

Best Practice 1:

Title: 'Green' consciousness

Objectives:

- **Launch media campaigns** to create public awareness
- **Engage communities** towards participation in conservation efforts
- **Promote development of green cover**
- **Waste reduction, management, recycling**
- **Support renewable energy resources** to reduce carbon footprint
- **Foster partnerships** with NGOs, academia to amplify the impact

Context and Challenges:

Design/implementation involve **challenging issues**:

- Hindered cooperation due to **ingrained habits and varying levels of awareness**
- **Balancing demand for resources**
- **Adoption of sustainable practices** due to **economic pressures**
- **Supportive government policies**

Practice:

Initiatives adopted in areas of **energy conservation, waste management, biodiversity promotion, community engagement** to promote a circular economy:

- **Renewable Energy Sources: Installation of Roof-top Solar Photovoltaic Panels with Net Metering Facility** on the terrace of both buildings harnesses clean energy.
- **Landscaping: Improvement of green cover** on campus with indigenous plants, trees, vertical garden wall to promote air quality.
- **Restricted entry of vehicles into campus:** Entry of vehicles restricted to a few staff and guests. **Carpooling** is encouraged to **lower emissions. Public transport like rail and buses** encouraged.
- **Green, Energy and Environment audit:** A **comprehensive audit** conducted to identify energy-saving opportunities and suggestions incorporated.
- **Waste Management & Water Conservation: Bio-composting pit** operational with canteen food-waste, shredded leaves and plant cuttings. Promotional drives organised to create awareness, collection and disposal of **e-waste**, Likewise, **waste such as paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminium cans** are handed for recycling post **segregation at source**. A **bottle crusher help** crush bottles for

recycling. **Rainwater harvesting** setup constructed to contribute to the water table. **Recycling of water** also promoted **in laboratory set-ups** of Botany/Chemistry experiments.

- **Energy Initiatives: Well-lit classrooms** with ample ventilation optimise usage of natural light. Replacement of CFL with **LED lights** lowers energy consumption. **E-mails opted** for paperless communication. **Energy-efficient computers, air conditioners** are used and serviced regularly for optimal performance.
- **Green Club:** Helps **engage youth to create awareness** on issues like pollution, climate change. **'Plantonate' – a donation drive of saplings, plant cuttings** for propagation, initiated for landscaping. **Games, role plays and social media** (Instagram) used to spread the message of 'living green' across college and beyond.
- **Beyond the campus initiatives:** Department cells, associations involved in **beach cleaning drives, promoting awareness on cleanliness at public places, water conservation measures, proper waste disposal**, adoption of villages and focus on slums for educating and creating awareness.

Evidence of Success

- Solar panels with wheeling to grid helped in **energy conservation**.
- **Waste management** of bio-degradable/non-biodegradable waste minimised waste generation, facilitated **recycling**: recycled envelopes, diaries, letterheads for office use.
- Energy efficient LED lights lowered **energy consumption**.
- Initiatives in creating **awareness** about environment-friendly habits helped building **sensitisation** of the public towards judicious use of resources. The College has adopted a village in Palghar district under NSS initiative.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- **Funding Solar Panel Installation:** Achieved through a RUSA 2.0 grant.
- **Overcoming Space Constraints:** Addressed with the development of a vertical garden, maximizing space utilization.
- **Compost Pit Maintenance:**
 - Dedicated staff assigned from maintenance and canteen departments.
 - Student volunteers contribute to upkeep.

- **Spreading Awareness:**
 - NSS unit and volunteers organize community engagement programs.
 - Collaboration with NGOs through Enactus, College Social Responsibility Cell, and the Rotaract Club.

Notes

All the green initiatives align with our ethos and reflect our commitment to environmental stewardship, in consonance with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and principles of NEP 2020. The college has actively taken part in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan training programs conducted at BARC on waste management and disposal. E-waste drives were also collectively conducted with neighbouring colleges in the vicinity. Through a combination of above efforts, we aim to inspire and lead from the forefront towards a more sustainable future.

Best Practice 2:

Title: ‘Learning through Doing’

Objectives:

- To improve **understanding and retention of concepts** by putting learning into context.
- To **apply theoretical concepts** in a real-world environment.
- To provide **exposure to teamwork, interpersonal communication.**
- To **improve critical thinking, problem-solving skills.**

Context and Challenges:

Implementation of experiential learning involve **challenges:**

- **Limited industry internships**
- **No provision of stipend** in some.
- **Allocation of time** for internship activities within the academic term.
- **Remote internships** go by works accomplished/tasks/ projects completed and **do not map the performance based on hours.**
- **Proof requirement** in the college format with stated hours **not always complied with by industry.**

Practice:

Measures taken for experiential learning through internships/on-job-trainings:

- Concept of experiential learning through **internship, adopted under Autonomy and embedded in Ordinances.**
- **Vocational programs, TTM and SD, revised to fortify internship hours.**
- For all **other programs, internships allotted 2 non-mandatory credits which reflects in grade card.**
- Constitution of **Internship committee.**
- Framing of **Internship policy / guidelines** for effective implementation.
- **Appointment of Industry experts on the Board of Studies/ constitution of Internship cell/ department internship hub** provide suggestive measures to **facilitate opportunities.**
- **Industry-aligned programs, BBA and MSc BDA, developed to give thrust to skill-based learning.**

Evidence of Success

- **Surge in skill-based training** of which a substantial number was converted into **placement offers.**
- Companies like **Morgan Stanley, Ernst & Young, Admatazz, Just Deliveries, Pluckk, Go Digital Technology Consulting LLP** offered jobs to the students who interned under them.
- During Covid, remote/virtual **internships** saw students availing opportunities in **global companies.**

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- **Overcoming Internship Scarcity:** The Board of Studies (BOS) members and alumni provide internship suggestions and opportunities to students.
- **Balancing Work and Studies:** Combining internship hours with mandatory academic requirements (contact-learning, assignments).

Solutions:

- Working during breaks (summer/Diwali)
- Working weekends (if permitted)
- Virtual internships
- Course content readjustment (in some cases) to accommodate internship hours
- **Maintaining Quality Standards:**
 - Mandatory internship completion letter from the workplace
 - College presentation/viva on the internship experience
 - Internship report writing

Notes

Internships are viewed as a doorway in facilitating better career paths. Such an initiative is in alignment with the vision of college and of the nation as outlined under NEP 2020 which emphasizes skill-based learning.