INSTITUTIONAL BEST PRACTICE 1

"COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT"

Objectives of the Practice:

Bahona College has a green, eco-friendly and clean environment. College has maintained and promoted a green and eco-friendly environment in its neighbouring areas and adopted villages also. The practice of promoting a green and clean environment is the outcome of college's commitment to the environment.

College has also realised the global climate and has decided to work for the environment. Bahona College has dedicated itself for the protection of environment with the following objectives:

- To inculcate the Green and Eco-friendly protocols among students, teachers and supporting staff.
- To educate and orient students, supporting staff, teachers and local people on environment protection.
- To take steps for waste management by adopting 5R principle- refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle.
- To make the college campus and the adopted villages pollution free.
- To plant trees by staff and students both inside the campus and at adopted villages.
- To take initiatives for energy conservation and for adopting alternative sources of energy.
- To take action for conservation of water.
- To limit entry of automobiles and to promote battery powered vehicle in the campus.
- To take steps for minimizing the use of Single Use Plastic.
- To conduct energy, environment and green audit of the college.

The Context:

As an education institution, it is our prime responsibility to work for the protection of the environment as well as to create awareness about environment among the students and the community. Therefore, Bahona College has started working for protecting the environment with multiple initiatives.

Students' engagement: College has engaged students in the environmental protection initiatives. Students of the college have to plant and grow sapling to avail **Fee Waiver Schemes**. Volunteer students of NSS involved in various environment related activities like cleaning of campus,

plantation programme, taking active part in the environment protection related awareness programme in the neighbouring villages as well as adopted villages.

Staff engagement: Teaching and Non-teaching staffs of the college are engaged in environmental protection and promotion activities. They take part in plantation process and participate in workshops, seminars, faculty development programmes on environment. World Environment Day is always celebrated in the college with active participation of staff along with students.

Green Practices: Bahona College has adopted several green practices. College has installed solar energy system, sensor-based energy saving equipment, LED bulbs, biogas plants etc. It has adopted plastic ban policies and has mechanism for recycling and reusing waste. From biodegradable waste, vermicompost is produced which used to the plants of campus. College has rain water harvesting system and waste water recycling system etc. It has an e-vehicle charging station also. It has conducted green audit, energy audit, environment audit. College has received recognition from different agencies for its environmental commitments such as clean and green campus recognition certificate. E-governance introduced in the college as part of its commitment to the environment.

Initiative at adopted villages: To motivate people to correct their behaviour towards environment, college has organized several environmental awareness camps, plantation programme, postering to conserve environment at adopted villages.

The Practice:

To address the aforesaid challenges Bahona College has adopted policies to protect and promote environment. Students, faculties and non-teaching staffs, all are involved in these activities. Students are asked to plant and grow sapling. They are encouraged to take part in the environment promotion activities like plantation, cleanliness drive, rallies etc. Student volunteers of NSS, NCC and members of Climate Cell & Eco club have actively participated in tree plantation program on the bank of Rangajan, plantation program in Nimati, postering drive on bird conservation in Nimati, rally on awareness of drinking water and sanitation in Borali village etc. Nimati ghat is a haven for migratory birds but there is a threat of killing these birds for their meat. Awareness programmes and postering drives were conducted to protect and make people aware about their importance. College has a green campus and continuously maintain its greenery by planting trees. The waste which is producing by the institution segregated into bio degradable and non-biodegradable waste. Biodegradable wastes are used to produce vermicompost. Management of non –biodegradable waste is done in a way so they are harmless to the environment. E-wastes are sold to TechHub as per the MoU signed between the college and the farm. The waste water of the college also recycled and reused. During the celebration of World Environment Day, seminars and webinars were organized on environment related themes. Workshop on producing vermicompost was conducted in the adopted villages to encourage organic farming. We also felicitate guests and resource persons of different programmes with sapling.

Evidence of Success:

a) College has successfully maintained a green campus.
b) College has received appreciation certificate for its environmental commitments.
c) Satisfactory audit report.

d) Satisfactory Electricity Consumption: Though numbers of Electric devices have increased but power consumption has not gone too high due to energy saving practice of the college.
e) Installation of Bio gas, Solar power system, Use of E-Vehicles, Vermicompost production, use of LED bulbs in the college and by villagers of adopted village
f) Organic farms produce
g) On campus and off campus Plantation by college members including administration, teachers and students.
h) Publication of books, papers, articles on environment.
i) Quality of air and water
j) E-governance

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Due to CBCS system of education and continuous evaluation process, students have less time to engage themselves in environment related activities outside the college.
- High cost of energy efficient equipment
- Plastic wrapped items
- Corrupt culture of non-degradable resources
- No scientific mechanism available to plastic waste management
- Chemical hazard management

A GLIMPSE OF THE PRACTICE



World environment day observed in schools of adopted villages (2017)



World environment day observed in schools of adopted villages (2017)



Awareness programme on air pollution



Appreciation certificate received from the Kochgaon Yuvak Sangha for carrying out sapling plantation activity (2020)



Plantation program on Nimati on the occasion of world environment day by Assam Science society Bahona College branch & Eco club



Plantation programme on the occasion of 70th Forest Festival Week -2019



Biogas plant of Bahona College



Production of vermicompost from biodegradable waste to reduce waste load and to keep college campus clean



Solar panel mounted on the wall of indoor stadium of college



Charging point for the electric vehicles



ANURANAN

REGN NO.: RS/KAM(M)263/U/16 OF 2020-2021

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CLEAN AND GREEN CAMPUS AWARDS 2021

BAHONA COLLEGE
Jorhat, Assam
has been awarded with
Clean and Green Campus Award for the year 2021
for maintaining a clean and green campus.
Thank You.

Dr. Mridusmita Bhagawati
President, ANURANAN

Dr. Mridupaban Dutta
Secretary, ANURANAN

Clean and Green campus award to the college by ANURANAN NGO



SHEWA

Socio-Ecological and Health Welfare Association
Bahona, Jorhat, Assam

Clean and Green Campus Awards 2020

This award certificate is presented to

Bahona College

of Jorhat, Assam, PIN- 785101

for maintaining a clean and green campus.

(Hemen Kr. Saikia)
President, SHEWA

(Pronob Jyoti Saikia)
General Secretary, SHEWA

25th December, 2020

Clean and Green Campus award to the college by SHEWA NGO



Excellent College Environment & Climate Cell Award received from Science, Technology and Climate Change Department, Government of Assam

INSTITUTIONAL BEST PRACTICE 2

"DEDICATION TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT"

Objectives of the Practice:

Bahona College is a higher educational institute placed in a rural part of the country. Lack of awareness about some basic practices and beliefs among the neighbouring community is evident in this part of the country like all other rural parts. There are scopes for work in certain segments, which could otherwise improve the livelihood of the people and in general contribute towards nation building. Therefore, it becomes equally important for the institute to work for the upliftment of the rural community alongside the academics. With this underlying principle, this practice was introduced by the institution. The objectives of this practice were to develop the neighbouring rural community of the institution by carrying out activities, awareness programmes on relevant topics such as – education, health and hygiene, environmental consciousness, skill development, linking to the market, and culmination of misbeliefs and malpractices, etc. It was intended that a strategic implementation of activities/programmes towards the above-mentioned concerns would lead to a state in which the neighbouring community will develop consciousness about importance of education, health and hygiene, environment, skills to earn livelihood, and discontinuation of misbelieves and malpractices.

The Context:

The contextual features/challenges which needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice can be summarized below –

- Being present in a much greener part of the country, the local residents are negligent towards the potential threats on the environment. Non-agricultural plantation was hardly observed among the residents. Apart from that, extensive use of single use plastics was also prevalent.
- Despite having enough resources, there was an apparent lack a skillset to earn livelihood in the members of the community.
- The number of students pursuing science education was comparatively less, evident by the prevalent lack of scientific temperament in the neighbouring community.
- The problems associated with health and hygiene like improper hand washing, open defecation, consumption of undrinkable water, lack of knowledge about some waterborne and communicable diseases were there.
- Malpractices like gender inequality, lack of knowledge about human rights, communal dissonance also existed at a lesser extent.

The Practice:

To address these issues, the institute has been working thorough all fronts at its disposal. The NSS unit, NCC unit, Environment and Climate cell, Eco Club, Women Cell, Assam Science Society, Bahona branch, Teachers Unit functioning in the institute has been working continuously towards achieving this goal.

As previously mentioned, institute is surrounded by many villages. Surveys were conducted to identify the problems and the most affected villages. Based on these survey, seven villages were adopted by the institute with the promise to work on those problems. Each village had its own set of problems which in some ways were slowing the pace of development.

To promote environmental consciousness, many awareness rallies were carried out in the adopted villages. Plantation programmes has been an integral part of the institute. More than 2500 saplings were planted in the adopted villages by engaging the youths of those villages. Sapling plantation was made compulsory for each student taking admission in the institute. To promote proper waste disposal, many permanent dustbins were set up in the villages. One village called Boraligaon is situated near the Nimati Borsorola wetland. The livelihood of the people of this village is based on the products of the wetland. But the people there were not conscious enough about the potential threats imposed by their activities. Awareness programmes like World environment day, World Earth Day, World Plastic Bag Free Day, effects and solutions of plastic pollution were conducted in that village sensitizing the residents about the significance of the wetland and the potential threats which could lead to loss of biodiversity and ultimately their livelihood.

To develop and promote rural economy, various initiatives have been taken by the institute. There have been free workshops on rural entrepreneurship, vermicompost production, pickle production, animal husbandry etc. in which the residents of the adopted villages took part. Poultry chicks and commercial crop saplings were distributed among the villagers in the NSS special camps. Apart from those, a week-long trade fair was organized by the institute to give market exposure to the products developed by the villagers.

To promote science education, many events have been organized in the schools of adopted villages. Activities like celebration of National Science Day, science model exhibition, popular talks by renowned personals from scientific background, classes taken by the science teachers of the institute in schools of adopted villages, science quiz, essay, poster, drawing competitions, etc. have been extensively carried out in this regard.

To sensitize the villagers about health and hygiene, the institute has been working with everything at its disposal. The institute has organized medical camps in the adopted villages at different times. During the time of COVID pandemic, extensive awareness programmes were carried out through various platforms throughout the year. Face mask and hand sanitizers were also distributed. Apart from that the institute has been spreading awareness about health and hygiene by organizing events in adopted villages. A few such to mention include - awareness campaign on Swachhata, celebration of International Yoga Day, observation of world AIDS day, awareness programme on waterborne diseases and potable water, street plays on Swachh Bharat Mission, cleanliness drives at different times, construction of canals, etc.

The institute has been working seamlessly to eliminate social menace like gender inequality, lack of knowledge about human rights, communal dissonance in the adopted villages. The activities carried out in this context were observation of Communal Harmony Campaign week, National Girl Child Day, International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day, etc.

Evidence of Success:

Surveys were conducted in each adopted village to review the progress on the challenges five years after the adoption of the practice. The survey results are reflective of the fact that significant progress has been made towards environmental consciousness, rural economy, scientific temperament, health-hygiene, and elimination of misbeliefs and malpractices. The villages were selected for this practice based on ten survey queries related to the above-mentioned fields. After five years from the adoption of the practice, the same survey was conducted among the household of the villages to review the results against each target. The results indicates that the villagers became more conscious about the environment then they were earlier. They planted more, and reduced use of single use plastics was observed. The villagers were more engaged in making money from locally available resources and the skills developed through our initiative offered a great help achieving this. After these years, peoples were more interested to send their young students to pursue science. Earlier, the basic hygiene practice was a big problem in these villages. The efforts under this practice have made the villagers more health conscious than ever. They were washing hands more frequently, drunk filtered water more than ever. More people living there have developed the skills to work on computers.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The following problems were encountered during the practice –

- The villagers were non-compliant about the requests made by our college personals in the initial phase of the practice. Repeated and recurring reminders solved that problem in the later phases of the practice.
- The use of single use plastics has extended to such an extent that there are no longer alternative materials available for the same. So, it is difficult to switch to a completely single use plastic free stat now. Alternative green materials are needed in larger number at a much cheaper cost to achieve the goal.
- There are many instances where the family is not financially sound enough to purchase even a basic water purifier. Intervention of government or nongovernment agencies for financial aid is required to solve this problem.
- There is a lack of computers observed in the households of the villages. This ultimately leading to unsatisfactory progress made in terms of skilling villager on computer use despite having enough skilled persons in the institute to train the villagers. More computers will be required in village households to overcome this challenge.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PRACTICE



Workshop on Entrepreneurship Skill development for the self-help groups running in the rural areas



Workshop on Mushroom cultivation



Week long trade fair to give market exposure to products developed by rural people


চাৰিগাঁও অঞ্চলৰ জীৱিকাৰ গাঠনি
- এটি ক্ষেত্ৰভিত্তিক প্ৰতিবেদন

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক : ড° ৰফিক আহমেদ

প্ৰস্তুতকৰ্তা :

Field study report on "Occupational Structure in Charigaon Area" by students of the department of Economics


নিমাতী অঞ্চলত মাছৰ ব্যৱসায়ীসকলৰ আৰ্থসামাজিক অৱস্থা
- এক ক্ষেত্ৰভিত্তিক অধ্যয়ন

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক : ড° ৰফিক আহমেদ

প্ৰস্তুতকৰ্তা :

Field study report on "Socio-economic conditions of Fisher Community in Nimati Area" by students of the department of Economics



Free eye checkup camp in adopted village



Awareness programme on drinking water and sanitation carried out in adopted village



Distribution of relief items among poverty ridden families of rural areas during COVID pandemic



World AIDS Day 2021; awareness rally carried out to adopted villages


বৃহত্তর বাহনা অঞ্চলত
পাৰিবাৰিক স্বাস্থ্যসচেতনতা
- এটি ক্ষেত্ৰভিত্তিক অধ্যয়ন

Field study report on "Health consciousness at household level in greater Bahona area" by students of the Department of Economics


বৃহত্তর বাহনা অঞ্চলত খোৱা পানীৰ সুবিধা
আৰু ইয়াৰ ব্যবহাৰ

Field study report on "Women Literacy and Work Participation in Greater Charigaon Area" by students of the Departments of Economics



Street play by students to create awareness against witch-hunting



Popular talk organized as part of the celebration of National Girl Child Day



Observation of Communal Harmony Campaign Week (2021)



Observation of International Human Rights Day



Village road construction by NSS volunteers and teachers of the institute



Relief material distributed to flood affected rural region