

SAHAKAR MAHARSHI LATE BHASKARRAO SHINGNE ARTS COLLEGE, KHAMGAON

Session 2019-20

Best Practices

Environment Protection and Conservation

Objectives:

- To create environment friendly campus.
- To create consciousness regarding environment protection and conservation among students and the society.
- To keep college premises clean and plastic free.
- To improve bio diversity.
- Optimise utilization of resources.

Context:

We are all aware of activities for environment protection and conservation of resources done by NGOs, other organizations or individuals. But our efforts more often than not, stop at a nominal activity or two. Our college is however inspired to make continuous, focused efforts in this regard. Only collective efforts will be able to bring about positive changes. The soil on the college premises is *murrum* - gravel type. A few years ago, it was difficult for instance, for students coming to the college for university examinations to find a shady place to rest awhile until allowed inside.

We planned to make the premises green, conserve water and make optimum use of available resources.

Practice:

Digging of huge pits, filling with black soil and then planting trees; irrigating with drip system has already been done by the college management. The Environment committee plans the activities every year. A separate nursery has been set up in the college. The college nursery provides saplings of fruit-bearing trees, ornamental and flowering plants to schools, villages, neighboring locality apart from planting in college premises. On the occasion of the celebration

of Environment Day on 5th June, Shri. Vasantrao Patil, an organic farming practicing person gave a lecture and demonstration on preparing organic fertilizer from organic waste.

Biodiversity register, water and feeders for birds are maintained. Activities like presentation on snakes, exhibition on local vegetables, composting, and plastic free premises were organized. The college has a 48 feet long, 16 feet wide and 8 feet deep water conservation pit for rain water harvesting. Rain water on all roofs has been directed in planned manner to the water harvesting pit. Even the water from RO outlet is utilized in the washrooms.

Check dam was constructed in consultation with the villagers at Kinhi Mahadev. The dam on the river at village Mandka was also repaired. To help raise the groundwater level, several four-by-four drainage ditches were dug in the villages by NSS volunteers.

Evidence of Success:

- The college premises are green and cooler, abuzz with birds and butterflies. Nests on trees in the college are a pleasing sight.
- The check dams constructed and repaired with the help of the students in adopted village are filled with water.
- Students have been inspired to take up green initiatives in their villages.
- Green audit certification.
- The college has received the prestigious University 'Environment Award' for 2020.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Activities require continuous efforts and resources in terms of man power and finance. At times, there is apathy among residents towards continuing the activities initiated by the college in their village.

2) Women's Empowerment:

Objectives:

- To accord a free environment to girl students in the college.
- To bring awareness about redressal mechanism in case of sexual harassment.
- To sensitize students and staff towards gender equality.

- To bring about change in behaviour of students and staff by according opportunities to examine their personal beliefs and attitudes, thereby enhancing mutual respect and cooperation.
- To use opportunities for positive discrimination for girl students so as to change prevalent attitudes and instil empathy.
- To boost confidence by providing leadership role opportunities to girls.

Context :

Providing an enabling environment to girl students is an important aspect of our institution and sensitization towards needs of girls is all the more necessary in a social and educationally backward district like Buldana where the female to male ratio is dismally low (928 population census 2011).

Practice:

The college has taken various initiatives through Internal Complaint Cell, a mechanism for complaint redressal. It organizes activities for creating awareness among students- girls and boys regarding need for respect, equality and cooperation among all students. Programmes and activities were organized for women's empowerment in the session 2019-20.

- In order to create health awareness in the girl students, on behalf of the ICC, a health check-up and hemoglobin check-up camp was conducted on 12-12-2019 in which a free health check-up of fifty college girl students was also done. The HB reports were conveyed to the girls.
- On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, a lecture on 'Gender Equality' was organized by the Marathi Department of the College.
- As a part of women's empowerment activity, an elocution competition was organized by the Marathi department on 4 March 2020 in which students – boys and girls expressed their views about the need of empowerment of women in the present times.
- During the Women's Empowerment Week, on 6th March 2020, the Marathi Department of the College organized a guidance program for the Damini Squad of Khamgaon City Police Station on the subject of sexual harassment. In this programme,

the speaker shared her various experiences through the team and also guided the students on need for gender equality in the society.

- Nutrition Week was organized by the Home Economics Department of the College on the occasion of Women's Empowerment during the period 12/10/2019 to 19/10/2019. Various competitions ranging from Dish decoration, Flower decoration competition to 'Best from waste' competition were organized.
- The Department of Home Economics of the college organized a "Environment Friendly Best from Waste" workshop on 28 Feb 2020. In this workshop, students were trained to make sustainable items from environmentally friendly waste.
- Rangoli competition was organized by the Department of Home Economics of the College on 28 January 2020. This is a way to boost confidence of girls to use their creative interests for financial empowerment.
- The department of Physical Education encourages girls to participate in University level sports competitions.

Evidence of Success:

As a result of the continuous efforts of the college in the field of women empowerment, the students of the college are doing remarkable work in various fields.

- Girl students spontaneously participated in the different programmes and activities with the boy students.
- 30% vacancies of girls have been filled in the NCC unit of the college and women cadets participate in all activities organised by department and battalion.
- Vaishnavi Borse successfully worked as a junior under officer in the session 2019-20.
- The participation of girls is good in different activities and they anchor and lead various programmes.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Though the girl students' participation has increased, families of girls sometimes do not allow their participation in activities, especially off campus ones.
- Many students belong to class of farmers, agricultural labourers and uneducated class and discontinue their education.

