

## **7.2 BEST PRACTICE**

### **1.**

#### **Title of the Practice**

## **PATRASAYER MAHAVIDYALAYA : AN ECO-FRIENDLY & GREEN CAMPUS**

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

Eco-friendly campus initiatives are becoming integral part of the modern-day education system and the institutions can act as pioneers in promoting these principles within society. The college has always tried to maintain an ecologically rich campus. Keeping these things in mind, we have identified the following objectives which are in tune with the practice.

- To maintain an eco-friendly green campus by regular plantation of trees.
- To maintain a clean campus vulnerable to pollution free environment.
- To promote awareness of environmental issues among the students, staff and society.
- To plant medicinal/herbal plants on the college campus.
- To use renewable energy sources (solar panels, solar lamps, LED bulbs)
- To organize awareness programmes on environmental related issues.

#### **Context**

Patrasayer Mahavidyalaya is located in a rural area. A clean environment is a basic necessity of human beings for health and efficiency. Global warming and other environmental problems have become a serious matter of concern for our planet in the present time. To deal with this emergent situation we need to be eco-friendly to save our planet and environment as well as make it a better place to live. The main aim of them practice is to impart knowledge, create awareness and develop an attitude of concern and to nurture necessary skills to handle the environmental issues and challenges. The rural village region and green landscaping of college are the necessary features for shaping and sustaining an eco-friendly campus. The NSS unit of our institution actively contributes to various environmental activities. The institution tries up to create awareness among students and staff about the need for participating in green initiatives.

## Practice

The college plays a crucial role in inculcating eco-friendly habits within students and staff. The institution has taken the following initiatives to make the campus eco-friendly:

**Plantation and Gardening-** The NSS unit regularly conducts Plantation drives. The practice of gardening has also proven to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the students.

**Plastic-free Campus:-** The college encourages a plastic-free environment and the students and staff are actively encouraged to restrict the use of plastic within the college premises.

**Herbal Garden:-** A well-maintained herbal garden is available that offers a wide variety of herbal and medicinal plants.

**Use of Bicycles:-** A good number of students and staff use bicycles and public transport to reach the campus.

**Pedestrian Friendly Pathways:-** Vehicle parking space is provided at the main entrance of the college campus and classrooms are connected with concrete pedestrian friendly pathways.

**Solid Waste Management:-** Dry waste products are allowed to decompose and garden waste products are often burnt and disposed. Sanitary napkins are disposed properly using the incinerator which is installed in the girl's toilet.

**Solar Panels:-** High mast solar street lights and solar panels are installed in the campus as alternate sources of energy. LED bulbs are used to conserve energy.

**Paperless office:-** College office has been digitized to reduce paper usage. Electronic transfer of documents is preferred.

**Safe and Clean Drinking Water:-** The college provides clean and safe drinking water for students and staff. Water Filters have been installed in all common and most frequented areas like the classrooms, office and library.

**Campus Cleaning Drive:-** NSS conducts frequent campus cleaning drives and also spreads awareness to make the college plastic and tobacco free. Students are discouraged from littering and are encouraged to keep the campus clean.

**Awareness Programmes:-** Programmes on Van Mahotsav Week , World No-Tobacco Day and World Earth Day are aimed to increase eco-consciousness. Other environmental awareness programmes are held from time to time.

## **Evidence of Success**

The practice has an outstanding impact on the teaching and learning abilities of the faculty members and students respectively. The Green campus developed by the college not only helps in protecting the environment, but also enhances the beauty of the campus. As the area around the campus is under the forest department, so there is no possibility of any kind of disturbance and also there is no possibility of noise pollution. Dust and dirt-free environment of the campus is another evidence of success. Class rooms, staff room and office room are neat and clean due to increasing awareness of clean and green campus programmes. Ban on plastic items has made college campus clean and beautiful. Use of LED bulbs and tube lights reduced the consumption of electricity. Through workshops and seminars, students are made aware of the various environmental issues. Green power generation by using solar panel reduced the use of conventional electricity consumption. The use of bicycles by the students reduces air pollution and maintains physical fitness. A paper on Environmental Studies is a mandatory part of the CBCS curriculum. The concept of green campus campaign and environment-friendly practices in the campus resulted in developing an eco-friendly campus.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

The main problems encountered in the Eco-friendly & Green Campus initiatives are the development and maintenance of proper infrastructure for the green practices. As the college is located in a rural area of Bankura district, the geographical disadvantage needs to be primarily taken into account. Then the lack of financial support from the higher offices is also a genuine problem that the college has to deal with. Frequent power cuts force the college to use generator which are very polluting to the environment. However, the college, even with its limited resources, has tried its best to implement the practice of making the campus ecologically sustainable. The college constantly strives to achieve the goal of spreading environmental consciousness amongst all the stakeholders and to serve as an example to the society. Nevertheless, even with the limited resources the college has been positively contributing to promote and practice eco-conscious behavior.

## **7.2 BEST PRACTICE**

### **2.**

#### **Title of the Practice**

### **Our Online Endeavour during the Pandemic**

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

To ensure constant support to the students and uninterrupted teaching-learning process online during the global the outbreak of the novel Corona virus and the subsequent global lockdown. The few initiatives taken to maintain communication among all stakeholders are mentioned below:

- ❖ Creation of YouTube Channels of the institution to host programmes.
- ❖ Use and management of virtual applications such as WhatsApp, Google Meet, Zoom etc. to exchange information.
- ❖ Conduction of all official procedures through the online mode.
- ❖ Providing wholesome support during Internal Assessment and University examinations.

#### **THE CONTEXT**

The entire world was gripped by pandemic due to the outbreak of the novel Corona virus and lockdown was imposed globally. The major part of the world was quarantined due to the serious outbreak of this virus and the subsequent global pandemic. Its effects could be seen in almost all sectors including educational institutions. In such a special situation, it was of utmost importance to make necessary arrangements to ensure uninterrupted administrative and academic work. Student support became one of the primary objectives and it became imperative to introduce online education by making maximum use of technology. Patrasayer Mahavidyalaya, despite being a rural institution, shifted its whole academic and administrative activities online. With the abrupt halt to physical teaching, faculty members switched to the mode of online teaching using Google Meet and Zoom applications. Other than regular online classes, faculty members diligently uploaded study materials on college portal. The students were given all kinds of support from the institution in general and their respective Departments in particular during this difficult time.

## THE PRACTICE

The outbreak of the Covid-19 and the subsequent pandemic changed our approach towards traditional teaching-learning methods. Given the scenario, Patrasayer Mahavidyalaya, despite being a rural institution, shifted its whole academic and administrative activities online in the following ways:

**Daily Online classes:** During the lockdown Patrasayer Mahavidyalaya ensured uninterrupted online classes with the help of applications like Google Meet and Zoom. Online class links were posted in WhatsApp groups in due time. A few faculty members created their own YouTube Channels and uploaded educational videos. The head of the institution conducted regular informal meetings with the faculty members for students' support and progression. Other committee meetings were conducted to discuss the overall academic and administrative activities.

**Sharing of Study Materials:** The faculty members constantly addressed the needs of the students and study materials were shared through the institution portal or online applications. The students could also submit their assignments through the online portals. It ensures the students' constant engagement in their learning process.

**Mentor-Mentee relationship:** A Mentor-mentee relationship had been established during the pandemic through WhatsApp, emails, personal calls and extra classes. Faculty members tried to address the students' problems beyond stipulated hours. A formal offline Mentor-Mentee system for Honours students has also been introduced from the last academic year.

**Enhancing communication during lockdown:** The students and staff were in constant contact with each other through various means such as WhatsApp, emails etc. Faculty groups and students' group were created and all college communications were posted on website or students' groups through WhatsApp.

**Webinar:** Various webinars, special awareness programmes, were organized due to lockdown. Virtual applications like Zoom, Google Meet etc. were employed to interact with the students through video conferencing.

**Online Admission:** The entire admission process of the college was done online through the ERP software. The students did not need to leave their home and could get admission online.

**Online e-magazine:** The students and staff of Patrasayer Mahavidyalaya had taken the initiative of publishing the institutional magazine *Anirban* through the online mode to

showcase their creativity. E-Prospectus of the college for the newly admitted students were also prepared and posted on the website for their perusal.

**Faculty Knowledge Sharing and Gaining:** Our faculty members were quite active in knowledge accumulation by attending and participating in various online courses, workshops, and seminars, etc. Our faculties were invited by various institutions as Resource Persons and speakers to chair academic and research sessions.

**ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Software:** For the fast and smooth conduction of all activities the institution has been using the ERP software to ensure transparency in all college-related activities. Digitization of the institution office and library are of utmost importance to the institution.

### **EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:**

Although the face-to-face interaction of physical classes could not be replicated through online methods, institution tried its best to mitigate the hindrances to academic and administrative activities during the pandemic. All support to the stakeholders were provided as needed and any/all grievances were swiftly redressed. Classes and other activities such as administrative work, webinars, awareness programmes and Internal Assessment were conducted online during the lockdown in a fair and transparent manner. Students were continuously assessed during classes and through Internal Assignments. Along with the academic activities, the mental health of the learners was also assessed by the faculty members. The outstanding examination results of the students and overall growth during the abovementioned period indicate that our aim to create an unhindered online academic and administrative system has been a successful endeavour.

### **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED**

While many students were persistent and determined to gain from this new mode of online teaching-learning and pedagogies, there were others, especially those from economically weaker sections of the society who struggled to cope with this online method. The outbreak of the virus had forced many of our students to take on the additional burden of family responsibilities and in some cases, they had to work to support their families. As extreme stress and anxiety were evidenced during this pandemic, it had become very important to provide counseling services to the stakeholders. Availability of modern facilities like smart phones and internet connectivity, proved to be especially difficult for the economically weaker sections. In addition, students living in remote areas often failed to attend online classes due to poor internet connectivity. Moreover, due to the global crisis many guardians lost their jobs which resulted in the students' dropping-out of the course or inability to appear for online examinations. In this regard, the institution tried to give financial support to the students by per reducing the overall fees.