

BEST PRACTICE'S

St. Mary's College, Manarcaud

CARE, SHARE AND LEARN

UNIQUE VILLAGE ADOPTION PROJECT OF ST. MARYS COLLEGE,
MANARCAD AT IXth WARD OF MANARCAD GP

Objectives of the practice:

- 1. To make the students sensitive to the needs of their respective communities.**
- 2. To utilize their knowledge and skills for the empowerment of the community.**
- 3. To improve their social skills.**

Context:

The presence of a higher education institution in this rural area satisfies the educational needs of the students in this locality. Their education becomes meaningful only when the society benefits from it. The amount year marked by the government for education should not only benefit the students but also the community.

The Practice:

The Care, Share and Learn programme was envisioned as an ongoing programme, with each new batch of students admitted to the college becoming a part of this.

Under the banner of this programme we have adopted a village - ward IX, Manarcaud grama panchayath. The initial step was to conduct a survey of the adopted village by the students. The survey quantified the data regarding economic and educational background of the residents.

Every department in the college, as well as various clubs designed and implemented programmes addressing the needs of the community. Some of the programmes conducted for the residents are.

The class organized by chemistry department enabled the women to be self sufficient in making soaps, detergents, cleaning lotion, toilet cleaning solution and fabric whiteners at home itself.

As a part of making residents accessible to the science of astronomy the physics department organized a sky watching programme on the occasion of the rare celestial event of blood moon, blue moon and super moon occurring together. A sky

watching programme was also arranged to watch the lunar eclipse using the telescope designed and developed in the department.

To expose our budding generation to the world of entertainment and information a children's film fest was organized screening award winning animation films.

The History department introduced a very innovative and novel scheme - Defused museum. This endeavor involves preserving old artifacts present in local houses and their being kept for viewing at the premises itself. As a first step the department staff and students visited local households to compile a list of artifacts in each house.

A regular yoga class for housewives is continuing under the guidance of the women's cell of the college.

The NSS unit and Women's cell together conducted classes on making cloth carry bags, table and door mats from waste cloth. A class on making *arishtam* and wine at home was another project.

The year long programmes and classes culminated with GRAMIKA a village fest for the students, teachers, nonteaching staff and the local residents on 27th January 2019.

There were entertainment programs by the students, alumni, movie stars and the local residents. Food stalls, Games and stalls selling local homemade items were an added attraction of the event. The fest was an extravaganza that everyone enjoyed.

Evidence of success:

1. The changes in the lifestyle of the local community
2. The close bonds formed between the students, staff and community.
3. Amplified level of soft skills gained by the students.



Every higher education institution should have a commitment towards its neighbouring community, especially when majority of students hail from the same society. St. Mary's College is situated in the IXth ward of

Manarcad Grama Panchayath, which is a typical rural village. In 2017, College has launched a mega community development project, first of its kind in India by an Arts & science College aiming at the Sustainable Development of the Community. Project is based on principles of Sustainable Development Goals (17 SD Goals) of UNEP targeting overall development of the community in various fields of life & human interactions.

A preliminary survey was conducted among the community covering the entire ward and made a baseline data on various aspects of life. Survey revealed that it is a typical transitional society from Agrarian to urban. This is an exact cross section of Kerala community hence can be considered as the prevailing socio-cultural scenario in the state.

Each department and various clubs including NCC & NSS were requested to chalk out a project plan for five years, with year wise plan of action. Based on the submitted action plan various departments, clubs and the College, 5-10 different projects with definite output & outcome have been launched every year. Tangible results have been recorded in every targeted sphere of action.

Care, Share & Learn projects have been implementing by the Departments, clubs & the College together, under five different major heads:

- Environmental conservation & natural resource Management
- Cultural Development
- Socio-economic Development
- Women empowerment
- Disaster Management
- Charity Activities

MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

Department of History

- **Village heritage Museum:** India's first diffused community museum for heritage collections. Preserving heritage collections at the owner's residence itself.
- **TK Bank:** Collection and documentation of traditional knowledge of the local community.
- **Local history workshop:** Community members share their historical knowledge about the locality and documentation of such knowledge.
- **History of Rivulets:** Collection and documentation of history of every streams and rivulets of the locality
- **Charithra Vandi:** One week historical campaign at schools in the locality

Department of Physics

- **Earn money and save energy:** LED bulb assembling training and marketing for unemployed women
- **Learn to Type:** Training for typewriting
- **Sky watching Programme:** Star watching for community members
- **Home Appliance Repair:** Training for repair of electric and electronic home appliances
- **Energy Audit:** energy saving campaign through households

Department of Commerce

- **Basics of Internet:** Orientation programme for senior citizens
- **Cashless transaction:** awareness workshops
- **Computerised accounting:** for Kudumbasree workers
- **Home accounting package :**for housewives

Department of English

- **English for communication-** Imparting communication skills for educationally challenged persons
- **Village International film Festival-** introducing world famous foreign cinemas to local community
- **Mobile Libraray:** Focussing on students of the locality

Department of Chemistry

- **Home made Cleansers:** Soap and detergent making at home
- **Water Purifiers for home:** Simple household water purifying techniques
- **Milk Products:** Training for making value added milk products at home for daily use

Department of Zoology

- ***Mosquito trap***: Aesthetic guppy tank for mosquito control for all houses in IXth ward
- ***Poultry for every home***: Distribution of chicks, produced at the incubator of the department, among the community
- ***Mushroom Farming***: Training for community members
- ***Honey at home***: Bee-keeping training for community
- ***Yoga Training***: Weekly sessions for Yoga at College for community
- ***Cake Baking***: Training for baking of cake in homes and marketing locally for Kudumbasree workers

Department of Physical Education

- ***Physical Fitness Training***: Special slots will be made available to community members to work at Physical Fitness Centre
- ***Yoga for Health***: Weekly sessions for Yoga at College for community

National Service Scheme (NSS)

- ***JAIVAM***: Organic farming at households
- ***Waste to Vegetable***: Grow bag making using used and discarded flex (vinyl) sheets
- ***Let the River flow***: Cleaning of rivulets in the locality

Nature Club

- ***My Recycle Bin***: Collection of plastic wastes from houses and sending for recycling
- ***Waste to wealth***: Pit compost unit for every home
- ***Flower ways***: Beautification of roads to college

Hindi Parivar

- ***Speak Hindi***: Spoken Hindi classes for women, shop keepers and labourers
- ***Learn Hindi***: Hindi grammar classes for school students

Sahityavedi

- ***Learn Malayalam***: Malayalam course for migrant community
- ***Reading Promotion***: Books and shelves for local library
- ***Peoples Literature***: Collection and documentation of literary works of common people in the IXth ward

College Library

- ***Librarian Course***: Training for library management for person in charge of local libraries

JAL SAMRIDHI

Water Conservation programme

WINNER OF NATIONAL WATER AWARD 2018

IN THE CATEGORY : BEST WATER USAGE CAMPUS IN INDIA



Objectives of the practice:

- 1. To conserve the rapidly declining water resources of the college and surroundings.**
- 2. To create an awareness of the importance of water among the students.**

The Context:

Water is one of the most essential requirements of life. The decline of the water table in this region forced us to think about ways and means to solve this problem. Kerala is a state which receives abundant rain and lack of water has never been a problem faced by the state except in some areas. The recent unusual pattern of abundant rain but decline in water table as soon as the rain stops creates water scarcity.

The institution and surrounding has always had abundant water and the source of water is a large well at the southern, lowermost part of the campus. For the past few years water shortage was encountered during the summer months. The institution had to buy water from outside to meet its requirements and that of the ladies hostel in the campus.

The Practice:

The innovative practices implemented were

A. Rainwater harvesting structures created/maintained

1. Rain water collection, filtration and recharging of a large open well (10 lakh litre). The college is located on a semi hill top with an average slope of 32° around the hill. As a result rain water falling at the hill top flowed down to distant places, while it flows through the road side drainages. The road is at the eastern side and open well is at the southern end. Constructing a simple drainage (7 m long) at the front side of the college where the road starts, water is trapped and directed to flow to a newly dug pond near to the open well, enabling recharging. The rain water trapped from the hill top and released from the drainage to the sloping land flows through soil layers, thus becoming filtered while reaching the pond. The newly dug rain water harvesting pond (~10 lakh litre) filled with water during the first rain itself (South west Monsoon) and overflowed, which made the college self sufficient in its water needs. Besides, nearby Panchayath-owned community well which supplies drinking water for more than 60 houses around the campus also became perennial. The drainage line and the earthen pond were made at a cost of Rs.50000 only.
2. Rain water collection from the roof of Women's Hostel building in a tank (50000 litre). UGC sponsored Women's Hostel of the college is located inside the campus on the western side and has 48 girl occupants. The rain water falling on the roof (10000 sq.ft.) is collected by pipes and stored in a huge furrow cement tank with a capacity of 50000 litre. A sand-carbon filter ensures purity of water. 3-4% of the total water need of the hostel can be supported by this set up.
3. Earthen bund (mini check dam) construction by students for ground water recharging. There is a natural drainage on the south western side of the college through which much of the rain water losing from the college land to the neighboring low lying areas. Students (College Union) made an earthen bund across the drainage and now it serves as a check dam that nourishes the open rain water harvesting pond (5.6.17).

B. Innovative competitions organized:

I. Interschool drawing competition on water conservation was conducted in the college on water conservation. 90 students from 7 schools were participated..

II. Quiz Competitions (29.8.17- Quiz club), Essay competitions (2.11.16; Library; 26.6.18; Sahityavedi; 21.9.17), Elocution competitions (14.9.17; 22.9.17- Hindi Parivar), Power point competition (23.1.17; Physics Association; 6.6.18; NSS & KSCSTE); were conducted on water conservation for students of the college. (8 programmes)

ii. Cultural Programmes organised

I. Street play as part of *Nellipady* programme: A unique campaign on water conservation covering 7 college campuses were conducted under the title "*Nellipady*".. A street play was performed by students of St. Mary's in all visited campuses. (27.02.2017).

II. Bullet rally covering 7 colleges and a distance of 30 km. The most attractive and sensitizing programme of the *Nellipadi* event was the bike rally that started from MBC College, Peerumedu to Manarcaud (72 km) covering 7 campuses. About 30 bikers from St. Mary's and 10 bikers from other colleges were participated. In every campus programmes like skit, street play, and music performed (27.2.2017).

III. World Water Day celebrations. Full day events were organized in the college. An inaugural meeting involving local leaders, representatives of local body, scientists from CWRDM/, seminar session and cultural programmes were conducted (22.3.18).

IV. Rain & Literature. A collection of literary events conducted during rains in order to sensitize youth with the richness of nature's blessing. Poster and painting competitions, recitation of rain poems, presentation of rain proverbs, rain song musical event, and speeches on rain and literature were conducted (8.8.18)

iv. Awareness generated

I. Seminar on world water day. A scientific seminar was conducted in the college on water resource management. Scientists from CWRDM delivered talks and an discussion forum held (22.3.17).

II. Training programme for staff by Department of Soil conservation, Government of Kerala. The success of earthen rain water harvesting pond and its drainage system attracted media and social attention and Government of Kerala send 25 senior staff of Soil Conservation Department to the campus in order to learn about the facility (19.8.17).

III. Water quality analysis for community (neighboring households) by NSS unit. In order to sensitize the local community on the quality of water they use, NSS unit of the college visited households and drinking water resources were tested using analysis kits. Those with poor water quality were provided with remedial measures too.

IV. Master's Dissertation studies (M.Sc Chemistry & Zoology students). Dissertation work of masters students in Chemistry and Zoology streams were assigned with water quality related studies. This has generated scientific data (6 thesis) on the topic. Two teachers also published paper in Journals on water related topics.

V. Virtual classes for Ambrose University, Canada. College conducted a virtual class for the collaborating students at Ambrose University, Canada on the assigned topic "Water quality in Kerala: an Introduction". Foreign students prepared 15 assignments on the topic based on the programme.

VI. Documentary film making by students on water. Inspired by various water conservation activities in the college students made documentary films on water under Film club. *Vellam* (Water) on water conservation and waste management efforts.

VII. Publication of awareness pamphlet on water. A 24 page booklet [Mal.] was published on water conservation distributed among the college community, neighboring households, and all the 7 campuses visited as part of *Nellipadi* (25.2.17)

Evidence of success:

1. The scarcity of water was reduced considerably.
2. The institution is now self sufficient in meeting its water requirements.
3. Students are now aware of the importance of conserving water.
4. As a recognition of this the college received III prize in the educational institution category for conservation of water from the Ministry of water resources river management and Ganga rejuvenation . The award includes a cash prize of rupees one lakh and a citation. More than twenty thousand institutions applied for the award from all over India.

St. Mary's College, Manarcaud won Third position in National Water Award 2018 by the Union Ministry of Water Resource Management. The award was instituted for colleges with the best water conservation programmes. College principal Dr. Punnen Kurian and College manager Fr. Kuriakose Kalayil received the award from the union minister Nithin Gadkari and minister Arjun Ram Megwal in New Delhi.

