St. PETER'S INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
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BEST PRACTICE I

CLEAN AND GREEN CAMPUS

1. **TITLE OF THE PRACTICE:** SPIHER-Clean and Green campus.
2. **OBJECTIVES:**

Clean india and Green india are the yardsticks of sustainable development for any Institution. In SPIHER, sincere efforts are being made to maintain a clean and green campus. Hence, SPIHER has well defined objectives which are listed below so that the above goals are met:

➢ To inculcate the culture of eco-friendly practices in students
➢ To transform the campus into pollution free and environmental friendly.
➢ To use the available water in efficient and judicial manner
➢ To maintain the trees in proper manner
➢ To increase the tree cover to the extent possible by planting more and more trees.
➢ To improve ecosystem service like carbon sequestration and storage.

3. CONTEXT

A clean and healthy environment is necessary for effective learning. It was necessary to look forward to make efficient usage of available water and other resources. Our Institute has promoted variety of activities to protect the environment and sustain its natural resources. SPIHER has taken necessary steps to improve and enhance the dissemination of environmental literacy to students, teachers and supporting staff. The Stakeholders work to develop an eco-friendly, sustainable campus and to disseminate the concept of eco-friendly culture.

Chennai is only dependent on annual Monsoon rain fall for its water requirement. Due to huge population, we cannot afford to waste even a single drop of water. Water conservation is essential considering the vagaries of Nature. SPIHER has taken a number of steps to attain self-sufficiency by

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adopting various water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting, recycling of waste water, etc.

4. THE PRACTICE:

- SPIHER attaches great importance to preserve the Nature and avoid degradation of environment. The green campus developed by the Institute helps not only to save the environment, but also adds beauty to the campus. The Institute has preserved Flora and Fauna on the campus by maintaining suitable environment.
- Cutting of trees is strictly prohibited in the campus. Every year, a number of trees are planted in the campus. Forest department has provided number of free native saplings for plantation. The trees and plants are maintained by trimming them at regular intervals and keeping the roots of these plants neat and tidy. The campus has large number of oxygen releasing and carbon dioxide assimilating plants such as Neem tree, Thulasi, Snake plant etc. As a result, the campus maintains low levels of pollutants and carbon emissions. The Institute has a framework in place for conducting a green audit of its facilities.

- The campus has been designated as "No Plastic Zone" and usage of single use plastic bag is banned. The faculty members and students are encouraged to utilize cotton or jute bags. Only stainless steel utensils are used instead of plastic crockery in the Canteen and Hostel Mess. Single use water bottles avoided in the campus. Similarly, instead of single use straws, other type of straws like metal are encourage in the canteen. The Institute is designated as a "No Tobacco Zone". Our Institute has promoted variety of activities to help protect the environment and sustain its natural resources.
- Rain water collected from the roof of the Institute is routed to open bore well recharge. The campus has got robust rain water harvesting system and bore well recharge through percolation process. The Institution also has a pond within the campus to maintain the ground water level during summer season.

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- The waste water from Reverse Osmosis (RO) system is being used for plants and trees. The Institute has a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of 2000 litres capacity. The treated effluent water is also being used for irrigation purposes.
- The Institute observes World Environment Day and World Water Day on campus each year by organizing seminars, poster presentations, competitions, quizzes, debates, etc.
- SPIHER instituted Eco Club with active participation of students. Continuous efforts are taken to improve the efficient use of all resources, including energy, water and waste materials by the members of Eco club. The Eco club has taken initiative to administer pledge by students and staff on World water conservation day and Environment day to maintain green campus.

5. EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:

- SPIHER owns 32.26 acres of land with buildup area of about 20,000 square meter. The campus is home to more than 2300 trees and other plants. The campus contains huge population of tress.

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SPIHER CAMPUS 10 YEARS BEFORE

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IGNITE • INSPIRE • INNOVATE

SPIHER CAMPUS IN 2023

To identify the tress and its botanical name, a unique Quick Response (QR) code has been assigned to all the trees. Anyone can scan a QR code to receive an audio message in addition to text information about the tree and its botanical family name. The Institute has developed beautiful campus with lawns. The count of trees has doubled over a period of six to seven years leading to 70% green cover of the campus.

- The events are offered which have enriched the school's flora and fauna and helped it become an eco-friendly campus. The Institute observes World Environmental Day which enabled the Environment awareness among stakeholders. LED bulbs are used instead of CFL bulbs in the campus to minimize the electricity consumption

- The major goal of these initiatives is to raise students understanding of the value of environmental resources. Plastic-free campus and no Tobacco zone were resulted in low pollution.

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- Rain water harvesting has been installed to store the entire rain water of the campus which will support the water shortage in summer by maintain the ground water level. Protected water supply is given by RO drinking water machine.

- The Institute is located close to the city of Chennai. The temperature is high in and around Chennai, in general. A comparison study was made to understand the temperature pattern in SPIHER campus and in surrounding areas. This study indicates that the temperature within SPIHER campus is lower than the other areas due to the green cover maintained in our Institution.

- The air quality is one of the important factor for maintaining a good pollution-free environment. Bad air quality causes many respiratory issues. Even though, we are located near a large Industrial Estate, we experience a better air quality, due to our green campus releasing oxygen and carbon di oxide assimilating plants and trees.

6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCE REQUIRED:

The Institute faced the following issues while implementing the clean and green campus. Our culture depends on single use plastics. Most plastic waste does not make it to the recycling center or even the landfill in our country.

- Green campus efforts are difficult; therefore, it requires commitment from all parties and long-term certainty.

- Green campus initiatives can be quite pricey. Expert counsel and financial commitment are required.

- Less understanding of environmental issues among students and the community.

- Every possible step was taken to educate the students and staff members about the harmful effects of single use plastics like packing covers, water bottles etc. This message was given wide publicity in the surrounding

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areas and adopted village as well. Proper monitoring was done by the Eco club within the campus to maintain the policy of "zero plastics". An awareness about the trees and plants was created among the students by assigning QR code for them. Any one can scan the QR code to get the details about the tree in an audible form. Text message is also provide. This has generated lot of interest to the students about the need for a good and green campus in the institution.

It was difficult to keep up motivation for volunteering and to continue succeeding in one's entire endeavor's, which necessitated close supervision. With the help of the administration, students, and teachers, we are effectively running the clean and green campus programme on our campus despite the aforementioned issues.

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BEST PRACTICE II

OUTREACH PROGRAM

1. **TITLE OF THE PRACTICE :** SPIHER – CAMPUS TO SOCIETY

2. **Objective of the Practice**
   - To encourage and provide opportunities to students to put into practice their knowledge and talents for the benefit of the Society.
   - To create awareness among villagers on Health, Sanitation and Hygiene.
   - To create Environmental awareness among rural people.
   - To promote women empowerment rural areas.
   - To promote Entrepreneurship among in rural population

   In short, the objective of Campus to Society is to advance development through efficient knowledge transfer.

3. **The Context**

   Since SPIHER is located in suburban area, surrounded by villages, the Institute feels that it is obligated for the uplift of villagers located around the Institution. SPIHER promotes the value of community engagement. The institute outreach activities aims to educate students about societal concerns and their place in nation-building.

   Health awareness programs were organized to educate the villagers on the importance of leading a healthy life. Programmes on awareness of cleanliness were conducted under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. School students in the nearby areas were educated by making presentations to them.

   Rural people are finding it difficult to market their agricultural products due to lack of awareness about the various schemes available to support them.

   The rural population is not aware of the importance of keeping their environment clean. The institute organizes outreach programmes to educate the people in rural area about environmental issues.

   Women play a pivotal role in the society. Females are facing lots of socio-economic problems. These issues are addressed through various programmes organized by SPIHER.

4. **The Practice**

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The Institute has adopted, under the village adoption scheme six villages around Avadi, such as Karunakaracherry, Parivakkam, Thirumanam, Banavedu thottam, Sorancherry and Naarayaenapurem. The Institute conducted many programmes to create awareness on various issues which includes digital literacy, health and hygiene, environmental issues.

Health and Hygiene: The NSS unit of SPIHER participated in rallies, in the adopted villages to create awareness on Health and Hygiene. In addition, the students conducted various campaigns for sensitizing the people on the importance of Health and Hygiene. As a part of the campaign, the students organized skits, interactive sessions, human chains, and poster-making on various topics such as general wellbeing, healthy eating, menstrual hygiene, tuberculosis, cancer, leprosy and organ donation, etc.

Entrepreneurial Development: The students of SPIHER train local and village people in the business practices. The women in rural area are motivated to launch micro business with the financial support of Women Self Help Group (WSHG). A detailed study on digital banking and MUDRA loans for rural residents was made by the students and they educated the villagers on this. This was well received by the villagers.

Digital India Mission and Digital Literacy: The students educated the local population about computer literacy, mobile banking, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) reservations, utilising government websites, and other topics. Students conducted computer literacy programmes to the school students in the villages. This instilled confidence among the students in the usage of computers.

Educational support to School students: The students and faculty of SPIHER demonstrated the basic concepts of Mathematics, Science and English through fun games. Mathematical formulae book was prepared by the department of Mathematics of SPIHER and distributed to the school children of adopted villages as a ready reckoner. This was well appreciated by the students as well as teachers.

Environmental awareness: SPIHER promotes environmental awareness, cleanliness, and sanitation in the community under Swatch Bharat Abhiyan. The students organised campaigns to plant trees, raise awareness about the importance of rainwater harvesting and stop usage of single-use plastic in the community.

Women empowerment: SPIHER organized gender-sensitive camps to create awareness on women's constitutional rights. SPIHER students organised a number of educational programmes on the rights and safe-guards provided for women under the constitution.

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Village adoption: The aim of adoption of villages is to help the villagers in improving their living conditions by imparting knowledge in various aspects. The villagers are motivated to cooperate with student volunteers in the cleanliness drives and other services rendered. SPIHER has adopted five villages and many programmes were conducted to improve their living conditions.

5. Evidence of Success

The rural people were benefited by the Rural literacy programmes organized by SPIHER. This instilled confidence in many of the people.

The literacy programmes helped the school students to improve their performance in the school examinations.

On account of the World Yoga Day organized by the institute, the villagers were encouraged to practice Yoga and many of them started practising regularly.

Entrepreneurial outreach initiatives inspired the villagers to become micro business owners. The awareness on e – payments motivated the villagers to adopt digital payments through mobile phones.

The awareness created on IVRS has helped them to book their gas cylinders.

The cleanliness and general hygiene have improved in the adopted villages on account the efforts made by the students under Swatch Bharat Abhiyan.

Women empowerment programmes organized by SPIHER created a constitutional awareness, Women education and Women empowerment.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources required

The major challenge was in mobilising the villagers to participate in the awareness programmes. Mobilization of the required funds for organising the outreach programmes was another important challenge. Programmes could not be conducted during the pandemic, affecting the continuation of the programmes. It is challenging task to quantify the effectiveness of the outreach programmes.

The community leaders and members of local bodies were contacted and with their sustained efforts, many villagers participated in various programmes. Suitable venues to organise the programmes in the villages were provided by the local bodies and community leaders. Students of SPIHER have actively participated in the cleanliness drives arranged in the adopted villages. The villagers realized the need for maintaining their surrounding clean and joined hands with the students to make the drive a grand success. With the financial support of the management, the programmes were conducted successfully. With the active support of the Management and staff members, the students surmounted most of the difficulties.