



**Mahatma Education Society's  
Pillai College of Education & Research**  
Plot-1, Sector-8, Khanda Colony, New Panvel (W)-410206

**BEST PRACTICE-2**

**Title of the practice: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS**

**The context that required initiation of the practice:**

For any community to ensure its existence, natural environment must be preserved as well as conserved. At Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel, we have consistently strived to both practice and instill the values and behaviors necessary to conserve and protect our environment. As a teacher education institution, we are uniquely positioned to influence the mindset of our students who will become future educators. This advantageous position allows us to empower them with the knowledge and awareness of environmental consciousness, enabling them to propagate this important message on a broader scale.

**Objectives of the practice:**

- To create awareness of environmental problems,
- To support efforts to solve environmental problems
- To personally commit and act to solve these problems
- To integrate the values of environment consciousness in our daily activities and teaching.
- To act from an environmental perspective.

**The Practice:**

PCER-Panvel emphasizes the concept of Environmental Re-engineering which means rethinking and reengineering our thoughts, actions, and concern for our environment. In this context, since 2011 our institution has organized 10 National-level Seminars, year after year, based on the United Nations declared theme for environment. Through these seminars, we have inculcated certain practices like solid waste management, micro green cultivation, water resource management, energy conservation, appreciation of the environmental resources like forest, soil, water, alternate forms of energy etc. We have also tried to sensitize the participants about our role as tourists in places with ecological significance. During the pandemic, our students & staff took up case-studies of action plans on sustainable activities at the individual and community level.

Our institution has an active 'Nature Club' that engages in various activities to promote environmental awareness and conservation. E-waste management drive has been initiated in alliance with Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth which assists us in its collection & disposal of waste. We have a compost pit as well as compost baskets to make manure. Thus, making compost from flowers, garlands & kitchen waste is a regular activity carried out throughout the year. We try to managing plastic waste by making eco-bricks and utilizing these bricks to make items of utility value. We inculcate the habit of cultivating micro greens which are also grown in used plastic

bottles & containers and placed on the window sills in the classroom. Organizing creative initiatives like 'best out of waste,' cleanliness drive at community centers and awareness campaigns through street plays, rallies, and informative talks are also practiced. One intriguing aspect of our best practice is the creation of paper bags. Student teachers participate in this activity by making paper bags of various sizes using recycled newspapers, which they submit to the college. These bags are stamped with a 'Save Environment' tag and distributed to a chosen group of vegetable vendors in Khanda Colony. Our everyday activities include environment-friendly practices like avoiding use of plastics, tissue papers, excessive use of paper, etc. We use reusable materials, make use of eco-friendly materials like jute bags, chocolate bouquets and potted plants to offer our resource persons and as far as possible air-conditioned auditoriums are avoided.

**Obstacles faced, if any, and strategies adopted to overcome them:**

Obstacles are an intrinsic and unavoidable component of life, and our combined efforts encountered a setback during the pandemic. Seminars had to be replaced with webinars. The production and distribution of paper bags posed challenges, prompting us to prioritize online activities. In the pandemic year students were encouraged to research on environmental organizations and write on the initiatives taken up by them as case study papers. This was compiled and published. However, as life returned to normal, we resumed our pursuits with renewed passion and energy. Furthermore, the Nature Club expanded its initiatives by incorporating new activities, such as the creation of eco-bricks and the launch of e-waste donation campaigns, in addition to our existing endeavors.


**Impact of the practice:**

What began as an endeavor, environmental consciousness has now become an integral part of our everyday lives. The impact of our practice is evident in the transformative shift in the attitudes of our students and teachers. The positive feedback received from our participants and distinguished guests for our Environment Re-engineering series fills us with immense joy and serves as a constant source of inspiration, igniting the passion necessary to sustain our efforts.

**Resources required:**

The college provides the necessary resources for these endeavors. The institution extends financial and infrastructural support, whenever needed, to ensure the smooth execution of all activities.

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