

## Best Practices – 1

### **Title of the Practice: Going Green from Campus to Community**

#### **Objectives of the Practice 1:**

1. To contribute to a greener world through constructive efforts in campus and in the Community.
2. To engage students in nature conservation and connect them with natural world.
3. To inspire students to become "Eco-Saviours" -who can lead the way towards a sustainable future
4. To motivate students to be active citizens whocommunicate the crucial nature of climate change to the public by community engagement.

#### **The Context:**

5. Eco-consciousness is one of the Core Values of the College.
6. Located on the banks of the 1000+ years old Uyykondan Canal of the Great Cauvery River, the Institution is aware of its locational significance and has vouched to stand for preservation of the green wealth of the region.
7. The institution takes constructive efforts in creating a greener world from its founding days.
8. Eco-consciousness is strongly imbibed in its ethos and is reflected in all its Academic and non-Academic endeavours.

#### **The Practice: (305/400)**

**Green Campus Ambience:** The 33.25 acres campus has 75% of green cover, housing 807 species of trees, 38 Herbs, 15 Climbers and 3 species endemic to India.

Four books were published in the titles-The Flora and Fauna, The Amphibians Reptiles and Mammals, Birds of Bishop Heber College, and The Butterflies of Bishop Heber College as a result of the biodiversity survey done by the students

**Green Practices:** The campus strictly adheres to the PLASTIC Free Zone. Students can get their cycles battery powered in the Incubation centre. Students are sensitized to the Environmental issues from the day one of their life in the campus.

**Zero Waste Initiatives:** Centre for Environmental Sustainability Spear-heads waste upscaling and recycling. Vermi-composting, Paper and plastic recycling and kitchen wastes to collect Gobar gas conversion are a few practices to mention.

**No Drive Day:** From 2008, the College has been observing NO DRIVE DAY per semester to reduce carbon footprint consistently

**Nature Saviours:** The College, in collaboration with the “Citizens of Trichy” an NGO to restore Uyyakondan channel, maintains the Canal near Puthur regularly. Rallies, signature campaigns were organized to sensitize people about the significance of the Uyyakondan Channel in 2019-2020.

4. **Environmental Service Learning (ESL):** All undergraduates register for a mandatory Environmental Studies course in the First year (U16EST21). Environmental Service Learning (ESL) is part of the course. In ESL, students participate in Environmental Surveys and Audits. Students take part in community projects and visiting schools to spread environmental awareness.

**Reaching the Masses:** Through various programmes 2365 trees were planted in the past 5 years. 120 Green Awareness programmes were organized in the Community. Students developed passion for conserving nature and involved in independent and voluntary services in wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

#### **EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS:**

1. Green campus ambience leaves a positive message that developments can be undertaken without disturbing the environment. Rs.15.67 Lakh was spent in 5 years for the maintenance of the Garden.
2. 45% of students use public transportation. e- Vehicles increased to 15 in 2023. 50 students and 5 faculty commute to college in cycles and 15 by Pooled vehicles.

3. The institution received the Tiruchirappali City Corporations' Award- under the Thoymai Tamilagam Scheme, for its Zero-carbon Initiatives in 2019.
4. A quantum of **1302.95 kg CO<sub>2</sub>** emission is reduced through the No Drive days.
5. The institution has MoU with the NGO "People for Uyyakondan" for Research and Development Projects.
6. Peoples' Biodiversity registers were created for 5 villages namely, Mavadikulam, Kodiyaalam, Puliyur, Podhavur Kumara Vayalur. Energy Audits were conducted in 7 villages -Mavadikulam, Kodiyaalam, Puliyur, Podhavur, Kumaravayalur, Ariyavur and Irungalur. The success of the Service-Learning programme has fetched another Service-Learning Institutional project from the agency UBCHEA worth 10 Lakhs in 2023-24.
7. **Students' Contribution to Biodiversity Conservation:** A. **Simon Selvaraj**, student of Botany served in the Dugong rescue project, Fifteen Students voluntarily took up Wildlife census, eight students in Tiger census at Aanaimalai Tiger Reserve, Five in Forest Patrolling, 30 in Butterfly and Bird census in Butterfly Park and Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary. The college has extended support to 35 institutions in Biodiversity assessments, Soil testing, aquatic ecosystem and Environmental Impact Assessment and Energy Audits.