

## **BEST PRACTICE-2**

**B. H. College, Howly**

## Best Practice: 2

### **1. Title of the Practice:**

#### **Enriching Students' Commitment to the Society through Extension Activities**

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

- a) To provide students a platform to discharge their social responsibilities.
- b) To create awareness about social issues among students.
- c) To make them understand the importance of maintaining surrounding environment healthy and clean.
- d) To sensitize students towards equality of gender.
- e) To make students aware of the importance of health and hygiene.
- f) To inculcate the national spirit among students.

### **3) The Context**

In this era of materialistic approach towards life, students seem to be absorbed in attaining their materialistic goals by any means hence; they seem to be neglecting their social responsibilities. To make the students aware of social issues *viz.* Environment conservation, Gender Equality, Disaster management and inculcation of national spirit, are confronting us with more severity. These issues can be attended to at family, immediate society and at the level of educational institutions in which they are studying. B. H. College, Howly feels it imperative to address some of these issues through creating awareness among students by involving them in extension activities. This may bring about a positive change in the attitude of students towards these social issues.

### **4) Goal:**

Primary goal of the practice is to explore innate potentiality of the students and provide with a platform for all-round development of the students. The specific goals include-

- a) To develop leadership quality of students.
- b) To make students sensitive towards social issues.
- c) To enable the students to apply the knowledge they have learned to the real-life situations.

- d) To give an opportunity to feel the joy of manual labour.

### 5) The Practice:

**Blood Donation:** Students are always ready to donate blood either to the needy patient or at any blood donation camp. The college have a Red Ribbon Club, which sensitises students toward volunteer social services.

**Sensitisation Drive** The student groups visit old-age homes; chars' areas; destitute/isolation wards and child cancer wards of hospitals periodically.

**Awareness Campaign:** Students organise cancer awareness classes with the support of medical practitioners. Periodical health check-up for the detection of cancer and lifestyle diseases, eye diseases, hair donation campaigns, first aid classes etc., are also conducted.

**Community Services:** Community services undertaken by the students include family health surveys, Socio-economic survey, and survey on water quality.

### 6) Evidence of Success:

- a) Students planted around 1000 plants during the last five years both in and off campus plantation drives.
- b) Students took imitative in measuring noise pollution level and taking necessary measures to minimize.
- c) Students are motivated not to use plastic.

### The Practice:

The college carries out extension activities for the benefit of students through Red Group Society (RGS), NCC, NSS, Students' Union Body, various units and volunteers. Every year, College plans and implements various extension activities that address social issues.

## **A) Red Group Society (RGS): Blood Donation**

Blood donation, as we all know, is a noble act that contributes to saving lives. Imagine a situation where a loved one requires blood and none is available. It's a dire circumstance that none of us would want to find ourselves in. Hence, we should always be ready to roll up our sleeves and help out. After all, it's the blood in our veins that gives us life, and it can do the same for others.

College students has founded a group *i.e.* Red Group Society (RGS) with more than 250+ volunteers and the basically group was founded by Biku Chetry, a student of B. Com 6<sup>th</sup> Semester with his team on 4 April 2023 under the advisory of Dr. Bhushan Chandra Pathak honourable Principal of B. H College, Howly. Volunteers help their communities understand the need and importance of donating blood, mobilizing them to become blood donors. A blood donation camp was organized in the institute BH College, Howly which was a student initiative program in collaboration with FAAMCH, Barpeta.

Let's speak in loud blood donation is necessary, not a choice. Blood donation is important in life; it gives others a hope to survive. Furthermore, donating blood is not only beneficial to the receiver but also to the donor. It stimulates the production of new blood cells, helping maintain good health.

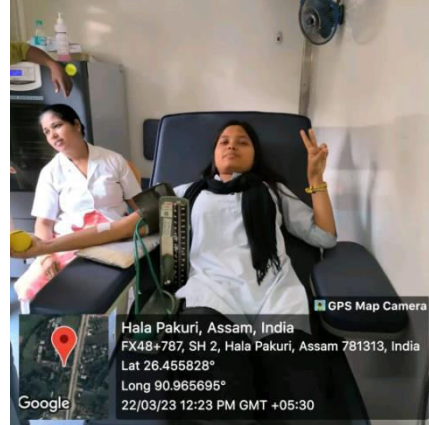
Let us remember that every drop of blood is a gift of life. The need for blood is universal, but the supply is not. We need to bridge this gap. Together, by taking the simple step of donating blood, we can make a significant difference. Let's take a pledge today, to be there for someone else and donate blood whenever we can. The volunteers help in donating blood in various medical colleges like GMCH, FAAMCH and other civil hospitals.





## B) Red Ribbon Club: Blood Donation

College has a Red Ribbon Club, helping organization with a group of people to generously donate blood in a wonderful way to give back and help those in need. Recently it organized a blood donation camp in college premise.



### **C) Sensitizing Students to Gender Issues:**

College feels it its social responsibility to address gender issues by organizing various gender awareness programmes. It includes:

- 1) Save Girl Child Campaign
- 2) Hemoglobin check up for girls
- 3) Celebration of International Women's Day
- 4) Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities for women faculty, staff and students.

### **D) Exposure to Disaster Management:**

Students are exposed to disaster management through activities like Disaster Management Workshops, Management of Covid-19 epidemic. During the epidemic student volunteers having understood their social responsibility have prepared and distributed around 4 thousand masks. They also spread awareness about necessary precautions to be taken and guidelines to be followed in the neighborhood community. Students have collected and contributed to the State Relief fund for flood affected people.

### **E) Health and Hygiene Awareness:**

The issue of health and hygiene was of utmost importance during Covid-19 epidemic. College students played a pivotal role in prevention and eradication of this deadly disease. They made their families and immediate society aware of the need to have healthy diet and cleanliness. They also discharge their social duties by participating in AIDS awareness rallies, vaccination camps, health check up etc.

### **F) Green Initiatives and Environment Friendly Campus**

Besides the pursuit of academic excellence, social and academic reforms are meant to motivate students so that they are able to develop themselves into educated men and women, ready to carve a niche for them in society. Keeping the growing ecological concerns in mind, there is a dire need for immediate action to be carried out and promote eco-friendly practices. The college firmly believes that, when it comes to environmental conservation, awareness must be followed by sustainable practices. In this endeavour, different departments, along with the

institution's very own Nature Club and various associated and dedicated committees, have undertaken several initiatives and organized different activities to reduce our institutional and societal carbon footprint and inculcate greener practices. Listed below are the details of many such initiatives being undertaken and strengthened.

### **1) Tree Plantation:**

Our institution is committed whole-heartedly to the cause of the environment. We regularly take up tree planting initiatives on our campus as well as outside. The College organizes regular tree plantations and poster competitions on environmental themes to raise awareness about nature and natural resources. In collaboration with various departments, cells, and committees, the college organizes regular plantation drives. Teaching and non-teaching staff members, along with students, actively participate in these tree planting drives.

### **2) Paper Reuse:**

Akin to reuse, recycling is also one of the effective ways to conserve natural resources, save energy, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce the ever-growing load on landfill spaces. Thus, paper recycling is a regular exercise in the college. Students actively participated in the workshop and made various coloured sheets. A drive was also carried out to collect waste paper and recycle it for various uses in the college. Further, beautiful posters, paintings, greeting cards and visiting cards were also made using recycled sheets for various activities conducted in the college.

### **3) Waste Management:**

Paper waste management has been initiated by going digital and reducing paper use. The focus has been laid on reusing and recycling the used papers in the library and various other offices in the college. The waste generated by us is managed efficiently through modern e-waste management methods. The college has banned the burning of dry leaves and branches. Compost pits have been prepared on the college premises and are being used for dumping organic waste and green waste for future reuse as manures. The college uses



vermi-compost pits to create compost from biodegradable waste. The compost pits rely on natural decomposition, accelerated by earthworms and bacteria, to break down organic matter into manure. The college has also implemented a mechanism to dispose of solid waste in a scientific manner. Biological and chemical wastes are released only after necessary treatment.

#### **4) Energy conservation:**

Our college has been very conscious about energy conservation. All tube lights, fans and The switches are numbered so that only the needed ones will be switched on. On every floor, the floor supporting staff and students are trained to switch off lights and fans when not required. Air conditioners are used only during the months when the temperatures are not comfortable, and they are set at 22 degrees Celsius. The other strategies put to use include:

#### **Moreover**

- a) The college has developed a beautiful campus with lawns, a botanical garden, etc.
- b) The college has preserved the existing flora and fauna within the campus.
- c) Signboards/posters are displayed on the college campus to encourage ideas of plastic-free campuses, noise pollution, and environmental awareness.
- d) The college organizes workshops, etc. on environment-related issues.
- e) LED bulbs are installed in the college buildings and the campus to save electricity.

#### **Problems Encountered:**

- a) At the outset students were reluctant to participate in blood donation camp, but they overcame this fear after counseling session.
- b) Initially students were uninterested to participate in extension activities which they thought to be of least importance in scoring marks.
- c) Initially, students hesitated to participate in Covid-19 awareness and prevention activities.
- d) Insufficient funds for making masks hindered the mass distribution of masks.

- e) Lack of proper legal provisions to procure chemicals required to make sanitizer prohibited college in the supply of sanitizer to needy populace.
- f) Green Campus initiatives are challenging, so they require determination and a long-term commitment from all the stakeholders.
- g) The Green Campus initiative is a rather expensive practice. It needs expert advice and an investment of resources.
- h) Sufficient manpower is needed to sustainably maintain green practices.
- i) Lesser awareness among the students and community towards environmental issues aggravates the problem levels.