

The following are the two institutional best practices:

1) TITLE OF THE PRACTICE : FOOD PROJECT

Objective:

To provide food to the under privileged students of our college.

Context:

The teachers identified that some of the students were not able to focus in class as they come without a proper meal. So this initiative was taken to feed such students decent meal every day.

Practice:

The food project was started in 2017 at Chellammal Women's College by the then Principal Dr. Vijayalakshmi with the help of the faculty members and in collaboration with the alumni of the college. The Alumni identified students, who were children of single parents and hail from poor economic background and decided to provide them with lunch every day. The programme to provide began with 70 students and today we provide food to 80 students. The Canteen gives food at a subsidized rate and the food project committee makes sure that quality is not compromised. The committee oversees the programme with random inspection being carried out once every week.

The Rotary Club of R. A. Puram has contributed generously towards this programme in collaboration with the Rotract Club of Chellammal Women's College. The teachers of our college have been benevolent and continue to contribute generously. The project has also been boosted by sponsorship received from, some private bodies.

Evidence of Success:

The college provided funds for 70 students initially and today the strength has increased to 80 students. There has been a substantial increase in the quality and quantity of food provided to the students. We have more teachers who contribute to the programme now.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The main problem encountered is lack of sufficient financial assistance. The college identified 300 students who are in need of food, but we are able to feed only 80 students because of limited resources. Generating more funds is the need of the hour. It is essential to identify more donors for this project. We also require more active participants for the efficient organization of this project.

2) TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: GARDENING TRAINING

Objective:

To train students in organic farming

Context:

When the college lost many resources due to the floods, we decided that it was important to build a campus that was well equipped to withstand natural disasters. As a result gardening programme was initiated which could help in building a greener campus as well enhance employability of the students.

Practice:

The NSS unit of the college in collaboration with the MYTHIRI foundation established in 2017, the BUDDHA garden and started the Gardening Training Programme to enhance employment opportunities for the students. Planting of plants helps in gaining practical experience through interaction with crops. It creates awareness among faculty members and students to appreciate organic gardening or eco-centric living to develop an eco-friendly atmosphere. The practice of planting of trees educates students and teachers on the adverse effects of chemical fertilizers, artificial pesticides and significance of sustainability, proper waste management and green living. It helps in understanding the value of a healthier soil and healthy food through farming practices and to retain soil-health and maintain good underground water table in the campus. The aim is to make the campus self-sufficient in water management. This extends in creating awareness to the families of the staff and students, and motivates gardening habits at home. It helps in maintaining an eco-friendly environment in the heart of the city. Farming practice is also a stress-reducing practice that develops concentration, cooperative skills, taking up responsibility, learning to have a symbiotic bond with nature.

Evidence of Success:

Initially 50 plants were planted and that number has increased in the past year. The students who were trained in this programme have managed to seek employment based on the training they had received.

Problems encountered and Resources Required:

In this programme also the institution has faced problems in the financial aspect. We have not managed to identify donors to fund this project unfortunately some plants have been lost due to negligence in maintenance. The programme has been fully supported by the college and MYTHIRI foundation and more help financially would result in the better maintenance of the garden.