

BEST PRACTICES

(a) Best Practice-I

1) Title: International Research and Exchange Program on Climate Change

2) Goal: To create environment awareness beyond classroom among students

3) The Context: The college has undertaken an international research and exchange collaboration with *Globala Gymnasiet* (College), Sweden, for climate-related projects. Sweden is known for its best environment practices. Our goal is to develop our students as well as staff as truly global citizens, well-versed with environmental issues threatening our planet. In the exchange program (2014-15), a research project titled 'Water Analysis' in Mumbai and Stockholm was undertaken.

4) The Practices:

- i. 30 student and two teacher participants were trained on environmental related issues and eco-friendly and sustainable way of living with the support of an NGO named "*Srushti Dyan*". After training, these students and staff worked with students and staff of 9 associated schools of Mumbai.
- ii. They worked on several projects, such as:
 - a. Setting up Seed Bank
 - b. Best Out of Waste
 - c. Zero Waste Management
 - d. Energy Audit
 - e. Water Audit
 - f. Making Solar Cooker
 - g. Celebrate "earth hour"
 - h. Setting up Butterfly Garden
- iii. Simultaneously, the same activities were carried out by the students of *Globala Gymnasiet* (College), Sweden, and the project discussions were carried out through skype meetings.
- iv. Twenty two students and two teachers from *Globala Gymnasiet* visited our college in January 2015 to work on the environment

projects. They conducted a water analysis of the Mahim Creek and carried out the study of water challenges of the people living in Dharavi slum. The highlights of their Program Schedule were:

- Visit to Mahim Nature Park
 - Collection of water samples at Mahim Creek.
 - Analysis of Mahim Creek's water samples in Biology laboratory, M.D. College
 - Visit to Dharavi Slums
 - Visit to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)
 - Visit to Sanjay Gandhi National Park
 - Visit to Bhau Daji Lad Museum
 - Visit to Girgaon Chowpatty
 - Meeting with Dr. Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India.
- v. The program resulted in a magnanimous environment exhibition and conference at “Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium” visited by a number of experts.
- vi. This whole exercise was further continued by the college and in month of May 2015, 15 students and 3 teachers of our college visited Globala *Gymnasiet*. This exchange program was sponsored by our Management and Globala *Gymnasiet*. Following studies were undertaken at Sweden:
- a. Study of Stockholm's Water Quality
 - b. Study of Stockholm's Waste Disposal Management System

5) Evidence of Success:

- Student participants prepared a video film on the waste management and uploaded on YouTube to create awareness.
- In the college, “Zero waste management and Compost making” has been institutionalized.
- The participants were exposed to the foreign country where they learnt about their culture, life style and the practices followed by them for environment preservation.

- It was a learning process and they encountered with the training given to the nursery children's about segregations of waste and disposal waste in the right manner.
- This collaboration continues for another two years. The student participants and staff of Globala *Gymnasiet* were again in Mumbai in January 2017 to study “Sustainable Development and Green Spaces”.
- The team of M.D. College students visited Stockholm in June 2017 under this program.
- **A team of 17 students and 2 teachers from Globala college visited during January 2019. They carried out projects based on Mangrove ecosystem in Mumbai and Public sanitation facilities. This included Expert interaction, field visits, laboratory analysis and survey based on the theme of sustainable development. Team of MD College students and teachers visited Stockholm from 22th may 2019 to 30th may 2019 under this exchange program.**
- **This entire activity has provided excellent opportunity for our students to get enriched in the field of environment and sustainable development. The exchange program has offered a great platform also for cultural exchange.**

6) Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The problems encountered:

- 1) Our economically disadvantaged students required financial support from the college.
- 2) Vernacular medium students faced communication problems in English language.

The resources required:

- 1) Financial support for the boarding and lodging of Swedish counterpart in Mumbai.
- 2) Financial support for our students to travel to Sweden.

Problems were overcome by generous financial help from the management and alumni of our college. The Swedish Consulate also reimbursed the visa processing fee of our students and staff visiting Sweden under the exchange programme.

(B) Best Practice-II

1) Title: 'Swapnapurti' – An Educational Inclusiveness Program

2) Goal: To promote educational inclusiveness among under privileged students of society

3) The Context: The college through its N.S.S. unit has started the 'Swapnapurti' program. Under this program, we provide free education to the unreached socially and economically underprivileged students, such as orphans and street children, and bring them to the main stream. We realize that lack of education is one of the root causes of major social problems, such as unemployment, health and hygiene, belief in superstition etc., Hence, the need for such initiatives for the betterment of the society was felt.

4) The Practices:

- Our N.S.S. volunteers conducted a survey of the nearby slums and streets to identify the children who need education.
- The N.S.S. volunteers selected the children from the age group of 6 to 12 years.
- Volunteers counseled the parents of such children to send them to school. Most parents were reluctant as they needed the children to work to supplement the family income or to take care of siblings when their parents were at work. Parents required a number of counseling sessions to convince them to send their children to school.
- 25 children enrolled under the 'Swapnapurti' program.
- The N.S.S. volunteers started Sunday Classes at the college, wherein they taught the children.
- The N.S.S. volunteers got the students enrolled in the municipal schools.
- The N.S.S. Volunteers becomes a mediator between the children enrolled, their parents and the municipal schools.
- These students were well-supported by meeting their education need. College provides them all the accessories for the education, such as books, instrument boxes, bags, shoes, uniforms etc. This kept them motivated. On special occasions, the students were also given food and clothes.
- A continuous assessment of these children is done by N.S.S. volunteers and teachers.

- Under the guidance of N.S.S. program officer, volunteers guide and train children for the performances at various functions of the college. The children are involved in college programmes, such as Independence day, Rishibodh Ustav etc.

5) Evidence of Success:

After five years of dedicated efforts, under the 'Swapnapurti' program, five students have successfully completed their Class X with moderately good results. These students were given admissions in the Junior College of the institute and the college provides them free education.

6) Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The problems encountered:

- Initially the students and parents were reluctant to join as parents needed their children to work or take care of their siblings.
- Parents required a number of counseling sessions to convince them to send their children to school.
- Children also required a number of counseling sessions to continue their education.

The resources required:

- Funds for educational materials, such as books, instrument boxes, bags, shoes, uniforms etc.
- Infrastructure required to conduct classes on Sunday.
- Funds to reimburse food and travel expenses of N.S.S. volunteers.
- Funds to reimburse expenses incurred on cultural/motivational programs designed.

The problems were overcome by generous financial help from the management and alumni of our college.

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