Best Practices

Title of the Practice:

Plantation and Gardening Programme

The Context of the Practice:

Godda College, Godda is situated at the edge of the town and thus the campus had a vegetative soil surface unlike those of urban spaces cramped with concrete and garbage. However, the college campus was unkempt and dead & dry bushes covered most parts of the campus. This provided a golden opportunity to the College administration and students to do something productive for themselves as well as the College/environment. The HEI had a chance to turn the institution into an ideal ecological space, and also the practice would inculcate in the students a sense of environmental sensitivity and responsibility and other such positive ethics and values. Thus, a project was undertaken where the College administration, staff and students would come together for a facelift of the campus through plantation.

Objectives of the Practice:

Following objectives were taken into account while undertaking this project:

- To make the campus rich in biodiversity in various forms of flora and fauna.
- It would attract participation of a good number of students and this practice would influence similar practices outside the campus.
- To inculcate in the students of the HEI ethics and values of sensitivity and responsibility to society and environment.
- To provide an opportunity to the students to participate in society-building.
- To make students industrious and responsible.
- To make the environment friendly for humans and all organisms with regard to quality of air etc.
- To make the campus environmentally healthy by activating a niche with healthy food chain, nitrogen cycle etc.

The Practice

Students of all Departments of the College were assigned work on plantation and gardening according to days of the week and dates of the month. Teachers would act as guides during this practice, discussing with students on how a certain work related to plantation and gardening can and should be carried out. Several suggestions were given and plans were drawn for different phases of the project to produce a commendable outcome.

With time, all students involved in the practice had garnered understanding of how things should be carried out and they even began to take initiatives themselves without being completely dependent on the teacher.

Evidence of Success

After a few weeks of the start of the practice, noticeable changes began to be visible in the College campus. Plants and greenery had made their presence felt in the college main building area. The change was visible not only in the plants, but also the attitude and behaviours of the students. Students began to take interest in the activities of the College and also had a positive behaviour in the College. The students' behaviour has also undergone a change along with the flora of the campus.

The campus was now lined with beautiful trees and flowers, and the students would now come and look at the fruit of their labour in their time between the classes.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Students were at first reluctant to participate in this project for the following reasons:

- They were relatively lazy and did not want to dedicate time to do work.
- They feared that their clothes would get soiled while doing the work.
  These problems were sorted out through talks and discussions and with time. After seeing a few active students, others joined the project as well. Also, the students with time learnt to work with skill where their clothes would not get soiled.

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Artificial Ground-water Recharging: -

•**Goal**: The college is situated in plateau region and the water storage is very necessary. The college has developed artificial ground water recharging points in the campus to build up groundwater resources and to reduce surface run off.

•**Context**: As we are in a plateau region and the college has its own water requirement water during summer goes deep down, handpumps and wells run out of water as in this geographical area where the soil is hard and rocky. This often leads to surface run off of rain water resulting in low groundwater resources so that soon after the rainy season the soil becomes rather dry. Since the institution gives utmost importance to protect its greenery, so it is imperative to build up water table resources.

•**The Practice**: Simple form of groundwater recharge practice which can help to store water naturally in earth can be adopted. For this rain pits are dug in the college campus. These pits are then back filled with gravel and coarse sand. The root rain water is collected and collected in these pits.

•**Evidence of Success**: The outcome of the practice can be very heartening as most of the saplings that will be planted can be vigorously survive the offensive heat of summer. The benefit shared by the local: their wells will not dry up and sufficient underground water can prevent green depletion of the area. This can provide the Students Council, RUSA Monitoring Cell and NSS, regular and staff much encouragement as a lot of requests for continuing the practice can come up from the local people.

•**Problems can be Encountered**: Since the ground is too rocky in many places, the students can find it difficult to dig through the rocks, in such cases, Plastic containers or cemented container can be used.