

Best Practice 2: Environmental Awareness

Objectives:

- To encourage the students and other social groups to acquire knowledge of pollution and environmental degradation.
- To aware the students and other social groups to acquire sensitivity to the environment and its problems and help them to acquire a set of values for environmental protection.
- To provide students and other social groups with an opportunity to be actively involved in environmental protection.
- To make the surroundings cleaner and greener for the current as well as future generations.
- To aware the surrounding people of the rapidly depleting natural resources and make them contribute to the conservation of the same.

Context

All of us have a moral obligation to protect the environment and elevate the sustainable development of our planet for future generations. The degradation of environment is jeopardizing the health and security of almost all the species on the earth. Thus, it becomes necessary that we take notice of the impact of our actions on the environment. In order to spread environmental awareness and protect the nature around us, we need to take certain measures and make efforts to undo some of the damage already caused by humans. Therefore, with the said objectives, the college has initiated various environmental awareness and protection programmes during the academic year 2020-2021.

Practice

The present lifestyle and industrialization has rendered the environment in very pathetic conditions. Marching ahead to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the college is making massive investments in various activities to protect the environment. The first and foremost among other important ones is the *Havana* that is performed on the very first day, i.e. *Sankranti*, of each *Vikram Sambat* month, which, along with strengthening the spiritual connections, also cleanses the environment. Besides, the college has undertaken various initiatives like a visit to Pipplanwala, Singhriwala and Dagana Kalan to make people aware of the hazards of the practice of stubble burning on 22/10/2020, One Day National Webinar on " Role of Nature in Sustainable Development in Context with COVID-19" was organized by Social Science Council, and NSS Unit, S.D. College, Hoshiarpur in collaboration with IQAC on 31/5/2021, an International webinar on "Green Products and Their implications" was organised by Department of Economics in Collaboration with IQAC on 4/6/2021, a national webinar on "Environmental Issues & Role of

Green Audit in Higher Education Institutions" organized by Department of Sciences, Bio-Technology & IQAC on 5/6/2021, " Best out of Waste Competition" and "Poster Making Competition" on the eve of World Environment Day on 5/6/2021, One-Day National Webinar organized by the dept. of Political Science, in collaboration with NSS and IQAC on "Environmental Issues in 21st Century" on 6/6/2021, etc. Besides, the college has also invested in Vermi-compost unit to produce organic manure, water-harvesting project to increase the level of ground waters, and Solar energy plant to produce electricity in the campus. These major investments have enabled the college to protect the environment significantly. Apart from the said activities, the faculty members also promote the environmental awareness and protection while teaching their syllabus.

Evidence of Success

The college has ensured the active participation of maximum number of students and other social groups in the initiatives undertaken to protect the environment. To a large extent, it has successfully sensitized the participants towards the issues concerned with the conservation of environment and encouraged them to spread the message of saving the environment and natural resources.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Although the said activities were concluded with a great success, yet the journey throughout the year was swarming with various challenges. The major challenge was posed by the pandemic of COVID-19 towards the second half of this session. This pandemic had catastrophic impacts on the execution of major activities. Besides, it delayed the completion of Solar energy plant.

The channelization of the youth for the aforementioned activities was another challenge as most of the students were not interested in the ground level undertakings. Besides, other social groups involved in these activities were least aware of the significance of the same. However, the organizing teams did their best to achieve the optimum results.