

Best Practices

1. **Title of the Practice** (*The title should capture the keywords that describe the Practice.*)

Creation of Environmental Consciousness & Practice

2. **Goal**

(Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Mention the underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words)

Environmental health is one of the foremost concerns in the world we live in today and there is a great sense of urgency towards combating environmental degradation and encouraging conservational practices. With the objective of contributing towards the efforts of improving the environment around us, Shillong College took the onus upon itself to fulfil its institutional responsibilities by conducting various environmental based activities. Such practices are imperative in educating and helping students as well as communities to understand the consequences of environmental problems and also to collectively come up with possible concrete solutions.

3. **The Context:**

(Describe any particular contextual features or challenging issues that have had to be addressed in designing and implementing the Practice in about 150 words.)

The state of the environment in Shillong city and even Meghalaya as a whole requires proper and meticulous management. Although, Meghalaya have been blessed with a magnificent environment but there are pockets of grave environmental concerns. Challenges in the form of waste management, water conservation, energy and unscientific mining amongst other problems require the attention and problem solving capabilities of every section of the society.

Recognizing these challenges, Shillong College initiated necessary steps and developed a number of practices with regard to the matter. Some of the steps taken included the opening of The Department of Environmental Science, constituting the Green Campus Development Committee, generating energy through solar power, developing of a Botanical garden as well as organizing a number of environmental programmes and encouraging eco friendly practices within the college campus.

4. **Practice:**

(Describe the Practice and its implementation in about 400 words. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian higher education. Please also identify constraints or limitations, if any.)

The contributions and efforts of the college to improve the environment and spread awareness are multifaceted in nature involving different cells, committees and departments. The collective practices are highlighted as follows:

- The Department of Environmental Science which was started in the year 2016 offers students a B.Sc course with honours in Environmental Science. The Course provides interested students with the opportunity to learn, develop skills and equip them with the necessary tools to be successful in the field of Environmental Science and motivates them to be valuable contributors towards this field of study. The Department also inspires the students to apply their knowledge towards improving the environment and develop the society in a sustainable manner. The Department is intensely involved in planning, organizing and implementing environmental programmes. It often carries out on field education of its students through various field trips and also reaches out to the community through various programmes.
- The Green Campus Development Committee was established in the year 2017 to promote environmental awareness and assist action so as to work towards creating an environment

friendly campus and to inculcate responsibility and commitment in students and staff, both at home and in the wider community.

- The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Shillong College is also very active when it comes to matters relating to the environment. It regularly organizes programmes not only within the campus or city but in rural areas as well. The NSS heavily involves student volunteers in activities of improving environmental conditions as well as environmental conservation. Through its various programs such as awareness campaigns and cleaning drives, it has reached out to various communities and educated them about the importance of the environment.
- Continuous efforts by the College and Shillong College Academic Society (SCAS) to observe World Environment Day since its inception in 1998 by organizing programmes that create awareness about the environment. These programmes are participated by students from various schools and colleges in the State. In fact, these have become very popular thereby enhancing eco-friendly measures in the campus.
- With the focus on energy conservation and use of non conventional clean sources of energy, Shillong College invested in the installation of solar power to supplement the energy requirements of the college.

5. Evidences:

(Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks and review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.)

- A field trip was undertaken by the students of the Department of Environmental Science to Kharmih Park which is located in Sohra., under the guidance of the faculty members on the 18th December 2018. The field trip was conducted with the intention to give students a field based study on the importance of the eco tourism in providing a means of livelihood to the people.
- The Department of Environmental Science, Shillong College, held an outreach programme at Laitryngew Village spread awareness on the ill effects of unplanned and unscientific mining in mining affected areas. The Outreach Programme was conducted at Maurice Patrick King Memorial School, Laitryngew on the 3rd April, 2019
- The NSS Unit of Shillong College observed the World Environment Day by organizing two programmes on the 4th & 6th June 2019 at the adopted villages of the Unit, Smit Village and Nongeitniang Village respectively.
- As of 2019, the power requirement met by renewable energy sources stands at 24126.24 units which accounts for almost half of the total energy requirements of the college which is at 53016 units.
- The Green Campus Development Committee in 2019 has taken initiatives in beautifying and greening the campus by planting flowers, creepers and ornamental shrubs within the college. The committee encourages students and teachers to reduce use of plastic in the college by discouraging the use of plastic cover files by students while submitting their assignments. About ninety percent of students and forty percent of staff the college still use public transportation means to reach the work place.
- The institute also sincerely practices rainwater harvesting through the installation of several collection tanks with a combined capacity of 40000 liters. The Block C of the college is entirely dependent on the rainwater for all its uses.
- Segregation of solid waste into blue dustbins for non biodegradable waste and green dustbins for biodegradable waste. These wastes are then taken by the municipal waste collection unit twice or

thrice a week as and when needed. Posters regarding waste segregation and proper disposal have been printed to create awareness amongst students and staff.

- There is also a system in place for the collection, storage and management of electronic waste.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

(Please identify the problems encountered and resources (Financial, Human and others) required to implement the practice in about 150 words.):

In implementing this practice, the main problem encountered was gaining financial support for the various programmes and in some instances the college had funded for the events. The problems of time constraints and not compromising on the teaching-learning process were encountered as well as the problems of inculcating an environment-conscious attitude amongst the students. Despite the challenges, the college continue its focus to achieve the goal of spreading environmental consciousness amongst all the stakeholders and to serve as an example to the society and contribute to nation-building.

7. Notes (Optional)

(Any other information that may be relevant and important to the reader for adopting/ implementing the Best Practice in their institution (about 150 words).)

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