

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 about 90 students now. 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 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. Some of the donors include Shri Prabha Kumar, Nimirvu Kalayagam, Avaiyar Anbil Karangal, Vijaya Optical House, Shri Baskaran (USA), Shri Prabakaran (Ex-Trustee) and Sri Corley Bhaskar.

Evidence of Success:

The college provided funds for 70 students initially and today the strength has increased to 90 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.

2) TITLE OF THE PRACTICE : GARDENING TRAIN

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:

In 2017, the BUDDHA garden - the Gardening Training Programme for the students was setup in our college premises by The NSS unit of the college in collaboration with the MYTHIRI foundation. Unlike lectures, it provides hand-on opportunities for the students to have real-time experience to explore the environment independently and encourages them to grow, harvest fruits and vegetables on their own. It creates an awareness among students and faculty members to appreciate organic farming or eco-centric living to develop an eco-friendly atmosphere. It also has a positive impact on their eating habits. It educates the students to understand the value of a healthier soil and motivates them to manage its quality. As a result, it provides nutrients to crops, absorbs rain water and maintains good under ground-water table within the campus. This practice has also influenced students and faculty members to set up a terrace garden at their 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:

The number of plants planted has increased in the past year. The faculty involved with this programme have made efforts to make sure that 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:

Maintaining organic farming requires more financial assistance. Although the institution has initially provided basic financial assistance, the project demands more funds for the proper management of plants and crops in the campus. Unfortunately, some plants have been lost due to negligence in maintenance. The institution's attempts to find right donors and sponsors to fund the project has yielded no results. As a result, 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.