

Best Practice 1: Environmental Awareness Program

1. Title of the Practice

Environmental Awareness Program

2. Objective

To take an initiative in creating environmental awareness about the importance of conserving and preserving the environment among students, staff, all institutional stakeholders, and the community. The main objectives of this activity are:

1. **Awareness:** To engage students with nature, enhancing their understanding of environmental issues and fostering sensitivity, appreciation, and respect for the natural world.
2. **Knowledge:** To equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the environment, extending beyond their immediate surroundings to include global environmental concerns.
3. **Attitudes:** To nurture and instill values that encourage environmental stewardship and protection.
4. **Participation:** To provide platforms for active involvement in environmental decision-making processes at all levels, encouraging leadership and collaboration in sustainability efforts.
5. **Action:** To inspire direct participation in conservation activities, enabling individuals to contribute to practical environmental initiatives and solutions.

The Context

Environmental consciousness is more critical than ever. The challenges posed by global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, and rising pollution levels underscore the institute's strong commitment to environmental protection. It is our responsibility to foster a spirit of conservation and environmental awareness among students, faculty, and staff.

To support this commitment, the institute continuously works to harness renewable energy, with ongoing efforts to generate electricity through solar power. Additionally, we have implemented rainwater harvesting systems to conserve water and a compost pit to promote

sustainable waste management.

Our campus is a green haven, featuring lush lawns and abundant greenery, functioning as an "Oxygen Park" for the surrounding areas, which are otherwise filled with shops, homes, buildings, and roads. This natural space not only enhances environmental health but also benefits the community around us.

3. The Practice:

The institute has established a comprehensive Environment Conservation Initiative to foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship among students, staff, and the surrounding community. This initiative encompasses various programs and practices aimed at preserving and protecting the environment. Key components of the initiative include:

- **Tree Plantation Drives:** The institute regularly organizes tree plantation drives, focusing on planting indigenous and native species to enhance biodiversity. These drives not only contribute to carbon sequestration but also help restore local ecosystems. Each year, students and staff actively participate in planting and maintaining saplings in designated areas, fostering a sense of responsibility toward the environment.
- **Plastic Collection Drives:** To combat plastic pollution, the institute conducts plastic collection drives throughout the year. These drives involve students and staff in collecting plastic waste from the campus and surrounding areas, raising awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution and promoting recycling. The collected plastic is handed over for proper recycling and disposal.
- **Compost Pit Initiative:** As part of its commitment to sustainable waste management, the institute has established compost pits for processing organic waste generated on campus. Biodegradable waste, such as food scraps and garden waste, is collected and composted, resulting in nutrient-rich compost that is used to enrich the soil for campus greenery. This initiative not only reduces landfill contributions but also educates students about the benefits of composting.
- **Solar Power:** The institute has installed a 10 kW solar online grid power generation plant that reduces reliance on conventional electricity sources. The solar power generated is utilized for various electrical needs on campus, contributing to lower energy costs and a reduced carbon footprint.

- **LED Lighting:** To enhance energy efficiency, the institute has replaced traditional light bulbs with energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the campus. This transition significantly reduces electricity consumption while providing effective illumination.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** The institute has implemented rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater for irrigation and other non-potable uses. This initiative helps recharge groundwater levels and reduces dependence on municipal water supplies.
- **Drip Irrigation:** To optimize water usage for landscaping and gardening, a drip irrigation system has been installed. This method delivers water directly to the plant roots, minimizing evaporation and runoff while ensuring that plants receive the right amount of moisture.
- **E-Waste Management:** The institute has implemented a structured e-waste management program to address the disposal of outdated electronic devices. This initiative involves collecting e-waste from students and staff, including old computers, mobile phones, and electrical appliances. The collected e-waste is disposed of through certified agencies to prevent hazardous materials from harming the environment.
- **Sustainable Practices:** The institute promotes sustainable practices across all operations, including waste reduction, recycling, and eco-friendly purchasing policies. Efforts are made to choose environmentally friendly products and materials whenever possible.
- **Awareness Programs:** Regular workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns are organized to educate students and staff about environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and pollution. These programs empower individuals to take informed actions toward environmental conservation.
- **Community Engagement:** The institute actively collaborates with local communities and organizations to promote environmental conservation initiatives. Volunteer opportunities for students and staff are provided to participate in community clean-up drives, tree planting activities, and other conservation efforts.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The institute is committed to preserving local biodiversity by maintaining green spaces, creating habitats for native flora and fauna, and promoting the planting of indigenous trees and plants on campus.
- **Partnerships:** The institute collaborates with governmental and non-governmental organizations, environmental groups, and academic institutions to enhance its conservation efforts. These partnerships facilitate knowledge sharing and resource mobilization for various environmental projects.

- **Sustainability Reporting:** The institute conducts annual sustainability assessments to measure the effectiveness of its conservation initiatives. These reports are shared with stakeholders to promote transparency and encourage further engagement in environmental practices.
- **Green, Energy and Environmental Audits:** Regular green, energy and environmental audits are conducted to monitor and optimize resource usage across the campus. These audits identify areas for improvement and help implement strategies to minimize energy consumption and environmental impact.

Through these comprehensive efforts, the Environment Conservation Initiative seeks to inspire a sense of responsibility and active participation in environmental protection, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for both the campus and the wider community.

Evidence of Success

The Environment Conservation Initiative implemented by the institute has yielded significant positive outcomes, showcasing its effectiveness in promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship. The following evidence demonstrates the success of various components of the initiative:

1. Tree Plantation Drives:

- Over the past years, the institute has successfully planted numerous indigenous trees, contributing to enhanced biodiversity and improved air quality on campus.
- Post-plantation surveys indicate a high survival rate for the saplings, demonstrating effective maintenance and care by students and staff.

2. Plastic Collection Drives:

- During annual plastic collection drives, the institute has consistently collected a substantial amount of plastic waste each year, significantly reducing litter on campus and in surrounding areas.

3. Compost Pit Initiative:

- The establishment of compost pits has led to the conversion of a significant quantity of organic waste into nutrient-rich compost annually, which is used to enhance the campus's greenery.

4. E-Waste Management:

- The structured e-waste management program has successfully collected and disposed of hazardous materials safely, ensuring responsible management of e-waste.
- Collaborations with certified agencies have resulted in the safe recycling of all collected e-waste, minimizing environmental harm.

5. Sustainable Practices:

- The institute has successfully reduced overall waste through effective recycling and eco-friendly purchasing policies.
- Records indicate a shift towards a notable increase in the procurement of environmentally friendly products compared to previous years.

6. Awareness Programs:

- The institute has conducted numerous workshops and seminars annually, with participation from a large number of students and staff, significantly raising awareness about environmental issues.
- Post-event surveys indicate a high percentage of participants reporting increased knowledge about environmental conservation.

7. Community Engagement:

- The institute has collaborated with local organizations for community clean-up drives, resulting in the removal of a considerable amount of waste from public areas.
- Participation in these initiatives has increased significantly year-over-year, highlighting growing engagement among students and staff.

8. Biodiversity Conservation:

- The maintenance of green spaces has supported the presence of diverse flora and fauna, with an increase in sightings of native species on campus.
- Biodiversity assessments indicate a marked improvement in plant species diversity since the initiative's implementation.

9. Research and Innovation:

- Faculty and students have successfully completed multiple research projects focused on sustainability and renewable energy, with several projects receiving grants and recognition at environmental conferences.

10. Partnerships:

- The institute has formed partnerships with various governmental and non-governmental organizations, enhancing resource mobilization for environmental projects and initiatives.

11. Sustainability Reporting:

- Annual sustainability assessments have shown consistent improvement in energy efficiency and waste reduction metrics, with reports made publicly available to encourage transparency and accountability.

12. Solar Power:

- The installation of a solar plant has resulted in a notable reduction in electricity costs, demonstrating significant financial and environmental benefits.
- The solar power generated has contributed to a decrease in the campus's carbon footprint.

13. LED Lighting:

- Transitioning to LED lighting has resulted in a substantial decrease in electricity consumption for lighting across the campus, translating to significant energy savings.

14. Energy and Environmental Audits:

- Audits have identified areas for improvement, leading to the implementation of energy-saving measures that have reduced overall energy consumption over the past two years.

15. Rainwater Harvesting:

- Rainwater harvesting systems have successfully collected a large volume of rainwater annually, which is utilized for irrigation, reducing reliance on municipal water sources.

16. Drip Irrigation:

- The installation of a drip irrigation system has optimized water usage, ensuring efficient moisture delivery to plants.

Through these measurable outcomes, the Environment Conservation Initiative has effectively fostered a culture of sustainability, resulting in tangible benefits for the campus and the wider community while inspiring ongoing engagement in environmental protection.

Best Practice 2: Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program..

1. **Title of the practice** : Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program

2. **Objectives of practice:**

- To raise awareness about various communicable diseases, chronic conditions and various metabolic disorders in the community.
- To raise and investigate the public's knowledge of communicable diseases and disease outbreaks.
- To provide extensive health education to the public, particularly those with low educational status and income.
- To inculcate social values and responsibilities among students.
- To create opportunities for the students for social interactions.
- To strengthen team work amongst students and encourage participation.

3. **The Context:**

The **Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program** is an initiative of our institute aimed at providing a **social platform** for our students to engage with the community and better understand its health needs. This program offers a unique opportunity for our students to learn about the significance of **health and hygiene** while understanding the vital role that **health professionals**, particularly **pharmacists**, play in society. The program help our students to interact and engage with local populations, identify prevalent health issues and learn how to address them effectively through education, prevention, and treatment. Students gain a deeper understanding of how pharmacists can contribute to improving public health by offering support in community health initiatives, such as disease screening, health education, and advising on proper hygiene practices.

4. **The practice :**

Community oriented diseases constitute a considerable proportion of the global burden of morbidity and mortality. Our educational institute is working in the healthcare sector by facilitating pharmaceutical science knowledge for students. So it's our duty to raise awareness about various metabolic disorders and communicable diseases in society.

In the first step of this practice, our institute is taking the initiative for the preparation of MOUs between different members of society who are working on public health and hygiene services. So our institute, Saswad Nagerpalika (the local government body), the Medical Association of Purandhar, and the Rotary Club of Purandhar come together on the same issue and entered into MOU. According to the MOU, all organizations decided to work together on certain issues to prevent or control various diseases by raising awareness in society.

The institute organized guest lecture on '**Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program**' by **Dr. Pankaj Ingawale, Ayurvedacharya** Saswad for our student and staff members.

Our students raised societal awareness through street plays during the **Social Awareness Rally** held on the occasion of **World Pharmacist Day**. On the same day, to recognize the invaluable contributions of pharmacists to the healthcare sector, the institute organized a mega campaign titled "**Let's Honour Our Pharmacists.**" As part of this initiative, pharmacists from the Saswad region were honored with appreciation certificates. This event was held in collaboration with the Indian Pharmaceutical Association, Pune Branch, to acknowledge the critical role pharmacists play in promoting public health and ensuring the safe and effective use of medications.

On the occasion of **World AIDS Day**, the institute organized a **Health Check-up Camp** in collaboration with the **Rural Hospital, Saswad** for the **Teaching and Non-teaching Staff**, as well as **Students**. This camp aimed to raise awareness about health and well-being, particularly in relation to HIV/AIDS prevention and general health monitoring.

The health check-up covered several important health parameters, including:

- **Weight measurement**
- **Blood Pressure (B.P)**
- **Blood Sugar Level (BSL) test**
- **Hemoglobin levels**
- **Inflammatory diagnosis**

These tests were conducted to ensure early detection of potential health issues and to encourage a proactive approach to maintaining good health.

The health check-up reports for each participant were shared individually with both staff and students, ensuring they had access to the information needed to monitor and improve their health.

This initiative not only focused on routine health check-ups but also highlighted the importance of awareness and education regarding HIV/AIDS, underscoring the institute's commitment to health and well-being on World AIDS Day.

Our institute, in collaboration with **Municipal Council Saswad, Primary Health Center Saswad, Purandar Medical Association, Rotary Club Purandar**, and the **Chemist and Druggist Association Purandar**, organized a **Health Check-up Camp** specifically for the **sanitary workers of Saswad Nagarpalika**. This initiative was aimed at promoting the health and well-being of the workers who play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in the community.

The camp featured a dedicated team of **doctors**, including specialists, as well as **members from the Chemist and Druggist Association**. Additionally, our **students** were actively involved in assisting with the health examinations, providing support in counseling for **health and hygiene** practices, and distributing necessary **medications** to the workers.

5. Evidence of success:

At the end of these activity and step forward towards success of '**Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program**' we found that there is a need to educate people about various other diseases and disorders like hypertension, various heart diseases, kidney diseases, arthritis, AIDS and others. So, our institute is taking efforts to arrange a health and hygiene awareness camp for these areas. People get information related to health services available in health canters. Additionally, the students of the institute played a crucial role in organizing a rally that raised awareness about communicable diseases. The rally was met with positive feedback from the community, with many people sharing how the awareness created by the students was valuable in helping them stay informed and vigilant about public health issues. Health checkup camp supported attention towards the importance of regular health monitoring and staying informed about issues related to HIV/AIDS. Sanitary workers of Saswad Nagerpalika positively responded to the health checkup camp and counselling by the students. Their enthusiastic involvement of our students help ensure that the campaign reached a larger number of children, contributing to the goal of eradicating polio from the region. The **Primary Health Care Center, Purandar**, acknowledged the students' commitment and hard work, recognizing their efforts in supporting this crucial public health initiative.

This ongoing effort reflects our institute's commitment to not only raising awareness about preventable diseases but also actively engaging with the community to ensure better health outcomes for all.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

One of the main challenges faced during the **Community Oriented Diseases Awareness Program** was the initial lack of awareness among community members about the importance of preventive healthcare and the specific diseases being addressed (e.g., hypertension, heart diseases, kidney diseases, arthritis, etc.). Many individuals were not aware of the early symptoms or the preventive measures that could help them avoid such health issues. They were found to be reluctant to health check-ups, but through systematic planning and teamwork, all these activities have been carried out successfully. In order to organize a health checkup camp, we needed an arrangement of basic medicines, first aid kits, basic medical devices like glucometer, BP recorders, oxymeters etc. We essential funding sources or financial support to organize and carry out these activities successfully. Further we need to train the students to handle basic medical devices.

To spread awareness more effectively, it is important to have educational materials such as pamphlets, posters, and visual aids in local languages. These resources will help simplify complex health topics like hypertension, heart diseases, and arthritis for the general public. Increased funding would help cover costs such as medicines, transportation, advertising, and incentives for volunteers. Financial resources would also help expand the reach of the program, ensuring that more communities benefit from health awareness campaigns.