populations about critical issues like health and wellbeing and global climate change.
2. Behavioral Change: Encouraging rural populations to adopt new practices and behaviors for improved health, agriculture, or resource management. For instance, promoting clean cooking methods or sustainable farming practices.
3. Community Empowerment: Empowering rural communities by providing them with knowledge, resources, and the tools needed to take control of their development. This may include educating people on their rights, local governance, and how to engage in decision-making processes.
4. Promoting Health and Safety: Addressing public health concerns, such as the prevention of communicable diseases, malnutrition, and maternal and child health. It also involves promoting safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene practices.
5. Improving Access to Resources: Ensuring that rural populations are aware of available government services, subsidies, and programs designed to enhance their welfare.
6. Encouraging Environmental Sustainability: Promoting environmental awareness, sustainable agricultural practices, and natural resource conservation to improve long-term sustainability.

The Context: Since our college is located in a rural area, we have witnessed a number of indicators of rural sanitization among students of the college like poor health, limited access to education, gender inequality, and poor economic conditions etc. We therefore, planned to carry out awareness programs like seminars, workshops, etc in the college to sensitize the students regarding ways and methods of rural sanitization. The awareness programs were extended to



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different villages falling in the environs of the college. Massive door to door campaigns, cleanliness drives were carried by the college in the villages to foster rural sanitization in the villages.

Evidence of success:

Our awareness initiatives and campaigns have led to better health practices such as improved maternal health care, organic farming, increased awareness around the importance of education, especially for girls, has led to higher enrollment rates and reduced gender disparities in rural education systems. Besides, rural sanitization efforts have successfully mobilized communities to work together for common goals, such as improving sanitation facilities, promoting soil conservation techniques, water management practices, and reforestation, leading to more sustainable environmental practices in rural areas.

Challenges of Rural Sanitization

- Cultural and Traditional Barriers
- Limited Access to Communication Channels
- Low Literacy Levels
- Economic Constraints
- Inadequate Government Support
- Resistance to Change
- Inadequate Follow-up and Monitoring

Best Practice 2: Green and Clean Campus Initiative

Objective of the practice:

Good environment is a key aspect of any educational institution as it is highly essential to keep the campus green & clean. The faculty, staff and students entering the campus should feel a serene and cozy atmosphere which makes them stress-free during the entire day of academics. Green & clean campus boosts the brain and lends a new energy for starting a new day. Besides, it makes the environment healthier, full of oxygen and free from pollution and aids in conservation of flora and fauna.

The intended objectives are:

- To prevent the use of single use plastics and polyethene bags in the college campus.



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- To grow more and more trees and ornamental plants for enhancing the landscape and campus beautification..
- To lend practicability to **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- To develop policies for waste management and disposal.
- To inculcate the importance of “**Green & Clean**” environment in the students so as to contribute in achievement of UNEP goal of “**Green & Clean Planet**”.

The Context:

A green and clean college campus creates a harmonious and sustainable environment that benefits students, staff, and the planet. By integrating eco-friendly practices, waste management, energy conservation, and sustainable infrastructure, our institution contributes significantly to environmental conservation while enhancing health and well-being.

The college has a polygreen house in which the saplings are raised under the supervision of the faculty members of the Department of Botany. The saplings have also been donated to the college by the Forest department and department of Social Forestry of the district. The availability of dedicated manpower of Local Fund Employees helps in plantation of saplings, their management as well as in landscape development and de-weeding of the campus. Budgetary provision for regular fertilizers, de weeding and other financial aspects were provided by the college. The technical issues and other aspects were well guided by the Department of Botany of the college.

Besides, the college promotes a ban on the use of polyethene and restricts the entry of vehicles to cut down automobile emissions within the college campus.

Evidence of success:

To evaluate the success of the practice we had made the audit report of the area two times from the external agencies. The report is very positive about the carbon credit.

In the college campus more than two 200 tree/shrub and ornamental and medicinal plants are growing. The most common species include *Populus*, *Salix*, *Cuprusses*, and *Morus* species. Students and staff of the college are engaged in various environment conservation activities. In conclusion Govt. Degree College Bibehara is actively engaged in environment conservation initiatives, plant survival rate is well maintained, and watering schedule is also planned according to the season.



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Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The various resources required for the practice were, a team of skilled and dedicated gardeners, and the availability of the various plants and their maintenance.

These problems were faced and tackled by following regular measures.

- **Training of Gardeners:** A team of local fund employees have been trained by the botany department of the college as well as have been trained at ICSC Srinagar so as to enhance their gardening skills. The team has been dedicated for landscape development and campus beautification purposes to achieve the goals of Green and Clean environment.
- **Cutting of weeds:** Grass cutting is done regularly after certain intervals with brush cutter and lawn mowers.
- **Fertilizers application:** Various fertilizers including the vermicompost as per the requirements are supplemented to the plants and trees.
- **Raising of Saplings:** This is a very important aspect of the practice. Preparation of saplings is done in a poly greenhouse.
- **Watering:** Regular watering of the plants in the college campus is done through the use of harvest rainwater.
- **Trimming of plants:** Regular trimming of plants is done for proper growth, cutting unnecessary branches, growth, proper shape and for aesthetic look of the plants.