BEST PRACTICE: 1

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: Green initiative and environmental friendly campus

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE:

The main aim of practice is to impart knowledge, create awareness, developed mindset of conserve the environment and nurture the required skills is to handle the environmental issues and challenges.

THE CONTEXT

Keeping the growing ecological concerns in iminds, there is a dire need for immediate action to be carried out and promote ecofriendly practices. The college strongly believes that in promoting environmental conservation, awareness must be followed by sustainable practices. In this endeavour, different depts along with institution's very own Nature Club and various associated committee's have undertaken several initiatives and organised different activities to reduce our institutional carbon footprint and inculcate greener practices.

A clean environment is basic necessity for human being's health and survival. Keeping this view in mind the best practices of 'green initiatives and environment friendly campus' is selected.

THE PRACTISE

- a) the college has developed a beautiful campus with green lawns, flower garden adequate trees and botanical garden.
- b) The college has been taking positive steps for the preservation of existing flora within the campus.
- c) Proper signboards and posters are displayed in the campus to promote a plastic free, pollution free environment.
- d) College organises different talks, essay competition lectures among the students and issues related to environment.
- e) Besides the college always observed various days like world environment days, wetlands conservation day etc.
- f) Only LED Bulbs and some solar panels are used in college buildings and campuses to save energy and this practice also encourages the students for the use of nonconventional source of energy.
- g) An initiative towards environment conservation in 2nd and 4th Saturday, Motor Vehicles and two wheelers are strictly prohibited in the campus.
- h) Used of solid waste in vermi-compost production is a significant practice of the college.
- i) A good number of environment friendly bamboo dustbins are used for the disposal of solid waste of the college.
- j) For the practice of water conservation within the campus, a well developed mechanism for rainwater harvesting is installed above the roof of the college office building. The rainwater is properly channelised through pipes and falls to nearby small pond.

The best practice has proven to be successful through the following activities

- 1. Through periodical trees plantation, flora and fauna (mainly birds) of the campus have been enriched, resulting in the transformation of the campus into an ecofriendly one.
- 2. Awareness campaign for the plastic free campus through signboards and display board makes the campus overall plastic free.
- 3. As a result of implementation of this best practice of the college are now aware of various environmental issues.
- 4. Prohibition of entry of vehicles on every 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Saturday in the college campus gives a little but significant scope for reducing noise and air pollution.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCE REQUIRED:

While carrying out this best practices, the following problems are encountered by the college:

- 1. Green campus initiatives are challenging, so they require determination and a long term commitment from all stakeholders.
- 2. The green Campus initiatives is a quite money and resource consuming practice. In an institution like Mariani College, it is very difficult to implement the practice fully.
- 3. Sufficient man power is needed for sustainable maintenance of green campus.

BEST PRACTICE: 2

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: Commitment to Tea Garden Community

Objectives:

The Mariani College sets the following goals:

- 1.To encourage the parents of the nearby tea gardens to send their children to school, colleges etc.
- 2.0 create awareness about health and hygiene
- 3.0 create awareness against superstitious practices
- 4.0 encourage the youths to be self employed
- 5.To promote rich culture of the tea garden community

THE CONTEXT

The Mariani College, situated amidst a number of tea gardens, has a number of duties and responsibilities towards the tea garden community. Generally, the tea garden workers are less interested to send their children to schools and colleges for education and this is mainly due their poverty stricken life. Many

health problems such diarrhea, typhoid, Malaria, lack of nutrition etc. are very common. Also, use of alcohol, tobacco, child marriage, high population growth are some major problems associated with their life. In view of all these, the Mariani College has considered it as one of the best practice to render some welfare programmes in the neighbouring tea gardens i.e. Kothalguri, Kharikatiya, Katonibari, Heeleakah, Hunwal etc. At the same time, this institution is trying to promote their culture consisting of jhumur dance along with music, playing of madal etc.

THE PRACTICE

- 1. The Mariani College teaching faculties and office staff along with students observed International Literacy Day on September 8, 2016 in Katonibari Tea Estate. On this occasion Dr. Horen Goowalla, Associate Professor of Mariani College addressed to the people and highlighted on various problems the tea garden families have and described how education would help to their uplift. He urged the gathering to send their children to school and colleges and talked in brief the various facilities provided by the government to students in the schools and colleges such as Mid Day Meal, School uniforms and scholarships to students.
- 2. This institution observed World Environment day in kathalguri Tea Estate on June 5, 2017. Both teaching and non-teaching faculties participated in it. On this occasion, Mr. Lachit Gogoi, Associate Professor, Department of History, Mariani College delivered a speech on the need of protection of environment by planting trees, by reducing the use of plastics etc. Also he appealed to the concerned authority for the use of proper amount of fertilizers, pesticides etc.
- 3. The Mariani College Internal Quality Assurance Cell organized a Two Days International Seminar on "Business, Marketing, Tourism and Tea Tourism in India" in collaboration with Teachers' Unit, Mariani College in February ,2019. Dr. Kim-Shyan Fam, Professor of Marketing at Victoria University of Welling, New Zealand participated as resource person. This Seminar brought to the forefront many prospects of Tea Tourism in this area and possibilities of self employment in this sector.
- 4. The Department of Assamese , Mariani College conducted a project work entitled on" Festivals of Tea Garden Community" with the students of B.A.6th Semester in 2021.
- 5. Some faculties of Mariani College have done research works on Tea Garden Community, presented research papers in Seminars and published research articles.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

Extension activities in the neighbouring tea gardens have been producing some positive results. In recent years it has been found that more and more children from tea gardens come to schools and colleges with less absence and irregularities. Literacy rate in the tea gardens are also increasing. Many students completed higher education successfully and some of them qualified competitive examinations and established themselves in different sectors. Programmes including street play, Swachhata Abhijan etc. bear the expected outcome. These not only contribute to encourage them to live a healthy life but also

promotes a strong relationship between the community and this higher educational institution. Now about 60% of the students admitted in the college are from nearby tea gardens and they get good results and show good performance in sports and cultural activities.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- 1. It is found really hard to convince the people against the superstitious practices they are adapted. They used traditional methods to cure diseases and reluctant to go to doctor.
- 2. It would be more fruitful if the institution will work in collaboration with some other social organizations interested in this sector.

Principal Mariani College Mariani