

## **BEST PRACTICE- 2**

### Title of the Practice **GREEN CAMPUS CLEAN CAMPUS INITIATIVE**

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

- To make the campus clean and eco-friendly
- To make the students aware of the importance of cleanliness and greenery
- Beautification of the campus
- To make campus plastic free
- To ensure proper waste management
- To reduce the waste
- Create the culture of organic farming
- Construct and Maintain a Herbal Garden

#### **The Context**

Keeping campus green and clean is the great message to the students and society. It helps to make them aware of the importance of both, and at the same time ensure the calm and beautiful campus premises. Since thousands of students, hundreds of staffs and other stake holders are visiting the campus on all working days, the initiative is a big task and hence college planned required programs and mechanism to implement through college NSS unit. The nurturing and enrichment of herbal garden and organic farm were also identified as the key areas related to the initiative.

#### **The Practice**

A preparatory training programme for the NSS volunteers was conducted describing the action plan with the help of District *Shujithwa Mission*. Soon after the commencement of the class in the academic year, on the Environmental day nearly 500 saplings were planted. In June itself, a *Beat the Plastic Pollution* campaign was observed. In July, a novel program named 'Steel Bottle Selfie' was conducted to make the students aware of the importance of usage of steel bottles instead of plastic bottles. A street play programme and signature campaign for green protocol in general election became the two events highlighting the mission to the public.

The Herbal Garden in the campus was revitalised by adding new plants and forming the groups of students who would be caring for the keep up of the garden. Dr. Pramod Irumpuzhi gave a presentation on the relevance of herbs and the Herbal Garden, illustrating it with a number of variety of herbs from his own home garden. Dr. Pramod Irumpuzhi, an alumnus of the College, was designated as the Guardian of the Herbal Garden. All the replanting in the Garden was done under his supervision. NSS volunteers paid a regular session of maintenance work in the Garden.

An organic farming initiative was implemented on the terrace of the college building and was a remarkable success.

#### **Results/ Evidence of Impact**

Students and the Staff at the college were changed over time to practise the green protocol. The amounts of plastic reduced to a great extent and people used to bring steel bottle for drinking water. The waste management system worked well and people used to deposit the waste in category wise bins. For the herbal garden, a number of medicinal herbs have been contributed by students themselves. The

Campus has grown cooler. The environmental awareness among the students increased. The soil in the area seems to have become more fertile.

Apart from all that students and staff carried the message to their families and society.

### **Problems and Challenges encountered**

The major problem was the visitors, mainly the students other than regular students who visit the college for attending different exams and people attending election duties. Making awareness among them was challenging task, since most of these activities were on holidays and vacations. And hence the littering of the small-scale plastic waste in the campus.