

Best Practices of College

Title of the Practice 1: Green Campus/ Eco-Friendly Campus

Context: ZHDC takes pride in being a Green Campus where environmental awareness and education combine to promote sustainable living and eco-friendly practices in the campus. Our aim is to sensitize the students towards responsible living by reducing wasteful expenditure, conserving energy, and reducing carbon footprints so that we can save our planet. The students and teaching fraternity are involved in implementing a host of time bound practices that reflect our commitment to environmental issues.

Objectives of the Practice: Our objective is to build a culture of self-sustainability in our campus and encourage students to develop new paradigms by creating sustainable solutions to environmental, social, and economic needs of mankind. There are cost saving benefits of going green at workplace and we have incorporated these practices in our institutional planning with the aim of developing a clean and green campus.

The Practice: The following Green Initiatives have been undertaken by the college:

- Solar Panel grid comprising a total capacity of 50.22 kilowatts is installed on the roof top.
- Initiative to curb the problems of E-waste by collaborating with the NGO – “Chintan”. To facilitate the collection of E-waste, E-bins have been placed at various places in the college campus. The collection is handed over to “Chintan” for proper disposal.
- We have minimized the use of paper and switched to electronic medium of communication.
- Waste paper from office, labs and store is recycled in the handmade paper unit of college by our students. Additionally, we have also tied with Jaagruti to recycle paper on a large scale.
- Separate dustbins have also been installed at various locations within the campus for segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
- Management of solid wastes through a fully functional vermi-composting facility and produce green manure for self-sustainability of our gardening requirements. There are four vermicomposting pits in the garden to help generate manure since 2000 by using kitchen and garden waste.

Evidence of success:

- The college has been running ‘Handmade Paper Unit’ for the last several years and regularly conducts workshops for the students and faculty. Waste paper is also taken care by collaboration with NGO ‘Jagruti’.
- The college is also engaged in recycling canteen waste by Vermicomposting and leaf litter by composting to obtain self-sustainability towards college garden requirements.
- The college has a Nature and Environment Society which not only organizes events to raise environmental awareness but runs a magazine *Shrishti* which motivates students to write on environmental issues.

- Green Audit: ZHDC successfully cleared the Green Audit conducted by M/s Spectro Analytical Labs and declared as Environment Friendly Institution on June 20, 2016.
- ZHDC participated in the 59th Flower Show of University of Delhi held on February 23, 2017. There were in all more than 600 entries in the show from our college. In addition, the college herbal, rose and cactus gardens were all a part of competitive entries. We won a total of 145 prizes and 10 cups from all over the entries. College Herbal Garden has been adjudged best for the third consecutive year, thus winning & maintaining The Meenakshi Gopinath cup this year too.

Problems Encountered:

The college has challenges in terms of physical infrastructure and limitations of resources. There is no space for nurseries to raise plants and a green house facility is also long overdue.

Resources Required:

To undertake more environmental projects and upgrade the existing facilities, we need both physical infrastructure and financial support. Being a Green Campus, we wish to develop a green house facility and also have space to build nurseries.

Title of the Practice 2: Holistic Development of Students

Context: ZHDC is one of the oldest colleges in Delhi University and admits a diversity of students from different regions of India. The students come from different social and economic backgrounds and with varying academic abilities. We integrate the students to the syncretic ethos of our institution and focus on the holistic development of their personality.

Objectives of the practice: Our pedagogical practices are aimed towards building socially committed, ethically oriented and environmentally conscious citizens. We work towards enhancing the academic capabilities of the students and at the same time encourage them to participate in various activities organized by departments and societies. The college also offers various facilities keeping in mind the students social, economic, physical, and psychological well-being.

The Practice: In keeping with the objective of the holistic development, the college takes care of students' needs in all walks of life that makes their stay in campus pleasant. Our practices are designed to support them and ensure their well-being.

- The college campus is designed to take care of the differently abled students by installation of ramps. The enabling unit of the college organizes workshops and lectures to sensitize the students towards the special needs of fellow student and building their capacities.
- The mentor mentee programme is designed to enable the smooth transition of students into college life and prepares them to face challenges. The close supervision and guidance by the mentors help them overcoming academic and personal problems.
- The student aid committee is designed to provide financial assistance to the students from underprivileged backgrounds.
- The college offers counselling facilities to the students to overcome psychological, familial, and interpersonal issues. There are dedicated days when the counsellor visits the campus and student can have

sessions with them.

- The book bank facility is unique as it enables students to borrow books and keep them through the year. This facility helps those students in particular who face financial hardships.
- Our campus is a tobacco free zone. We also encourage students to follow healthy food habits. The campus has a Safal booth, and a fruit chat corner. No aerated drinks are sold in the college café.
- The college organizes self-defense programme for girl students and aims to build their capacities.
- The college also organizes a book fair to inculcate a love reading among students and also make a wide variety of books available to them.
- Field trips for educational purposes are organized by different departments which gives them an exposure to the outside world.
- There are different societies and clubs in college which offer students to participate in various co-curricular activities and also learn leadership skills as most societies are managed by the students.
- The college also brings out several magazines every year in different languages. Students are encouraged to contribute on a variety of themes.

Evidence of Success

- The college library houses a Book Bank that loans books to students for the whole session with preference being given to economically underprivileged students.
- The college has a robust NCC wing and every year's cadets are selected for several national level camps and Republic Day parades. Our cadets win several awards and organize community outreach programmes.
- The students have won awards for academic excellence, especially university positions in Persian and Arabic.
- Students win several prizes in arts and culture society, debating events and sporting events.
- The students participate in outreach events organized by the NSS.

Problems Encountered

- There is severe space crunch in college for teaching purposes as well as organizing co-curricular activities.
- Resource crunch in terms of financial support for lab air conditioning, improving / science lab facilities and upgrading furniture.

Resources required

- Infrastructural support in terms of more spaces like seminar rooms, to organize activities.
- Smart classrooms, seminar with well equipped with Wi-Fi and projectors.