

Two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution

Best Practice 1: Sustainable Green Practices

Objectives of the Practice:

1. To inculcate environment consciousness amongst the stakeholders such as faculty, students and non-teaching staff.
2. To create an environment conscious campus through eco-friendly practices
3. To develop and beautify college campus which will result in an increased biodiversity
4. To reduce the consumption of fossil fuel based energy
5. To contribute in the mitigation of local environmental issues as responsible citizens

The Context:

Having a campus in 8.25 acre, the college contributes in developing **a sustainable and environmental friendly way of functioning**. **6 eco-friendly parks** of the college adds to the aesthetic beauty and serenity of the campus and are used for the conduct of various events. College has more than **50 species of plants** in the campus with proper labeling of its botanical and common names. **The Herbal Garden** has a good collection of medicinal plants. College has **rich biodiversity of trees and birds**. **Aquatic Ecosystem, Butterfly conservatory, Herbal Garden** are also used for various real time practical exercises conducted in Zoology and Botany subjects. The college has installed **Solar Panels, Rainwater Harvesting System, and Green Compost Machine for conservation of energy**. **Green/ Vermi Compost pit** is constructed at Herbal Garden.

The Practice:

In our constant endeavour to make the environment green and sustainable we follow and implement the following practices:

- College has an **environment and energy policy** and also conducted **green audit**.
- **Usage of solar power to reduce energy consumption** from the electric grid. College uses energy after the lockdown is 37357 KW per month whereas before lockdown the energy used by the college was 50656 KW per month as consumption of energy. After the lockdown the college has replaced high energy demanding tube lights replaced by LED that leads to energy saving equivalent 6178 KW per month.
- Upkeep of **butterfly conservatory** which attracts the population of butterflies, insects and plants contributing to the biodiversity of campus.
- Maintaining a **vertical garden** made of reused plastic bottles so as to recycle them and add greenery to the campus.

- The college library in association with **Green-o-Tech India** worked towards a greener environment by giving old newspapers and waste paper, for recycling in lieu of recycled products such as files, paper rims, conference pads etc.
- A **compost machine** has been installed in the college to recycle organic waste and produce manure for in house use.
- A **herbal garden** is being maintained to bring in many known herbs in one place. This showcases the herbs used in traditional medicine such as Ayurveda and brings the students closer to their roots. Medicinal plants such as **Giloy, Basil, Rudraksha, Ajwain**, etc. are grown.
- To conserve rain water, a **rainwater harvesting system** has been constructed to collect, store and use water.
- The college takes immense pride in its **green landscaping** with many species of trees and plants. The College also has many gardens such as **Saraswati Park, August Kranti Park, Herbal Garden and Theme Park**. The gardens have Indian and ecological suited varieties of flora to preserve and maintain population of local small animal life.
- An **aquatic ecosystem** is maintained with fish species *Gambusia* to manage mosquito population by prevention of their breeding in the water body.
- College celebrates commemorative days related to environment consciousness such as **World Water Day, Ozone Day, Water Wetland Day and Earth Day**.
- Activities such as **Campus Bird Count is conducted by Department of Zoology and Census of Trees in the campus by Department of Botany** to create awareness about diversity of birds and campus flora respectively.
- Eco Club organises **plantation drives, environmental awareness programs** through poster making, slogan writing, essay writings etc.
- Visits to various **Biodiversity Parks** such as **Aravali Bio Diversity Park, Wazirabad Bio Diversity Park, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Botanical Gardens, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Delhi and Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Climate Change** are conducted regularly for the students. Various departments organised educational trips to places like Manali, Haridwar etc. Trips to Indian Agriculture Research Institute were organised by the Zoology Department to familiarise the students with the skill of **bee-keeping** as bees are an important link in the ecosystem chain.
- Energy efficient bulbs and tubes are in use in the college campus and students are constantly instructed to turn off lights and other electronic devices when not in use. There are notices in each classroom that instruct the students and staff to switch off lights and fans when the classes are over so as to save electricity.
- **Environmental Studies** is taught to all First Year students across departments. College provides hands-on training and experiential learning to the students through visits and excursions.

Evidence of Success:

- College has taken a first-time initiative to compute its **carbon footprint** and set a benchmark for other Colleges/Universities. The college has adopted a **carbon reduction strategy** to undertake this task. Planning, collection of data and estimation of CO₂ helps in adopting suggestive measures for reduction.
- Campus looks green, clean and fresh due to the mentioned efforts.
- College maintains a healthy biodiversity with many different species of birds, insects and small animals despite being in a heavily populated and urbanised area.
- College is able to use water which earlier used to be wasted as run-off.
- College has significantly reduced its coal based electricity consumption due to the installed solar panels.
- The butterfly conservatory attracts unique species.
- The measures not only have been beneficial to the environment but also are excellent practical demonstrations of conservation principles for all our students.
- The students have learnt the concept of **reuse, recycle and reduce**.
- Plastic waste has reduced from campus and a beneficial use has been found for the plastic bottles. These bottles have been utilised to construct a **vertical garden** to add to the green cover of the college.
- The **herbal garden** is the pride of the college and serves to not only increase greenery but also generates an interest in the students in alternate medicines and healing.
- The visits to the various **Biodiversity Parks** has also sparked interest among the students who gradually become more aware of their surroundings and the need for sustainable co-existence.
- The college has a well-structured functional committee for the **e-waste management**.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Creating environment consciousness among the stakeholders and to change mindsets is a long and arduous task.
- The effort to maintain the large green areas of the College is a herculean task and requires manpower, constant supervision and nurturing.
- It is difficult to maintain a plastic free campus, due to inadequate alternatives.
- The most challenging problem encountered during pandemic was the maintenance of above mentioned practices due to restraints put in place.
- Closure of educational institutions due to the countrywide lockdown led to requirement of resources and manpower for the revival of all these facilities.

Best Practice 2: Social Responsibility and Community Outreach: Working towards an empowered society

College recognizes that giving back to the society is an integral part of education in order to nurture responsible citizens. The college engages students in various community outreach activities to inculcate human values.

Objectives of the Practice:

In line with one of the missions of the college, 'To inculcate human values and enable students to be responsible citizens at national and global levels', college provides a platform to its students to work towards betterment of the society:

- To help the marginalised sections of society to lead a meaningful life
- To upskill and facilitate economic upliftment of underprivileged sections of the society
- To empower the weaker sections of society
- To create awareness among students on various social issues

The Context:

The college recognizes the need to instill skills of leadership and innovation along with empathy, benevolence and compassion in its students. It is constantly working in the direction of motivating and engaging students to undertake projects and activities aimed to uplift the underprivileged sections and fight the social stigmas prevailing in the society. Guided by its commitment towards the attainment of sustainable development goals, another best practice adopted by the college is in the field of social responsibility, wherein the college strongly feels that education should not only be restricted to the prescribed curriculum but also motivate students to embrace the society at large.

The Practice:

To further its mission of inculcating human values in students, college has been undertaking several social extension and outreach programmes over the years through Social Responsibility Cell, NSS, WDC, etc.

1. Social Responsibility Cell (SRC) was set up in 2017 with the objective to collaborate with civil society organizations for expanding the coverage and impact of social outreach work beyond the mandated work performed by the NSS Unit of the college. The two major wings of SRC are Connecting Dreams Foundation (CDF), Kalindi College chapter and Enactus Kalindi. The major projects that have been undertaken are:

- **Project Kilkari:** Under this project, the children living on streets are chosen by the R&D team, their families are counseled about the importance of education and they are, then, admitted to the nearest government and private schools under 'Right to Education'. To

address the possibility of dropout among these children, a KILKARI Pathshala was introduced to make every child able enough to read and write.

- **Project Unnati:** With a tagline “*ann daan jeevan daan*”, is a fight against hunger and the team works towards eradication of hunger problem in the city by serving low-cost nutritious meal to the needy.
- **Project Yukta:** It aims at creation of livelihood opportunities for women. Initiated during the pandemic, the project involved production of 100% cotton semi-pleated cloth face masks by group of women who had lost their jobs during the lockdown.
- **Project Rehmat:** Aimed at uplifting the community of manual scavengers and eradicating the inhumane practice of manual scavenging, kits containing soaps, gloves, body suit, glasses etc. were provided to manual scavengers for entering into sewers and simultaneously over a period of 3 months they were provided an opportunity to learn a new skill and rehabilitated.
- **Project Weran:** This project focuses on uplifting the farming community and underprivileged women. Farm produce (fruits and vegetables) are categorized into three categories: A, B and C based upon their quality. Category B produce that usually goes waste due to its unappealing look is used to produce pickles and jams by training poor urban women so that they can be transformed into self-sustained entrepreneurs. Category C is the rotten produce which is used by trained farmers in making organic manure, saving the costs of production.
- **Project Rahi:** Under this project, team is working on used tyres to make artefacts and furniture with an objective to reduce massive pollution caused by burning of tyres

2. **NSS Unit** undertakes a lot of extension activities to create awareness among students about important social and environmental issues by conducting drives involving cleanliness, tree plantation, food and cloth donation on a regular basis. It organizes seminars, competitions like slogan writing, poster making, extempore, debate, poetry writing on topics of national importance. In addition, financial literacy campaigns, health camps, blood donation camps, voter awareness camps are also arranged for staff and students.

3. **Women Development Cell (WDC)** is the gender forum of the college. It engages with critical questions of gender and society in India. Various gender sensitization programmes like seminars, workshops, talks, film shows and debates are regularly organized for students and staff. The main aim of WDC is to ensure a gender sensitive campus that inculcates the values of equality, equity and non-discrimination. This is in sync with the mission of the college to inculcate human values and enable students to become responsible citizens at national and global levels.

4. Besides, there are numerous activities conducted by different departments, clubs and cells that emphasize on making the students socially responsible citizens by way of street plays, lectures, discussions etc. For instance,

- Street Play Society RAQS performed nukkad-natak spreading message of Clean India Mission in all 70 legislative assemblies of Delhi in association with Indraprasth Sanjeevni NGO.
- Zoological Society, Students' Union and NSS of Kalindi College in collaboration with NGO Kranti helped in providing verified information on availability of hospital beds, plasma donors, oxygen cylinders etc. during the pandemic.
- PhysCom Society organised a cloth collection and donation drive for orphanage.
- Students intern with NGOs and civil society organizations like Kind Being, Lakshya Jeevan Jagriti etc.

Evidence of Success

Although College has been acknowledged for its community work at various forums, some prominent ones are highlighted below:

- Enactus Kalindi working under the aegis of Social Responsibility Cell has won accolades in several Social B-plan competitions since its operation in 2017 and in 2020 and 2021, it was amongst the top teams of the country to have received the **KPMG Business Ethics Grant** for two of its projects- Rehmat and Weran. But more importantly, the success of these projects lie in the manner in which they have influenced the lives of people around:
 - A training session for poor women in Jahangirpuri under Project Weran to make apple-flavoured jam, **Afza Jams**, to transform them into self- sustained entrepreneurs. The project has been extended to include strawberry/ mango jams, chutneys and pickles.
 - **“From Rags to Riches”** initiative wherein around 300 handmade cloth masks were distributed across different areas to underprivileged people thereby overcoming the problem of disposal of surgical masks.
 - **Handwash refill drives** in two different localities of Delhi and Lucknow under Project Rehmat were undertaken The Hand wash “Swatchch” was prepared by the women of the Manual scavenging community. The drive served the dual purpose of uplifting the community as well as addressing the increased plastic waste in the form of plastic bottles.
 - A **Composting Workshop** highlighting the importance and methods of composting at home.
 - Project Jeevan, in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies to provide **free medical tele consultations** to Covid positive patients.
- CDF Kalindi (CDFK) received recognition for its work under Project Kilkari and Project Unnati which were conceived in 2017 and 2018 respectively. In 2019, it won the **1st Runner-up Trophy in Dream Team of the Season Award ceremony** by Connecting Dreams Foundation. Further, Project Unnati won the **Best Dream Project of 2018**, out of

40 other projects operating in different DU colleges. Moreover, Kilkari Pathshala model, brainchild of CDF Kalindi was extended to and adopted by other educational institutions in Delhi & NCR. CDFK team through its various projects was able to impact the lives of the under-privileged:

- **Admission of street children** into government schools under Right to Education Act.
- **Educational training of underprivileged children** in Todapur and Inderpuri.
- **Digital learning sessions** for students in MCD School, Jhandewalan.
- **Book donation drive** and setting up a library in Khalsa School, RK Ashram Marg.
- **Food donation cum distribution drives** in Rajendra Place and Patel Nagar under Project Unnati etc.
- Kalindi College is the first college in the university to set up a **Transgender Cell** to sensitize students towards the issues of the transgender community. This was widely covered in many leading newspapers and magazines like Times of India, Telegraph, the Print, India Today and TV channels like NDTV, ABP Live etc.
- The Street Play Team also received appreciation from political stalwarts like Sh. Venkiah Naidu and Dr. Harshwardhan for its '70 Vidhaan Sabha, 70 Mukaam' Clean India programme mentioned above.
- Extension work undertaken by NSS, NCC, WDC and other societies, cells and club has not only made students aware about social issues and problems but has also instilled in them a sense of responsibility, discipline and commitment towards the problems of others. It has made students more confident and broadened their horizons such that the college is witnessing more number of students taking up community work, getting through prestigious MBA institutions like IIMs, SP Jain, KJ Somaiya etc. and aspiring to study abroad. This phenomenal transformation has been a result of the college's effort to seek holistic development of its students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Engaging and motivating students for community work is challenging.
- In case of outreach work, given the nature of projects and the associated target community, attrition of individuals is sometimes an issue.
- The pandemic magnified the challenge of going to the field and connecting with the community. Some being migrants moved to their native places for better alternatives.
- Resources initially had been a constraint but the college came together to provide seed money for commencing some of these projects through donations by the teaching and non-teaching staff.