

Best Practice I

Title: Gender Equity

Context: Zakir Husain Delhi College is dedicated to the cause of gender equity and balance in both the academic and corporate life of the institution. The unique geographical location has always helped female students of the walled city to have easy access to modern education. In order to raise awareness of gender issues and sensitize the many stakeholders in the institution, the college engages in several initiatives through various committees and associations. The college takes pride in keeping gender equity and inclusivity centerstage in enrolments, extracurricular activities, and sporting events.

Objectives: The objective is to ensure fairness and provide a level playing to all genders, respecting gender diversity and adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards gender discrimination. To ensure equality for all students regardless of their caste, class, ability, gender, sexual identity and taking care of their respective needs. To give equitable treatment regarding their right, responsibilities, and opportunities. The teaching learning thrust of the institution is to create a more sensitized atmosphere amongst students and ensure gender balance and justice.

Practices: Zakir Husain Delhi College tries to augment educational approach towards gender equity by planning various extracurricular events through Girls' Association, Internal Complaints Committee, Gender Sensitization Committee and Departmental Societies. These events include webinars, seminars, panel discussions, competitions based on themes and cultural events that discuss issues related to gender equality and address legal, economic, health, and social aspects of gender-based discrimination. Workshops, lectures, and sensitization programs are conducted to create awareness about sexual harassment at workplace and also sensitize about LGBTQIA+ concerns.

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) organized Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), training which was conducted by advocate Mrs. Nilofar Khan, a practicing lawyer at Supreme Court, Delhi, that saw discussions on all aspects of sexual harassment, its prevention, and legal actions against those found guilty. ICC also organized a poster making competition on topic "Discrimination against women".

A talk cum discussion on "Navigating through Relationships" was by ICC as more students move to stay in capital to seek higher education. The speaker, Dr Gayatri Arunkumar, psychology faculty at Delhi University, discussed how to deal with toxic relations, different types of relationships and how to distance away and give space in relations. Another important event of ICC was Mr Tejaswi Goel from District legal Services Authority held an interactive session on "Rights of Women".

On 4th November 2022 the Department of Political Science organized a talk on Legal Awareness and Specific Laws for Women in India by Dr. Latika Vashisht. They have also screened two movies based on quest for identity of a mother in “Before You Were My Mother” by Prasuna Dongol and “Flames of a Continuous Field of Time” by Barkha Mukhiya where themes like dehumanization of Dalit women’s bodies and existence is explored. The Girl’s Association organized a talk on “Right to Health: Women’s Stake in 21st Century.” by Prof. Anu Mehra, DU on 14th November 2022.

The curricular aspects also keep the gender issues centerstage by offering courses on gender studies, women empowerment, women’s writing, queer studies that aim to inculcate solidarity among social groups. There are many departments in the college which offer DSE/GE/SEC/AECC papers as part of curricular initiatives for gender equity sensitization and equipping the students with the idea of gender studies. For example, the Department of English offers papers like: Applied Gender Studies: Media Literacies, Contemporary India: Women and Empowerment, Women’s Writing (Core), Literature in Cross-Cultural Encounters, Marginalities in Indian Writing. The Department of Philosophy offers a course entitled ‘Feminism.’ The Department of Political Science offers a paper called Women, Power and Politics and Feminism: Theory and Practice. The Department of Psychology offers a course called Psychology of Gender. The Hindi department offers paper like Asmita-Moolak Vimarsh aur Hindi Sahitya.

Evidence of success: The college encourages female students to take on leadership roles, take part in sporting events, and participate in the cultural life of the college. By offering one per cent advantage to the girl students in the cut-off for admission the college has managed to ensure more enrolments and given access to modern education to women. This is a corrective step to ensure women’s access to education and participation in public sphere. The academic results also give evidence of female students’ bright performance.

Problems Encountered: The aim of these best practices is to make student aware of gender equality and gender justice. To practice gender quality in all our programs is a step towards equality of all genders and end gender based discrimination. The whole hearted participation of all the students is crucial to achieve these objectives. To have these events at when everybody can participate is a challenge given the tight academic schedules. To expand the base of activities by having community outreach programmes can make the students more responsible citizens and contribute towards social change.

Resources Required : One of the important resource can be collaboration with alumni networks, establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, and governmental bodies that can that provide additional funding, expertise, and support to expand the activity and also do community outreach programmes. Also, having additional spaces like conference rooms, audio visual rooms and other such spaces can facilitate the smooth conduct of sensitization programmes.

Best Practice II

Title: Sustainable Development

Context: ZHDC has a Green Campus and has taken several initiatives to create environmental consciousness and the goal of our teaching learning is to work towards sustainable development in both professional and personal life with the larger aim of transforming our world. To align the goal of education with sustainable development goals that aims to protect the planet, ensures that all sections of society good health, justice and prosperity has been our constant endeavor. The college has a variety of trees and flowers and wins awards in different categories at the university flower show every year. A clean and green campus, the college remains committed to meet the goal of sustainable development through its teaching and learning activities.

Objective: The objective is to promote the practice of sustainable living amongst the students in their personal lives as well in the corporate life of the institution. To learn to balance our environmental, economic, and social needs so that we have prosperity and good health now and for future generations is one of the important objectives of sustainable development.

Practices: The college has facilities for alternate sources of energy and energy conservation measures like solar energy, biogas plant wheeling to the grid, sensor-based energy conservation, and use of LED bulbs/ power efficient equipment. To reduce waste at institute, students and staff are educated through lectures, advertisement on notice boards, displaying slogan boards in the campus. Waste is collected on a daily basis from various sources and is separated as dry and wet waste. Since 2015, we are using Color coded dustbins for different types of wastes. Green for wet and blue for solid waste. Our vermicompost unit turns organic waste, such as leaves, bushes, and canteen garbage, into compost, which is then used as a fertilizer for the campus gardens. To recycle e-waste, we have partnered with the Non-Government Organization (NGO), "Chintan". To collect e-waste, students and employees are encouraged to use the specially designated bins for e-waste in college to dispose their electronic waste items. The college promotes waste recycling in addition to a paperless administration. We have partnered with the "Jaagruti" an organisation that recycles paper and the college's own handmade paper recycling machine. Hazardous chemicals and radioactive waste management - Microbial culture is always autoclaved after use to prevent the spread of unwelcome bacteria in the tissue culture lab. The carcinogenic substance colchicines are no longer made available to pupils for handling. The "Chintan", an NGO, also collects hazardous waste from electronic devices for treatment. The NES magazine, 'Srishti' is

dedicated towards highlighting issues related to sustainable development and encourages students

Various societies like Nature and Environment, Nargis, Parimandal, Garden and Greening Committee actively involve students in creating environmental awareness, organize tree plantation drives, landscaping of various spaces, festivals, poster making competition and lectures. Some of the activities for the current year are listed below.

- Aranya, The Nature and Environment Society in collaboration with Nargis, The Botanical Society organized a workshop on “Cultivation Technique of Pleurotus Mushroom” on 12th January 2023 by Prof. Rajni Gupta, DU.
- Nargis- The Botanical Society organized “Dr. Virendra Kumar Rolling Shield Environment Quiz on 10th February 2023.
- Parimandal- Environmental Studies Society organized an invited lecture on “Climate Change Negotiation” By Dr. Dheeraj Mittal, Assistant Director, General of Forests on 15th February 2023.
- Botanical Society NARGIS organized a talk on “The Current Global Economic and Environmental Crisis” By Prof. Pritam Singh, Oxford Brookers University, U.K., on 16th September 2022.
- A Shatabdi Vriksharopan 2022 program was held on 13th August 2022. On this occasion, the Garden and Greening Committee took up the plantation drive and under this initiative, three trees- Neem, Bargad and Peepal called ‘Triveni’ have been planted together in the college.
- Department of Zoology organized one-day seminar cum interactive session on Pollution and Human Health: Current Understanding and Future Directions on 24th January 2023. The invited speakers are Prof. Vandana Mishra, Dr. Vijay Hadda and Dr. Suniti Yadav.
- Aranya in collaboration with ATTERO organized “a workshop on E-waste” on 24th August 2022.
- Aranya celebrated “World Rivers Day (Nadi Ko Jano Initiative)” by conducting various events on **16th September 2022**.

Evidence of Success: The institutional environment and energy initiatives are confirmed through the following Green audit, Energy audit, Environment audit, clean and green campus recognitions/awards and beyond the campus environmental promotional activities. The college has alternate sources of energy like solar energy, biogas plant wheeling to the grid,

sensor-based energy conservation and uses LED bulbs. The college has ban on use of plastic, has segregated bins for waste, restricted entry of automobiles, bio medical waste management, E-waste management, and vermicompost unit. There is restricted entry of automobiles, pedestrian Friendly pathways and landscaping with trees and plants.

Problems Encountered: The aim of this best practices is to make student aware of the significance and challenges of sustainable development and how need to practice in our daily life. The whole hearted participation of all the students is crucial to achieve these objectives. To have these events when everybody can participate in all the activities given the tight academic schedules remains a challenge. To expand the base of activities by having more resources, infrastructural spaces and community outreach programmes can make the students participate more enthusiastically.

Resources Required : One of the important resource can be collaboration with alumni networks, establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, and governmental bodies that can that provide additional funding, expertise, and support to expand the activity and also do community outreach programmes. Also, having additional spaces like conference rooms, audio visual rooms and other such spaces can facilitate the smooth conduct of activities like workshops, seminars and many such programmes.