

## **Pune District Education Associations**

### **Seth Govind Raghunath Sable College of Pharmacy, Saswad**

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#### **Best Practice 1: Environmental Awareness Program**

##### **1. Title of the Practice**

Environmental Awareness Program

##### **2. Objective:**

- To instill environmental consciousness among students, staff, and stakeholders and foster a sense of responsibility toward environmental conservation.
- To promote sustainable practices such as reducing waste, conserving resources, and adopting eco-friendly habits.
- To encourage active participation in addressing environmental challenges at the local and global levels.
- To increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity, climate change, and pollution control.
- To develop a culture of sustainability within the institution and its surrounding communities.
- To educate participants about the significance of environmental ethics and inspire long-term behavioral change.
- To involve the community in collective efforts toward environmental conservation through outreach programs and campaigns.
- To enhance knowledge and skills related to environmental preservation through workshops, expert talks, and interactive activities.

##### **3. The Context:**

Environmental degradation, climate change, and pollution have emerged as critical global concerns, threatening ecosystems, human health, and the planet's future. With deforestation, resource depletion, and rising carbon emissions intensifying these challenges, there is an urgent need to foster sustainable practices. Recognizing the transformative role of educational institutions in shaping environmentally responsible citizens, the college has taken proactive steps to address these issues through its Environmental Awareness Program. The program aims to create awareness about the consequences of environmental neglect, inspire positive attitudes toward nature, and encourage actionable contributions for a sustainable future.

The institution acknowledges its responsibility to equip students and stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and ethical values necessary to combat environmental challenges. By integrating theoretical understanding with practical engagement, the program seeks to empower participants to adopt eco-friendly practices and promote a culture of sustainability. The college's commitment to addressing these pressing global concerns is evident through activities that emphasize the importance of biodiversity, waste reduction, and climate action.

Furthermore, the program seeks to bridge the gap between awareness and action by fostering collaborations with local communities, government bodies, and environmental experts. Through interactive events such as tree plantation drives, clean-up campaigns, and expert-led lectures, the initiative addresses the multifaceted aspects of environmental conservation.

Through these efforts, the college aims to not only create environmentally conscious individuals but also inspire them to become change-makers in their personal and professional lives, contributing to a healthier and more sustainable planet.

#### **4. The Practice:**

- Organized **tree plantation drives** to enhance green cover on campus and surrounding areas, promoting awareness about afforestation and its critical role in combating climate change and restoring ecological balance.
- Conducted **cycle rallies** to inspire students and staff to adopt eco-friendly and sustainable modes of transportation, thereby reducing carbon emissions and promoting physical well-being.
- Initiated **plastic collection drives** to minimize plastic waste, emphasizing the importance of recycling and proper waste disposal to reduce environmental pollution.
- Held a **campus and surrounding areas cleanliness drive** to instill cleanliness habits among participants, creating a clean, hygienic, and aesthetically pleasing environment as an example for the larger community.
- Arranged **NSS camps** with activities focused on engaging rural communities in environmental conservation efforts, promoting practices such as tree planting, water conservation, and proper waste management.
- Observed **No Vehicle Day** to reduce carbon footprints and highlight the detrimental effects of vehicular emissions on air quality and climate, encouraging the use of public transport and carpooling.

- Encouraged students and staff to prioritize the **utilization of public transportation, bicycles, electric or CNG vehicles, and carpooling**, as part of the institution's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a sustainable commuting culture.
- Organized a **Green Walk Rally** to draw attention to the significance of greenery in urban and rural areas, spreading awareness about biodiversity and sustainable living practices.
- Conducted an **elocution competition** to provide a platform for participants to articulate ideas and perspectives on environmental conservation, fostering awareness and creative solutions to environmental challenges.
- Conducted a guest lecture on **environmental conservation** to provide participants with expert insights into global and local environmental issues and equip them with actionable strategies for adopting sustainable living practices.
- Held a **Best from Waste Competition** to encourage creativity and innovation in repurposing materials, promoting the concept of upcycling and reducing waste generation.

Integrated **practical environmental activities** such as tree planting, waste collection, and cleanliness drives with **awareness campaigns** to inspire participants to adopt eco-friendly practices in their personal lives and actively contribute to community and global sustainability goals. By implementing these initiatives and encouraging sustainable transportation options, the college aims to lead by example in reducing environmental impact and promoting a culture of eco-consciousness among its stakeholders.


## 5. Evidence of Success:

- Significant increase in the **green cover** on campus and surrounding areas, with visible growth of trees planted during the tree plantation drives, creating a healthier and greener environment.
- Positive feedback from participants of **cycle rallies**, many of whom reported adopting cycling as a regular mode of transportation, contributing to reduced carbon emissions and improved personal fitness.
- Collection and proper disposal of substantial amounts of **plastic waste** during the plastic collection drives, raising awareness about waste management and encouraging participants to minimize single-use plastics.

- Noticeable improvements in the cleanliness and hygiene of **campus and surrounding areas**, with participants regularly engaging in cleanliness drives and demonstrating enhanced civic responsibility.
- Active involvement of rural communities during **NSS camps**, leading to the adoption of eco-friendly practices such as tree planting, rainwater harvesting, and waste segregation in those areas.
- Widespread participation in **No Vehicle Day**, leading to a measurable reduction in vehicular traffic on campus and increased use of sustainable transportation alternatives such as bicycles and public transport.
- Enhanced awareness and adoption of **public transportation, bicycles, electric or CNG vehicles, and carpooling** by students and staff, resulting in a more environmentally friendly commuting culture.
- High engagement and community outreach during the **Green Walk Rally**, which inspired participants and onlookers to take active steps toward conserving biodiversity and promoting greenery.
- Impressive performances in the **elocution competition**, with participants presenting innovative ideas and solutions for environmental conservation, reflecting a deep understanding of the issues.
- Positive impact of the **guest lecture on environmental conservation**, with attendees gaining practical knowledge and expressing interest in implementing sustainable practices in their daily lives.
- Creative and impactful projects presented during the **Best from Waste Competition**, showcasing the potential of upcycling and promoting waste reduction practices among participants.
- Increased awareness of environmental issues across the institution, with many participants committing to sustainable lifestyle changes and spreading awareness within their families and communities.
- Overall improvement in the campus culture, with a stronger focus on sustainability, collaboration in environmental initiatives, and proactive efforts to reduce the institution's ecological footprint.

## 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- **Limited resources** for large-scale activities such as tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and community outreach efforts, which required additional funding and logistical support.
- **Difficulty in maintaining consistent participation** throughout the program due to competing academic responsibilities and the demanding schedule of students and staff.
- The **tight academic schedule** made it challenging to engage students and staff in extended environmental activities, often conflicting with class schedules and exams.
- **Lack of awareness** or understanding about certain environmental issues, which required more extensive preparatory education before participants could fully engage in the activities.

  
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