

## **Best Practices**

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

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS**

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

The focus of EE is to expose students to the actual world they live in. They have to be acquainted with the environment related issues and problems. They must also be able to look at the environmental problems and concerns, analyse, evaluate, draw inferences and equip themselves to resolve them. The main objectives of the activity are as follows:

- 1. Awareness:** To expose students towards nature and allow them to learn and play outside for developing sensitivity, appreciation, and respect for the environment. .
- 2. Knowledge:** To acquire knowledge of the environment beyond the immediate environment including distant environment.
- 3. Attitudes:** To acquire a set of values for environmental protection.
- 4. Skills and Capacity Building:** To develop skills required for making discriminations in form, shape, sound, touch, habits and habitats. Further, to develop ability to draw unbiased inferences and conclusions.
- 5. Participation:** To provide an opportunity to be actively involved at all levels in environmental decision-making.

#### **The Context**

Environmental Education (EE) has generally been visualised as a multi-disciplinary area of study. The scope is broad based and encompasses physical, chemical, biological, social, cultural and human dimensions of study. All the dimensions are closely interrelated and influence one another. The themes, which emerge prominently, include

interdependence of man and nature, ecologically and socially sustainable development, pollution and the problems it creates and the preservation and conservation of natural resources. The other themes that find a prominent place are population, human health, impact of science and technology, industrialisation, culture, ethics, agriculture and economics.

### **The Practice**

As per annual practice Department organizes Environmental education and awareness programme at school level. Under this activity students from B.Sc.-III initially prepared regarding the motto and mechanism of this activity. On behalf of the same the students prepared their matter and finally visit to different schools (Primary and High schools) from nearby area as well as some villages for presenting their candidature. After perceiving prior permission the students present their views, concepts and practical approaches on basic environment, environmental issues and environmental conservation in front of school students. The respective school authority's encourages the departmental students by providing related certificates.

### **Evidence of Success**

In last five years, more than 5000 schoolchildren have been given lessons in Environmental conservation and its importance in our lives. Around 60 schools in and around the city have been visited by about 100 student-volunteers of the department of Environmental Science. Letters of appreciation by the respective Head Masters and the Principals of all the 60 schools are the testimony of the significant work done by the student-Volunteers and teachers involved in the activity. The parents of many school-children gave positive feedback about the knowledge received by the children on the environmental conservation and its significance.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

In the initial stage, convincing the students to volunteer for educating the schoolchildren was bit difficult as it was not a module tested in the examination. But the counseling and active participation of the faculty members made the students aware of their social – responsibility. Secondly, it was tricky sometimes to get the permission from the school-authorities due to their regular timetable. However, the importance of the activity motivated all to find out the ways and to sort out the difficulties.