

BEST PRACTICES IN MY INSTITUTION – I

1. Title of the practice: Promoting awareness on bio-diversity and importance of environmental resources through activities of CANOPY, the Nature Club of the college.

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Growing menace of environmental pollution accompanied and often even caused by mindless destruction of natural resources has become a serious threat to life on this planet. Over the last few decades the environmental issues have come to be recognized as matters of grave concern having an all-round global import. Responding to this world-wide threat to the order and sustaining power in nature, Canopy, the nature club of the college, is carrying out an environmental awareness programme both inside and outside the college premises. In this context it requires pointing out that the college is located in a rural area which offers ample scope to all its stakeholders to enjoy a wide range of exposure to a variety of flora and fauna. This is an opportunity which is exploited by Canopy to promote a general awareness on environment.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words)

The objective of the practice is to promote awareness on the importance of bio-diversity and preservation of natural resources. Canopy, the Nature Club of the college aims at popularizing the conservationist practices and sensitizing people on the vital bond between man and his environment. The activists of the Nature Club try to promote the practice of nature study which in turn leads to the forging of intimacy between the Nature Club activists and the natural environment they inhabit.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words)

A butterfly garden was groomed up in the college campus. A wilderness patch, “sacred grove” was set up for creating a green zone. Measures were taken towards maintenance of the pond for protecting and nurturing the lesser whistling teal. Various indigenous species of fish of different tropic level for maintaining ecological balance. A nature trail to Sandakfu was conducted by Canopy members involving both teachers and students of the college.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words)

The introduction of CBCS has imposed some sort constrain upon students with regard to their participation in extra-curricular activities. Besides, there is a general apathy to environmental causes among a large section of students for which it often becomes difficult to motivate them towards activities of Nature club. To address this, the activists arranged awareness programme for students and encouraged them to take part in activities like maintenance of a green zone and anti-plastic drives.

Common people's ignorance of and indifference to the benefits of a properly maintained ecological order is yet another obstacle encountered by the members of Nature club. In spite of constant monitoring and regular vigilance there were cases of uprooting and damaging the plants planted by the nature club outside the college campus. However, the Nature Club activists are persistently keeping in touch with local villagers and trying to involve them in the maintenance of the plants outside the campus.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Members of the Nature Club have succeeded in creating a green zone inside the college campus including a properly nurtured pond for preservation of indigenous flora and fauna. The activities of the Nature Club over the years have succeeded in captivating attention of different stake-holders of the college and in motivating them towards preservation of biodiversity in the world around them.

7. Resources required:

Energetic and motivated activists for pursuing the projects taken up by Canopy. Necessary infrastructure for conservation of natural resources.

8. About the Institution:

- i. Name of the Institution: **Bejoy Narayan Mahavidyalaya**
- ii. Year of Accreditation: **2015 (Second Cycle)**
- iii. Address: P.O.- **Itachuna, Dist.-Hooghly, West Bengal**
- iv. Grade awarded by NAAC: **B**
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BEST PRACTICES IN MY INSTITUTION – II

1. Title of the practice: Arranging seminars and webinars on various topics.

2. The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Present academic discourses are growing beyond the conventional learning methods, and it becomes imperative for the students to be initiated into the inter-disciplinary approach. Furthermore, faculty members can update their domain knowledge and nurture their research aptitudes through specific academic talks and meeting with prominent features. This is the context which gave rise to the tradition of organizing regular seminars. In this particular academic year where normal academic routine suffered a setback due to the pandemic, it was necessary not only to spread awareness about health and hygiene but also to keep the morale of the students high and to provide them some creative discussions. So, webinars were organized on various topics.

3. Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words)

Webinars were organized on several disciplines, but the focus was on the pandemic situation. Webinars gave a way of counselling the students, to help them overcome the stress and other socio-economic problems pertaining to the situation. Additionally, the online mode enabled us to organize international webinars as the cost of logistics was not there, since it is organized virtually.

4. The Practice (250 – 300 words)

12 webinars (online seminars) were organized by the Seminar Sub-committee, IQAC and the academic departments of the college. The webinars were organized through the Google Meet platform, and necessary organizational works were done online. A special session on Psychological well-being and stress management were held keeping in mind the pandemic situation. Two international webinars were organized by the Department of Mathematics and the Department of History. A webinar was held on the current India-China border tension by the Department of Political Science. Department of Sanskrit organized a national webinar on Ayurveda, whereas the Department of Chemistry organized a national webinar on Liposomes. All the webinars featured speakers of national and international repute. It is worth mentioning in this respect that the college worked in collaboration with Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya for the arrangement of two webinars.

5. Obstacles faced if any and strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words)

An immediate challenge was to enable more students to attend the webinars. As a large number of the students are from economically and socially backward categories, not all of them could afford smartphones, computers or internet connection in their homes. This was

not easily overcome in case of visual webinars, and so some webinars focussed on speech. Then, the available webinar platforms had a limitation on participant numbers. An updated version of Gsuite was availed of to increase the number of participants in webinars, and in some cases, Youtube live was used.

6. Impact of the practice (100 – 120 words)

Apart from the usual academic benefits of attending colloquia, the webinars provided a window of comfort and creativity for students and teachers alike. Many students could be counselled through the stress management sessions and they could ask their various queries to experts regarding the pandemic situation. The international webinars introduced the faculty members and motivated students to eminent academicians, leading to the possibility of future academic collaborations.

7. Resources required:

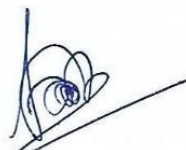
Faculty members who are a part of the Seminar Subcommittee, IQAC and teachers in general took a lot of initiatives to organize these webinars. Enhanced Google subscription, revamped internet connection in the college and related broadcasting instruments including laptops and projectors were needed.

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