

Best Practice- I

Title of the Practice: Literacy Mission

The Objectives of the Practice: Krsihnath College started to engage with and educate the slum-dwellers in and around Berhampore with an objective to bring them out of the vicious cycle of poverty and improve their living condition. Since it was felt that 'education' is the potent tool to create awareness amongst people and precipitate positive changes in their life style, the college students and teachers together started to visit the slums and impart education to them. The objectives were also to create awareness amongst guardians and elderly people about the need of education in their children's lives and the urgent need to send their children to schools and colleges.

The Context: The immediate context of the Literary Mission had arisen out of a chance encounter of a group of students who stepped out of the college for some practical projects and visited the slums. The students themselves came up with a proposal for disseminating knowledge amongst the poor and the downtrodden of the slums and thus the project had found light of the day in joint venture of the students and the teachers.

The Practice: An economic research study carried out by the Economics department within the slum regions of Gandhi Colony aimed to assess factors such as educational attainment, fertility rate, population figures, literacy trends, employment patterns, and consumption behaviors. The purpose of this survey was to educate students about real-life circumstances prevalent in these areas. The literacy lessons conducted by the students were divided into two categories. One set of classes were conducted by teachers of Krishnath College who taught the parents about the value education holds in modern society and the role it can play in improving their life style. Another set of classes, mainly conducted by the college students, were meant to impart primary education to the children living in the slums.

Evidence of Success: Though the evidences of success of a literacy program cannot be comprehended in few years, the growth in adult literacy and enrollment of the children in primary schools can be seen as a positive result of the mission. The mission's success can also be demonstrated by the improved reading, writing, and comprehension skills of individuals, both young and adult, who were previously illiterate or had low literacy levels.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Literacy programs aimed at improving the education and skills of slum dwellers can encounter several challenges, many of which stem from the unique socioeconomic and environmental conditions of slum areas and ours was no exception. The problems faced by the college students and teachers are namely the unwillingness of the people to participate in the classrooms, lack of attention in the class and the harsh living condition where the space is always overcrowded.

Best Practice- II

Title of the Practice: Green Campus.

The Objectives of the Practice:

The idea of the “Green Campus” is a novel idea which has been the product of recent critical thoughts on the ecological imbalance and environmental degradations. The objectives of adorning the college campus with greeneries are namely i. The primary goal of a green campus is to conserve natural resources and protect the environment ii. the creation of awareness amongst the students about the importance of nature in their personal and spiritual well-being, iii. Fostering a Green Culture iv. Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Context:

The famous British Romantic poet William Wordsworth wrote One impulse from a vernal wood/ May teach you more of man, of moral evil and of good/ Than all the sages can. The need to decorate the campus with trees, woods and flowers arose from the principle that it would enable students to learn directly from nature and grow a symbiotic relationship. Also, it was felt that it was imperative for the college community to address the more urgent issues of climate change and risks arising from this global phenomenon.

The Practice:

On the campus premise, the students enthusiastically participated in the drive for tree plantation and it is they who worked tirelessly month after month to nurture the saplings. These works show that higher education in India is no longer divorced from the immediate socio-cultural discourses around us and students are able to learn from their works and experience. It is this holistic approach that we hope positively contributes to the good health and well-being of the nation.

Evidence of Success: In comparison to the past, the college campus today looks verdant and appealing to the human mind. It has become plastic-free, dustbins are now in use and automobiles are forbidden to enter the vicinity of the college. Also, the rainwater is preserved and then put to use in various laboratory works and other purposes.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: In the early stage of the green drive, it was challenging to nurture and protect the trees since it's easier to plant than to protect them. Also, it was an arduous task to create awareness amongst students regarding waste management since it required them to identify the degradable and non-degradable objects and compartmentalize them accordingly in the dustbins.