



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA MAHAVIDYALAYA MOHANPUR, TRIPURA

Best Practice 1:

1. Title of the Practice: Green initiatives

2. Objectives of the Practice: Uncontrolled environmental degradation is a cause of global concern. As an educated citizen of the world community it is imperative that each one acts responsibly towards the environment while working for its conservation. As an educational institution, Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya is aware of its duty to educate the youth on the importance of conserving the environment by encouraging the acceptance of a sustainable lifestyle. The College believes in teaching through practice and therefore attempts to set an example for the students by adopting and encouraging a number of green initiatives.

3. The Context: The College is located in one of the remote areas of the city adjacent to the International border and draws upon the limited resources along with residential establishments. The civic infrastructure of the area has not been modified effectively to deal with the increasing demands of the population. Poor drainage system, pressure on water resources and electricity, vehicular shortage and lack of environmental awareness are some of the issues plaguing the area. Being a newly established 9 years old institution the structure of the College was not equipped to deal with the changing lifestyle patterns and scarcity of resources. In spite of the limited resources and limited infrastructure, the College has taken steps to become an environmentally conscious space and regulate its demand of limited natural resources.

4. The Practice: A holistic education is essential to create socially responsible individuals. Higher education cannot limit itself to merely providing academic training as also envisaged in the NEP-2020. It is important that students are made aware of their duties and responsibilities towards society. To set an example and inspire all stakeholders to opt for environment friendly issues, Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya has initiated the following practices :

- **Solar energy:** The College is steadily working towards the installation of rooftop solar panels by Government of Tripura.
- **Rainwater harvesting:** The College has created a reservoir to facilitate rain water harvesting on a large scale. The green grounds around the College building allow the rainwater to percolate through the soil so that underground water reserve gets replenished.

• **Vermi-composting:** The infrastructure for vermi-composting has been successfully installed on campus initially as a project funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Tripura and the product is given to the farmers of the nearby villages to promote organic gardening, solid waste management in homes and reduce dependence on chemical products. Remaining organic manure is used in gardening in our College campus.

• **Saving paper:** The College is consciously working towards reducing the use of paper by way of digitalization of documents and introduction of an e-academic management system which involves digital management of students' academic details including marks, University registration, various students' records etc. All college notices are given in College website and Whatsapp group. The College also encourages duplex printing and photocopying.

5. Evidence of Success: Each initiative undertaken by the College is a small step to contribute to the greater good of humankind. As it may be understood these initiatives take time to bring about significant changes, however the efforts are bearing fruit and gradual changes are becoming visible.

- The reservoir for rain water harvesting is currently working and it cater the need of water for gardening.
- As targeted, vermi-composting has been successfully implemented and the second batch of vermi-compost generated was given to the farmers of the nearby village.
- The e-academic management system and duplex printing has visibly reduced the use of paper in the College.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Financial constraints remain the biggest problem for expensive green initiatives like rain water harvesting. The College is attempting to bring funds through a number of channels. Educating the local community about green initiatives so that they too adopt adequate measures also remains a challenge, due to lack of awareness, inadequate supporting infrastructure, high input costs and low yields.

Best Practice 2:

1. Title of the Practice : Value Education

2. Objectives of the Practice: Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya has always believed that the true purpose and main function of education is development of an all round personality of the students, and also to develop all dimensions of the human intellect so that young citizens can help make our nation more democratic, cohesive, socially responsible, culturally rich and intellectually competent. Keeping this in mind, the college holds regular Value Education classes through "Vivekananda study circle" where the ideology, philosophy, thoughts and social justice of Swamiji is embedded in the young igniting minds.

3. Context: Teenagers on the brink of adulthood are in need of special attention and guidance in order to protect them from falling prey to vices and developing mental health issues. In a technologically-driven world, where a knowledge-based, structured and information-oriented education is emphasized upon, Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya strongly feels that modern modes of teaching-learning must be balanced with a simultaneous awareness and guidance in ethics and human values in order to impart a holistic education. Value Education classes also develop other facets of one's personality like the emotional, social and spiritual

aspects that are required for the growth of healthy mind, habits, values, skills and interests among students.

4. The Practice: The Principal of the College along with other faculties conducts Value Education classes once a week throughout the academic year with students of every department. Beside this, students are encouraged to read the quotes of Swami Vivekananda and other great peoples along with their meanings regularly in assembly. It has become imperative to include Value Education in the context of higher education in India to impart life skills to technologically competent but often spiritually and emotionally poor students, who despite their academic qualifications find it difficult to deal with real life situations. Students joining NCC and NSS also get the opportunities of Value Education classes those emphasizes the need for a commitment, unity, honesty, care, respect, discipline and judgement while teaching soft skills like decision-making, participating in group discussions, social responsibilities and communication strategies. It also teaches life skills to cope with gender issues, family life and coping with anger and stress.

5. Evidence of Success: Value Education has always been an integral part of a Swami Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya education. Many students those enter the college lacking self-confidence but graduate as confident, happy individuals who believe in their merit and effectively utilise the important soft and life skills that they learn in college. A number of our students have enrolled in social work-related programmes. Even while in college, students enrol in the NSS and NCC to actively put into practice the values and zeal they imbibe for life and society through Value Education classes. Reaching out to make a difference is taken seriously by all students and they extend their assistance to slums, villages etc by working with Government and NGOs during different environmental issues and other relief programmes in times of natural calamities, disease outbreaks and deworming activities. Our students selflessly dedicate themselves to the cause of blood donation, tuberculosis awareness, awareness on traffic safety rules and promoting decent standards of health and sanitation. A number of students are passionately involved in outreach activities outside College as well.

6. Problems encountered and Resources Required: The most difficult challenge faced is reaching out to students suffering from social and emotional issues who prove to be resistant to any kind of help. Though the rate of dropout is less yet it is undoubtedly related with social and emotional issues, students refrain themselves from the college and their friends. Assistance is provided by the College faculties to those residing in the nearby locality. For reaching the students living in remote and faraway places is our biggest challenge with limited number of teachers. The challenge was further augmented because all the students are first generation learners. However, there is scope to introduce specialised professional assistance which would certainly require resource generation. The scarcity of fund is also a big problem to extend the support to all the students.

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