

Best Practice-1



Title of the Practice

Promoting a Sustainable Environment in and around Barbhag College

Objectives of the practices

Barbhag College has been taking various promotional efforts to maintain eco-friendly atmosphere within the college premise and its neighbouring areas. The college is situated amid the green surroundings of a rural area. The college has a permanent unit named **Nature Club**. The Nature Club, with the joint effort of Barbhag College Teachers Unit, students, NSS Unit, and College Authority have conducted various activities to create an environment conscious community in the greater Barbhag area. For the better benefit of the communities and the environment, the nature Club was established on 23rd November, 2003 with a motto ---“Help us to help you, save nature save yourself”

The objectives of the nature Club and those of environmental promotion activities of the college are mentioned below:

1. To make people and students aware of the inter-dependence and relationship between humans and nature.
2. To make people aware of the phenomenon of increasing environment pollution and to motivate them to contribute towards reducing all kinds of environment pollution..
3. To sensitise people regarding the need for sustaining bio-diversity, protection of forest wildlife conservation and energy conservation.
4. To identify and protect the medicinal and other valuable plants of the local area and to make necessary arrangement for research on them and use.
5. To take field visits to the local hotspot of nature and polluted places of cultural heritage and find ways for their sustenance.

Context

Environment degradation is the burning issue in the present world. While the world has developed into a global village, pollution, disasters, diseases have spread to a maximum extent throughout the globe. It is the responsibility of everyone of us to work for keeping the environment safe and sustainable. For this we have to maintain ecological balance in our


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planet's natural environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of the current and the future generations.

It is to be mention here that today, not only cities but also nearby rural areas of the cities are severely affected by environmental pollution. Since Guwahati city is one of the most highly polluted cities of India and not far away from the locality where Barbhag college is situated, there is likely to be severe impact of pollution in the area.

As an institution of higher Education with a mandate for discharging social responsibility, it becomes the prime responsibility of the college to work for, and to promote, environmentally sustainable practices and to create awareness among the students and the community in this regard. For that purpose, Nature club, Barbhag College and other wings like NSS have been conducting different activities in the college and in the neighbourhood communities with a view to contributing towards a sustainable environment. The college has implemented different Programmes relating to various environmental issues with the help of various stakeholders of the college. The approach of working in this sphere is a collective one, effort where teachers, non-teaching staff and the student community engage themselves in a participatory manner along with the neighbouring community.

The Practice

Higher Educational institutions in India have a responsibility for working towards overall development of the community through continuous engagement with the community members. The UGC Mandate as articulated in the document “Fostering Social Responsibility and Community Engagement in HEIs” published in 2020 reaffirms this

With a view to promoting devoted efforts for ensuring a sustainable environment in and around the college, the college has been engaging itself through its stakeholders – the students, teachers, and the community members – in different awareness, promotional and motivational activities for conservation and protection of the natural environment. Nature Club and the NSS Unit, in collaboration with some other organisations and with cooperation from the community, have been continuously conducting environment related programmes and activities.. Some of the activities that have been implemented in the last five years may be mentioned below:


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1. Awareness programme on “Beat Plastic Pollution” organised by Nature Club, Barbhag College on 18.07.2017
2. Awareness Lecture on “Save and Value Water” organised by on World Water Day on 22.03.2018
3. Awareness Lecture on “Beat Plastic Pollution” organise by Nature Club, Barbhag College on 5.06.2018
4. Plantation Programme on World Environment Day organised by Dept. of Botany, Barbhag College on 5.06.2018.
5. Lecture on “Organic Farming” organised by Dept. of Botany, Barbhag College on 11.03.2019
6. “Celebration of House Sparrow Day” organised by Dept. of Zoology, Barbhag College on 20.03.2019
7. Awareness Lecture on “Air Pollution and Global Warming” on World Environment Day on 05.06.2019
8. Cleanliness Drive at Kalag Village organised by NSS Unit, Barbhag College on 07.09.2019
9. Awareness Programme on “Celebrating Eco-Friendly Holi at kalag Village organised by nature Club, barbhad College on 08.03.2022
10. “Celebration of World Earth Day” organised by IQAC in collaboration with Science Departments on 22.04.2022
11. “Plantation and Sapling Distribution Programme” organised bt Nature Club, Barbhag college on 2nd May, 6th May and 13th May, 2022
12. Environmrnt Awareness Lecture on World Environment Day organised by Nature Club, Barbhag college on 05.06.2022
13. Awareness Programme on “Plastic Free Environment” organised by Nature Club, Barbhag College on 25th December, 2021, 26th December, 2021, 2nd Jan. 2022, 3rd Jan. 2022, 6th Jan. 2022 at Bhairabkunda, Udalguri, (Assam), Hahim, Goalpara (Assam), Ukiam, (Meghalaya), Manas National Park, Barpeta (Assam) and Rani (Assam-Meghalaya Border) respectively.
14. Green Campus Initiatives by NSS Unit, Barbhag College.


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Evidence of Success

1. The college has been able to sustain a green campus.
2. Satisfactory Green and Energy Audit audit report.
3. With a view to promoting energy conservation, the college has taken initiative to use solar energy, energy saving electrical gadget, sensor based bulbs, LED bulbs etc.
4. Tree plantation drives have resulted in a green surrounding.
5. Environment awareness programmes implemented by the college.
6. Publication of books, paper, and articles on environment are published by college and teachers.
7. Water Conservation Measures have been adopted by the college and water wastage has been minimised

Problem Encountered and Resources

- Plantation drive initiatives although has got positive response from the community, yet the efforts for maintenances of planted trees are still not satisfactory. Repeated awareness and motivation could minimise the problem and for that college has been making continuous efforts.
- Due to scarcity of cost effective alternative, restriction and ban on single use plastic has not been fully realised. Despite hurdles, the college has been taking regular awareness initiative against the use of plastic.
- Lack of sufficient fund in an otherwise public funded institution but without govt. Support for community activities has always been a problem. However, keeping the institution's dedication to discharging social responsibility, the college has been managing fund from its own internal sources.

Notes: To continuously implement programmes related to environment, apart from the teachers of the college, student members of wings like NSS, NCC, Scout and Guides, and community members of the neighbourhood may be engaged. Collaborations from Local NGOs and such other organisations may be sought.


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Best Practice-2



Title of the Practice

Systematic and well documented planning for effective teaching-learning

Objective

Throughout an academic year, the students and teachers have to engage in the teaching-learning of different courses of different programmes in different subjects. The teachers have not only to complete the curriculum in time, but also have to ensure that the students are engaged in different academic activities like project work, class seminars, group discussions, etc. with a view to giving the students a clear grasp of the syllabi content. In order to carry out the entire process of curriculum delivery effectively and without any hiccup, it is important to formulate a systematic and well-documented plan for the entire academic year. Keeping this fact in view, the college, with active cooperation from the teaching departments, has adopted a practice of formulating a well documented and systematic planning in every academic year for ensuring an efficient teaching-learning process by means of optimum utilisation of time and resources. Thus the objectives of this practice adopted by the departments may be summed up as:

- To ensure smooth conduct of teaching learning process throughout the year
- To maintain transparency in the whole academic process.

Context

Efficient Curriculum delivery with a view to produce quality human resource is the primary functions of an institution of higher education. However, considering that there are a number of programmes on offer, and so, different students studying different programmes and courses, conducting the teaching-learning process effectively and smoothly is not always easy. At times, due to absence of proper planning in the teaching-learning process, efficiency of the process tends to suffer. As a result, the quality of education may suffer despite having all good intention and quality human resource in the institution. It is, therefore, desirable that nothing is done without a plan as far as curriculum delivery is concerned. A well planned teaching-learning process ensures that the teaching-learning process is hiccup free, and throughout an academic year, all academic activities are carried out with maximum effect for the students.

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Documenting the teaching-learning plan systematically is also important to maintain transparency in the academic process.

To formulate a well documented and systematic academic plan, all the teaching departments have to work in a coordinated manner with complete cooperation with the college authority. Not only is formulating the plan necessary, but also to ensure that the plan is implemented thoroughly is essential. This requires dedicated efforts particularly on the part of the teachers.

The Practice

Barbhag College has an integrated and well-organized system for curriculum planning and implementation. The institution has effective machinery for the implementation of different academic activities including classroom teaching-learning incorporated in the Academic Calendar designed by the Academic Council of the college, which in turn, is based on the academic calendar prepared by the affiliating university. The College maintains a regular class schedule to deliver quality education to the students as mandated by Gauhati University's course curriculum. The respective HoDs of various departments distribute the courses among the faculty members based on their speciality and efficiency. The departments then prepare academic schedule, teaching plan and lesson plan for carrying out the teaching-learning process smoothly. The college and the departments obtain feedback from students towards the end of an academic year and analyse the feedback to effect any improvement in the curriculum delivery mechanism. The College has been relentlessly trying to make the teaching-learning process effective by implementing the following measures which are well documented:

Academic Calendar: The Academic Council prepares the college academic calendar based on the affiliating university's academic calendar. It also monitors the implementation of the Curriculum at par with the calendar.

Academic Schedule: The teaching departments, based on the academic calendar, prepares academic schedule to ensure timely completion of different aspects of the curriculum.

Teachers' Diary: The teaching faculty of the College maintains teacher's diary for their class records, topics discussed, projects, and assignments given to the students. Every department regularly records the number of classes every faculty member attends, and other academic activities performed during a year.


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Lesson Plans: Lesson Plans are prepared by the faculty members for delivering quality classes. It enables the faculty members to proceed in the teaching activity quite effectively.

Departmental Meetings: Departmental meetings are held quarterly in a year to ensure proper planning and implementation of various aspects of the curriculum.

Academic Audit: Academic audits are conducted by the College authority yearly to assess the teaching-learning environment of the college and improve the subsequent plans. The Academic audit helps to make a review of the process of teaching-learning and identify the strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum delivery process.

Students, and Teachers, Feedback: The feedback from students is collected and analysed by the authority in order to improve the learner-centric environment. Teachers' feedback on curriculum is also collected and analysed. The feedback system also helps in improving the plan for teaching-learning in the next academic year.

Evidence of Success

From the time the college adopted the practice of a systematic and well documented plan of executing the different aspects of the curriculum delivery mechanism, the efficiency of the teaching learning process has improved remarkably. The following evidence of success could be mentioned here:

- The examination results, particularly in honours courses, have improved quite satisfactorily.
- Feedback received from students on curriculum and its transaction has been encouraging.
- The courses in different programmes have been completed by the teachers before time over the last more than five years
- As a result of a well planned curriculum delivery process being smoothly carried out, departments have been able to find time and opportunity to engage students in more co-curricular activities to widen their knowledge and understanding.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

One of the main problems encountered in ensuring an effective timely curriculum delivery has been lack of sufficient number of teachers from time to time due to delay by the state government in appointing teachers in vacant positions over the years. Time is one of the factors

that the teachers encounter while documenting the plan every academic year. Due to a hectic teaching-learning-evaluation and education extension assignments. Teachers sometime find it problematic to manage time to distribute among all these assignments.

Other resource, except sufficient human resource in terms of number of teachers in each department, is not a problem in successfully adopting this practice, as not much of financial resource is required for this.


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