

### ***Best Practice -1: Eco-friendly Environment of the Campuses.***

**The Context:** Ever since its inception in 1946 the Berhampore Girls' College with two campuses, located in the heart of the city of Berhampore, has been rendering its services by emphasizing upon the creation and maintenance of greenery. Following the path paved by the great personalities who have spearheaded the institute, the college is still thriving for the maintenance of the eco-friendly environment in the institution and it is considered as one of the basic objectives. Today deforestation is one of the greatest concerns in India. It has endangered the eco-system and enforced many species to the path of extinction. Keeping this ever growing problem in mind, the College has evolved an interactive approach and adopted necessary measures for the maintenance of eco-friendly environment of the institute. The rapidly developing human civilization has developed some new concerns that we hardly faced even before some decades. Some sort of physical measures have also been adopted to face the emerging problems of uncontrolled use of non-biodegradable element of plastic, hazardous bio-degradable wastes, e-wastes etc. Apart from these, a garden of diverse flora surrounded by some trees of rare species is also properly maintained by the college. The old hostel campus with a small piece of Shalkunja, is also maintained with care.

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

- To create an eco-friendly environment and to conserve the extinct variety of trees with the maintenance of the diversity of plants in the campuses.
- To ensure sustainability of academic environment seen in relation to the conservation of a green outlook of life.
- To take initiative for Energy Conservation in the form of utilizing more solar panels.
- To continue the social ethos of tree plantation.
- To create an internal mechanism for proper waste-management.

**The Practice:** The objective of eco-friendly environment is being promoted by the joint venture. The Department of Botany, "Basudha Eco-Club" and the NSS Unit of the college are committed primarily to discharge the responsibility in a planned way. Sometimes, Berhampore Lions Club, West Bengal Forest Department and Alumni Association have joined hands in this regard. The present practice is the outcome of the following initiatives:

**The Monitoring System:** Department of Botany, "Basudha Eco-club" and the NSS Unit of the college looks after the conservation of the green environment of the campuses. A full time gardener is always taking care of the campus. The Campus Maintenance and Beautification/Green and Environment Conservation Committee is careful to keep the campus attractive. The Department of Botany carries out the responsibility for naming and numbering of trees in the campuses.

**Plantation of Trees in the Campus:** The plantation of trees is a regular practice of the institute. The college has taken initiative for the conservation of trees of rare varieties. The "Basudha Eco-Club" and NSS Unit of the college organize tree plantation programmes, cleaning programmes in the college campuses. Tree plantation programme is also organized on the occasion of World Environment Day and Arannya Saptaha and different programmes on environmental issues are also organized to sensitize the girls in a scientific way. Keeping in mind the fact that quite a large number of indigenous mango varieties are on the path of

extinction in Malda and Murshidabad district, our institution attempts to preserve at least some of the rare varieties of mangoes by the process of plantation in the two campuses.

**Conservation of Energy:** For the proper utilization of solar energy, Solar Panels have been installed in the campus. The old set-up of electrification of the main building has been supplanted and furnished with new wires and modern instruments. A large number of low power consuming tubes have been installed. A smoke free and noise free Kirloskar Green Generator has been installed. The faculty members are more careful to make the students aware of the proper and controlled use of electricity in the college building.

**Internal Waste Management:** The volunteers of the “Basudha Eco-Club” and the NSS Unit of the college take special care to keep the campuses pollution free. The non-biodegradable hazardous wastes are collected and kept away from the campuses with the help of Berhampore Municipality. The biodegradable wastes are dumped in the vermin-composting units. The day-to-day wastes are managed with the large size bins set up in both campuses. A Dump-pit has been set up by the Zoology department for the animal wastes.

**Obstacles faced/ Problems Encountered:** The major problems confronted by the institute are:

- The institution needs a vibrant monitoring system.
- Lack of awareness with regard to the new environmental problems created in course of time among the students.
- The institution needs to have more involvement of different governmental agencies for environmental up-gradation of the campuses.
- Modern science-specific measures are more expensive.
- Non-availability of sufficient fund required to maintain the two big campuses.

**Evidence of Success:**

- The campuses are privileged by quite a few rare and royal varieties of mangoes.
- The luscious green environment shadowed with varieties of trees and many old and gigantic trees remind always about the glorious tradition of the college.
- The medicinal garden called “*Madhumali Veshaja Uddyan*” in the campus.
- Students’ overwhelming participation in the different programmes on environmental issues and their healthy cooperation and coordination is always seen with the regard to the proper maintenance of the greeneries.
- Necessary paved ways and sitting arrangements are set up to enjoy the campuses.

**Resources Required:**

- Availability of necessary fund for the implementation of the plans.
- Separate resource is required for the Hostel Campus.
- Advice of the experts is needed from time to time.

**Best Practice – 2: Provision of Memorial Prizes, College Prizes and Endowments for the Academic Excellence, Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities.**

**The Context:** “The necessity of such an institution in the district headquarter is urgent and I think every endeavour should be made towards fulfilment of the object” (1946) – This was an

appeal of Mr. B. G. Rao (I.C.S.), the then District Collector of Murshidabad and founder of Berhampore Girls' College. The implication is very clear and the mission and objective can easily be understood from this appeal. And, therefore, since its inception, the institute has been rendering its valuable services to empower and emancipate the young girls through education. Prof. Amiya Rao, the founder Principal and her successor Prof. Priti Gupta had given proper leadership for proper education by inculcating the words of wisdom and noble spirit of discipline among the learners. These visionary personalities understood the fact that the girls are underprivileged but they have enough potentialities. These initiators accompanied by a number of dedicated teachers and officials thought of a strategic plan to encourage the girls by appreciating their performances in all spheres with rewards. And, the uninterrupted journey of the institute is pursued by the policy: 'appreciate and inspire for progression' and the principle: 'No Student without support'. On the basis of these noble ideals, the institute has started an innovative practice of conferring Memorial Prizes, College Prizes and Endowments for the students as recognition of their Academic Excellence, Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities. Hopefully and quite fruitfully, this value-based practice is being promoted for more than fifty years.

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

- To uphold the ethical values and golden tradition of the institute.
- To boost up the young girls to be target-oriented.
- To encourage the students to grapple with the global challenges.
- To grow reading habit of the students in the way to their academic development.
- To sensitize the girls for their career.
- To motivate the students to be committed, confident and competent.

**The Practice:** Indeed, a large number of Memorial Prizes, College Prizes and Endowments are provided for Academic Excellence and a number of college prizes are also provided for their achievement in the Annual Cultural Competitions. In addition, the students are also awarded for their extraordinary performances. Many prizes and endowments are contributed by the outside stakeholders. Every year the students have an ample scope to receive the glittering trophies and books from the honourable guests amidst encouraging applause from the audience on the observance and celebration of the College Foundation Day.

### **Evidence of Success:**

- It is evident that even the outside stakeholders have come forward with their contribution with the apprehension that the students of the institute should be endowed with inspiration as resources for their progression.
- The sustenance of more than seventy years' practice has helped the institution to be the firm believer of support-mechanism for facilitating the learners towards progression.

- This has created a susceptible effect for the persistence of an apolitical and academically healthy environment in the institute which has helped to strengthen the community participation with the college.
- The overwhelming participation of the students in the different programmes is a common feature of the institute.
- A long queue of recipients of different prizes/ scholarships and certificates on the celebration of College Foundation Day is a quite stimulus and creates an encouraging atmosphere for the learners who are appreciated with prizes.
- The practice related to the Co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities has evidenced much success in the different spheres.

**Obstacles faced/ Problems Encountered:**

Most of the students of the college belong to a poor socio-economic background. Most of the students also come from the rural areas. Therefore, many problems are faced by the institute due to:

- The economic backwardness of the District of Murshidabad and the neighbouring districts.
- A challenging task of the institute is to carry out the value-based practices and to fulfil the growing need of the students.
- The mindset of some of the local people is not always conducive towards promoting the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in the institute.

**Resources Required:**

- More sources of fund for providing more supportive measures towards students.
- Availability of fund for involving the experts from different fields for the progression of Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities.