



Best Practice 1

Title of the Practice:

PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, SCIENTIFIC INQUISITIVENESS AND LOVE FOR NATURE AMONG STUDENTS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

Objectives of the Practice: The practice focuses on inculcating environmental awareness, responsibility and the development of love for nature among local school students. This is achieved by providing an opportunity to local school students for real-life exposure to science laboratories, biological specimens and scientific techniques as well as through observation of flora, suitably guided by Faculty Members. Similar drives are also undertaken to infuse interest in space through organisation of “Sky Observation Workshop”.

The expected outcome:

- To inculcate scientific inquisitiveness in school students through laboratory visits
- To promote environmental awareness through observation of flora
- To infuse interest in space through “Sky Observation Workshop”

The Context: Khejuri College is located in a remote rural area where most of the students are first generation learners. The college deems it to be its social responsibility to promote environmental awareness, scientific temper and love for nature amongst its students. In order to achieve this aim, the college frequently organizes seminars, webinars and special talks which focus on environmental and ecological issues. Further, the College NSS volunteers engage in tree plantation, campus and locality cleaning drives as well as awareness campaigns. Environment based projects are part of the curriculum. However, there are some schools in the vicinity of the College where laboratory facilities are not optimal. The students of these schools often lack access to engaging scientific demonstrations. The College endeavours to include several such schools located in its vicinity to be part of programmes conducted by the college related to environmental awareness and promotion of scientific temper.

The Practice: The activity of “loving and protecting environment” cannot be merely confined to the college campus. Promotion of environmental awareness, scientific inquisitiveness and love for nature can only be successful if a proper scientific aptitude is inculcated in young minds at a tender age. Over the years the College has realised that disseminating environmental awareness, scientific inquisitiveness and love of nature beyond the College Campus will raise the Academic output of the College as it will provide an enriched catchment area for scientific explorations in the local community. To achieve this lofty aim, the College has adopted the following practices of disseminating its message of environmental awareness, scientific inquisitiveness and love of nature:



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- College initiates drive to interconnect local schools for scientific aptitude development through science laboratory visits ensuring hands-on experience and acquaintance of biological samples, scientific equipment, posters and models. The pictures of text books become real when local school students come and visit the laboratories of the Departments of Aquaculture Management and Zoology. The Faculty Members of the College acquaint the school students with the fascinating world of science.
- The Khejuri College Campus has a variety of tree species. The school students are made aware of the floristic diversity of the campus by the Faculty Members of the College. Not only are they informed about the characteristics of significant plant species but they are informed about the importance of tree planting and the various means of ecological preservation. In the campus, an African Baobab tree has become a centre of attraction for nature lovers. A deep bonding with nature is inculcated among students through this enriching experience.
- Unravelling the mystery of space is another drive taken by the College to stimulate interest among the students about space. The programme was organized by the Geography Department of the college in collaboration with Ujan Welfare Trust.
- Celebration of “National Science Day” with college and local school students is another endeavour undertaken by the College to encourage scientific temper. Scientific inquisitiveness is ignited amongst local school students through lectures delivered by experts as well as through poster presentations by College Students. This also leads to an interaction between College and School students, hence strengthening the network of knowledge in the local community.

Evidence of Success: The efforts undertaken to disseminate environmental awareness, scientific inquisitiveness and love for nature among school students of the vicinity have been appreciated by the school authorities. Success can also be assessed from the increasing interest among students for attending such programmes. It is expected that this drive would be bringing a change in their intellectual world with good career opportunities. Further, the College also complements its efforts among school students with similar drives among the adult population. For example, in the Add-on Course on “Advanced Technology for Smart Agriculture: Cropping, Prevention and Trading”, organised from 22nd to 28th June 2022, members of the local community were allowed to participate and they were made aware of ecologically beneficial methods of agriculture.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The pursuit of drives for disseminating environmental awareness, scientific inquisitiveness and love for nature in a remote area often encounters usual logistical obstacles. Resource Persons and Experts are sometimes difficult to access. Moreover, though the College continues to encourage scientific pursuit amongst the local people, relatively higher fees of Science Programmes often discourage students from pursuing such Programmes in Higher Studies. This needs both counselling of the parents as well as an improvement of the socioeconomic condition of the families. College also could perform in a better way if adequate resources and grants were provided.



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