

Name of the College: M.E.S. College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar, Goa

### 1. Title of the Practice: Environmental Friendly Practices

#### *Objectives of the Practice*

M.E.S. College of Arts and Commerce has taken the following initiatives to make environment friendly campus:

- Creating environmental awareness through 'Kasturi' Lecture Series.
- Installation of Solar street lights on the college campus
- Aerobic Composting
- Medicinal Plant Garden

The following are the objectives of the above initiatives to make the campus environment friendly;

1. To create awareness among students and staff of the college and neighbouring community about environmental issues.
2. To facilitate sustainable solutions through teaching, research and extension activities that tackle issues of the campus and community.
3. To ensure the preservation of bio-diversity and the protection of eco-sensitive areas by adopting environment friendly initiatives.
4. To encourage traditional practices like aerobic composting for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

#### *The Context*

The college intends to create environmental consciousness among students and community. Hence we engage and take care of the environment and surroundings. Our aim is to sensitize the students and staff about environmental issues and challenges and be aware of the environmental aspects. In order to spread knowledge about our responsibility towards the environment, we conduct lectures on various environmental issues. We make use of solar street lights which illuminate areas to conserve resources. We make use of the traditional methods of composting to generate our own organic manure for our trees and plants on the campus.

#### *The Practice*

Creating environmental awareness through 'Kasturi' Lecture Series.

Kasturi is a lecture discussion series held in memory of late Dr. Kasturi Dessai, Founder member of Botanical Society of Goa. This series is conducted by the Foundation for Environment Research and Conservation (FERC) in collaboration with MES College. These lectures touch on various topics of significance and concern to the people of Goa by proving to be a platform for open discussions, knowledge exchange and sharing. Nature Club and Resource Management Cell organize regular lectures series to sensitize the students, teachers and the community on various environmental issues and challenges.

The details of the 'Kasturi' Lecture series are as follows:

In view of the current pandemic, the lecture series was organized via Google meet. The speaker for the first session was Mrs. Gulab Borkar, who is an environmental educator. She spoke on the topic "Kitchen to garden and back". She initiated how each of us could start growing our own kitchen gardens using things from our kitchens. She gave a list of plants which could be grown in the kitchen garden. She also spoke about how these vegetables, fruits and herbs will be free from pesticide and fertilisers as wastes from the kitchen will be composted to provide the plants with nutrients.

The second lecture of the Kasturi lecture series for the academic year 2020-21 was held on Friday 30th July 2021 via google meet. The resource person for the lecture was Mr. Shashank Bhosale who is an environment educator. He spoke on the topic 'Carving your own path: Journey of an environment educator'.

#### Installation of solar street lights on the college campus

The college installed solar street lights with a view to harness solar energy, thereby reducing its dependence on conventional energy sources. Solar energy is a renewable energy source and does not generate any pollutants. The college has installed solar lights for illuminating the pathways and the common area. This would not only save operating costs but would contribute towards environmental sustainability.

#### Aerobic Composting

The college generates a large amount of garden waste in the form of fallen dry leaves.. Hence it was decided by the Nature Club and Resource Management Cell of the college to compost these leaves using the aerobic composting method. The dry leaves are layered with a layer of kitchen waste and grass. Cow dung and curd is used as inoculants for composting.

#### Medicinal Plant Garden

The Medicinal Plant Garden was setup with the main objective of sensitizing the students about conservation of the rich biodiversity and in particular the role of medicinal plants in providing holistic healthcare both in traditional and modern systems of medicine. Plants such as Lemon grass, khus-khus, Basil, Vetiver, Aloe vera have been planted.

#### *Evidence of Success*

Through the 'Kasturi' Lecture series, the college has succeeded in sensitizing all students and the general public about the various environmental issues and the significance of creating an environment friendly campus.

Aerobic Composting method facilitates the cleanliness in the campus due to large requirement of the dry leaves and other wet waste. Organic compost is generated at very low cost which is used to nurture the plants. The surplus compost can be sold to generate revenue for the college.

Solar street lights are installed on the campus which provides illumination during night time without using the conventional source of power. It reduces the overall electricity cost of the college.

The Medicinal Plant Garden has helped in popularizing the usefulness of commonly available and frequently used herbal plants.

#### *Problems Encountered and Resources Required*

The problems encountered are as follows:

Installation of Solar panels involves a significant cost which has to be incurred by the college.

#### *Notes (Optional)*

Seminars and workshops could be conducted for the general public to create awareness about various environmental issues.

Students and Teachers can be taught the process of Aerobic composting which will enable them to try at their own houses.

## **2. Title of the Practice: Remedial Coaching**

#### *Objectives of the Practice*

Remedial Coaching is undertaken at the under graduate level with a view to

- Improve the academic skill and competency of the students in various subjects
- Raise the students' level of comprehension of basic subjects and to provide a stronger foundation for further academic work.
- Improve the academic performance of the students.

#### *The Context*

Education is meant not only to nurture the excellence of students who have been gifted with wisdom but to uplift all those who are not performing academically well in their career pursuit. Remedial coaching intends to increase the academic efficiency of students who intend to undergo higher studies, and also to reduce the failure and dropout rates. Each student differs in terms of academic proficiency, learning abilities and performance. Students with learning problems tend to be diffident and more passive. They hesitate to express views or raise questions and gradually lose interest in learning. Some students find it difficult to catch up on basic concepts during the regular lectures and hence are in need of remedial coaching.

#### *The Practice*

The institution has been a pioneer in offering personalized care to the students since the inception of the remedial coaching classes. Remedial Coaching is provided to needy students who want to seek help from the faculty for their studies. The notice is drafted and sent to all the classes informing students who intend to register for remedial coaching classes. The Co-ordinator of Remedial Coaching classes prepares the list of registered students to make arrangements for the required subject teachers. Students are allotted to various faculty

members and individual time-table is prepared for the remedial classes. The remedial classes are normally held after the regular class hours of the college. The students who register under remedial coaching scheme are also provided the Remedial Book Bank Scheme through the college library. Since there are few students allotted to each faculty member, personal attention is ensured which improves their academic performance. The difficulties and doubts are cleared by having face-to-face interactions.

#### *Evidence of Success*

The remedial coaching has benefitted the academically weaker students, wherein; after undertaking the said coaching, a serious attempt is made to raise the level of these students so as to make them academically strong and competent on par with other students. The students who register and regularly attend the coaching classes perform better in their semester end exam. This practice receives huge response from the student community. There was significant qualitative and quantitative improvement in the level of achievement. The efficacy of the programme is reflected in the better performance academic performance by students and subsequent student progression.

#### *Problems Encountered and Resources Required*

- The first generation learners have difficulties in coping with the regular classes as well as remedial classes since they come from an inclined socio-economic culture.
- Due to the large strength of students in the UG programmes, batch-wise teaching becomes difficult.
- Weak cognitive skills coupled with slow speed learning and low attention span may pose a burden on the faculties to carry on with remedial teaching.

#### *Notes (Optional)*



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