

7.2 Best Practice 1:

Title: Environment Consciousness and Sustainability (Green, Greener and Greenest)

Context: SSM College campus spreads as a lush green and sprawling oxygen rich and eco friendly seat of quality learning at the outskirts of Dinanagar town just adjacent to foothills bordering J&K and Himachal Pradesh. The natural location advantage to this green campus offers countless opportunities to enhance the eco-friendly practices in the campus. The current global climate crisis imposes the institution to consider the environment consciousness as its paramount duty to develop its high standards for environmental friendliness and applaud the practices that continue to arrange and work on the cutting edge of environmental innovation. The college deems it as its prior responsibility to make society aware of deteriorating environmental parameters and also prodding them to adopt eco-friendly ways through environmental policy advocacy, promoting environmental awareness and local participation in conservation efforts to minimize the threat.

Objectives:

- Inculcate the Green protocol among students and faculties.
- Dissemination of environmental literacy to motivate students, teachers and supporting staff.
- Establishment of an efficient way for waste management and recycling systems.
- Energy optimization for enhancing energy utilization.
- Transformation of the campus into pollution free and environmentally friendly zone.
- Green Campaign initiative focusing students regarding awareness of the benefits for adopting green practices.

Practice: The following initiatives have been taken in the campus to contribute to the noble cause of Environmental Consciousness and Sustainability:

Green Campus Campaign: The College familiarized green campus campaign to promote sustainable and eco-friendly follows in the campus and to make the earth inhabitable for the living beings which is essential for the profitability of future generation. Regular garden

maintenance is done by gardeners and green campus volunteers take care of highly oxygen friendly flora such as Arica palms, snake plants, spiders and a lot of white lilies to absorb fluoride carbon mono-oxides and other fungal based pollutants.

Plastic Free Campus: The programme aims to reduce plastic pollution in the college campus with special focus on the reduction and elimination of plastic bottles, plastic straws, utensils and plastic food packaging. Instead of buying bottled water students are encouraged students to use refillable like stainless steel bottles or glasses instead of plastic bottles.

Waste Diversion: The College has executed composting and recycling programmes. Separate dust bins are provided to collect degradable and non-degradable wastes in solid, liquid and e waste forms. The biodegradable waste is put in the Vermi Compost units so that it gets converted into organic manure. The non-degradable waste is given to approve local vendors. E-waste, like mother board etc. is used by the students to retrieve important electronic components for reuse in project works.

Water Usage: The rain water harvesting system was established in the campus for the effective management of water. This innovative measure has contributed tremendously towards the alleviation of water shortage. Rain water harvesting and waste diversion was beneficial for drinking water.

Energy Management: The College implemented various methods to save energy. The LED bulbs are used in the campus. The Solar Energy system is utilized and a number of CFL bulbs in the college are powered by solar power. The college has installed a solar plant with actual power generation capacity of 12 KW which is a very encouraging step towards using renewable and inexhaustible clean energy source.

Green Audit, Environment Audit and Energy Audit: With the initiative of Eco Club, the awareness programmes are conducted on environmental issues. The club also examined the effects of green initiative campaign in campus and a review was conducted at end every academic year. The college conducts Green Audit, Environment Audit and Energy Audit on 17 January 2019.

Tree Plantation Drive: The College has organized Tree Plantation Drive on 2 August 2018 in which 220 students have taken part in the college premises. On the recommendations of the

IQAC, The College has decided that 100 trees will be planted in the campus, besides labelling all the plants and the trees in the college for their identification.

ISO Certification: The College got ISO Certification on 2 January 2019.

- 9001:2015 (Quality Management System)
- 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System)

Clubs and Societies: The College has various societies and fora for implementing various green initiatives like NSS, NCC, YRC Club, Eco Club and Energy Conservation Club to boost up students' engagement and participation in various awareness drives. On the recommendations of the IQAC, these clubs were formed and they organize various programmes in and outside the college on environment related issues drives of the campus, tree plantation, displaying instructions and writing slogans in the campus and outside as well.

Other Practices: The Environment Education is a part of our curriculum. Our students understand the value of extras derived from clean and green environment. Energy consumption in the college has been drastically minimized by arranging awareness programmes on the indispensability and compulsion of energy saving besides putting stickers (Switch-off the equipments and lights when not required!) on switch boards and all connected places.

Impact of the Practice:

- The concept of green campus campaign and environmental friendly practices in the campus resulted in growing a clean and green campus.
- The workshops and seminars on environmental issues created awareness among the students.
- Proper waste management system for all types of waste produced in the campus. Disposal of non-degradable and degradable wastes into separate dust bins facilitated the waste management more effortlessly.
- Green power generation by using solar panel compact the use of conventional electricity ingestion.
- Use of renewable and sustained energy sources like LED bulb inside the campus.
- The Eco-Club and Energy Conservation Club have succeeded in fostering an energy conservation culture and attitude among students, staff and masses in nearby areas.

- Neatness programs conducted by NSS and NCC time to time. Maintenance of garden and various play grounds by NSS in charge, and Sport in charge respectively.
- Encourage to students and teachers for save electricity, save papers, save waters, use of dust beans etc.
- Environmental awareness program (single use of plastics awareness) conducted by NSS unit of the college.
- “Vermi Compost” uses to prepare inside the college campus and use it as organic fertilizers.
- Availability of different sports ground, large cricket ground, football ground, basketball ground etc.
- Local people use college campus for running, walking, and playground for sports every day.

Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to Overcome: Sometimes it becomes difficult to convince people including students and staff regarding the existence degradable environment practices and their dreaded consequences. The awareness programmes and carrying out door-to-door campaigns will help to overcome the obstacles.

Resources Required: The financial resources are always needed to secure success in organizing these programs. The coordination from external agencies is required to put theory in practice. The programme with external agencies should be organized to let people of the area understand the importance of environment cleanliness and up gradation.

About the institution

Name of the Institution:	Swami Swatantranand Memorial College
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