ETHIRAJ COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (Autonomous)
Chennai – 600 008
Affiliated to the University of Madras
College with Potential for Excellence
Reaccredited with A+ Grade by NAAC

BEST PRACTICE I

Title: **"PROMOTION OF A SUSTAINABLE GREEN CAMPUS"**

Objective:

1. To promote environmental sustainability by creating a green campus

2. To encourage eco-friendly practices among faculty, students and non -teaching staff

Context:

Aligning with the global need for environmental conservation and sustainable practices to preserve the planet for future generation, the institution has put in place several innovative initiatives in the recent years to convert into a green campus.

Practice:

1. Two new buildings, namely the Administrative block and Indoor Sports Complex that have been constructed on the campus in the year 2022 and 2023 are designed to be energy efficient and eco- friendly. The classrooms are designed to let in daylight in order to reduce the consumption of electricity. The erected buildings have been shaped in an architecturally efficient way to retain the old trees on the construction plot. The spacious courtyard in front the building is reserved exclusively as a green space with effective sprinkler irrigation.

2. Solar Panels have been built on the rooftops of the buildings to downsize the dependency on thermal energy.

3. More rain water harvesting pits have been constructed to cut down the usage of bore wells.

4. Energy saving equipment has been chosen to lessen the electric load

5. A small scale Miyawaki forest was created in the campus a few years back as a unique initiative to curb greenhouse gases. Plans are also in place to study the pollution level of the area in and around the forest.

6. Workshops and other programmes are periodically conducted to create awareness on the need to adopt environment friendly habits

7. Swachh League, a student league formed along the lines of Swachh Bharat Policy undertakes several activities to inculcate values of conservation. For instance students collected plastic pens for recycling as a part of their extension activity

Success:

1. Green campus initiatives have given a new look to College and has definitely promoted an eco-friendly attitudes among students and staff

2. Environmental Awareness Programs: Regular workshops, seminars, and campaigns on environmental issues such as climate change, waste management, and biodiversity are conducted to raise awareness among students and faculty.

Problems encountered:

1. Any new initiative that disrupts the existing practice is always fraught with difficulties. Changing people's attitude is the major problem that one encounters while switching to green practices.

2. Maintenance and upkeep of equipment like solar panels pose a challenge as it demands strict scrutiny and requires periodic inspection. Finding specialised care for innovative practices is a challenge for the institution.

Conclusion: The College's green campus initiatives have successfully contributed to creating an environmentally conscious campus community. By integrating sustainable practices into daily operations, the institution not only promotes eco-friendly habits but also leads by example in the larger movement toward environmental conservation

BEST PRACTICE II

Title: "HOLISTIC SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY"

Objective: To equip students with the necessary skills and competencies to enhance their employability and foster personal growth.

Context: In response to the increasing demand for skilled professionals in a rapidly changing global job market, the college focuses on enhancing both soft and core skills, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their career.

Practice:

1. Capacity Building Programmes and Diploma Courses: The College regularly organizes workshops, seminars, Capacity Building Programmes and Certificate Courses in collaboration with industry experts. These programmes focus on various skill areas such as Investment strategies, Computer literacy, Communication, leadership, entrepreneurship, etc. The introduction of Diploma course in Drone technology is a case in point.

2. Internships: To bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application, the college provides students with opportunities for internships and industry projects at both UG and PG level. These internships allow students to work in real-world environments, gaining exposure to industry practices, challenges, and work culture. Collaboration with local businesses and startups, ensures that students acquire industry-relevant skills.

3. Soft Skills Development: Recognizing the importance of soft skills in the workplace, the college offers a compulsory Soft Skills course for two years in both

Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes. These courses focus on Resume writing, facing interviews and presentation skills.

4. E Cell of the College promotes active entrepreneurial skills. 'Idea Box' is a unique initiative of the college to fund innovative business startups.

5. Skill-Based Electives and Add-On Courses: To ensure that students have a broad skill set, the college offers skill-based electives and add-on courses in areas such as Food Safety and Product Development, Web designing, Maintenance of Modern equipments etc. Some of the unconventional courses that are offered are Excavation Sites in Tamil Nadu, entrepreneurship oriented courses like preparation of Soap, Handwas and sanitizer and Mushroom cultivation. Keeping in mind the emerging trends in social media and visual arts, a course in commercial photography is offered. The courses have been designed to complement the core academic curriculum and provide students with specialized knowledge that enhances their career prospects.

Evidence of Success:

1 Successful student ventures are assisted through the Entrepreneurship Cell.

2 Students from Science stream have patented new technologies. For eg., a student from Nutrition dept. has secured a patent for eggless cake mix preparation.

Challenges:

1 Rapid changes in technological advancements and ever shifting market needs pose crucial challenge to existing pattern of curriculum.

2 Limited resources allotted for an institution hinders the upscaling of training programmes and to offer a widespread industry exposure