

## **Green initiative and environmental friendly campus**

### **The context**

Keeping the growing ecological concerns in mind, there is a dire need for immediate action to be carried out and promote ecofriendly practices. The college strongly believes that in promoting environmental conservation, awareness must be followed by sustainable practices. In this endeavour, different depts along with institution's very own Nature Club and various associated committee's have undertaken several initiatives and organised different activities to reduce our institutional carbon footprint and inculcate greener practices.

A clean environment is basic necessity for human being's health and survival. Keeping this view in mind the best practices of 'green initiatives and environment friendly campus' is selected.

### Objectives of the practice

The main aim of practice is to impart knowledge, create awareness, developed mindset of conserve the environment and nurture the required skills is to handle the environmental issues and challenges.

### The practice

- a) the college has developed a beautiful campus with green lawns, flower garden adequate trees and botanical garden.
- b) The college has been taking positive steps for the preservation of existing flora within the campus.
- c) Proper signboards and posters are displayed in the campus to promote a plastic free, pollution free environment.
- d) College organises different talks, essay competition lectures among the students and issues related to environment.
- e) Besides the college always observed various days like world environment days, wetlands conservation day etc.
- f) Only LED Bulbs and some solar panels are used in college buildings and campuses to save energy and this practice also encourages the students for the use of nonconventional source of energy.
- g) An initiative towards environment conservation in 2nd and 4th Saturday, Motor Vehicles and two wheelers are strictly prohibited in the campus.
- h) Used of solid waste in vermi-compost production is a significant practice of the college.
- i) A good number of environment friendly bamboo dustbins are used for the disposal of solid waste of the college.

j) For the practice of water conservation within the campus, a well developed mechanism for rainwater harvesting is installed above the roof of the college office building. The rainwater is properly channelised through pipes and falls to nearby small pond.

#### Evidence

The best practice has proven to be successful through the following activities

1. Through periodical trees plantation, flora and fauna (mainly birds) of the campus have been enriched, resulting in the transformation of the campus into an ecofriendly one.
2. Awareness campaign for the plastic free campus through signboards and display board makes the campus overall plastic free.
3. As a result of implementation of this best practice of the college are now aware of various environmental issues.
4. Prohibition of entry of vehicles on every 2nd and 4th Saturday in the college campus gives a little but significant scope for reducing noise and air pollution.

#### Problem encountered and resource-required

While carrying out this best practices, the following problems are encountered by the college:

1. Green campus initiatives are challenging, so they require determination and a long term commitment from all stakeholders.
2. The green Campus initiatives is a quite money and resource consuming practice. In an institution like Mariani College, it is very difficult to implement the practice fully.
3. Sufficient man power is needed for sustainable maintenance of green campus.