

Best practice- I:

Title of the Practice: Gender Awareness and the Empowerment of Women

The Context: The need was felt to study gender within an interdisciplinary and comparative framework, thereby providing the space for creating a vibrant community of students, activists and artists concerned with the issues of gender, sexuality and the wider issue of power in the society. The college community while fully engaged in empowerment of young women through Internal Complaints Committee and Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee further involve various department students and faculty by organizing specific events ranging from conducting orientation programme for the newly inducted first year/semester students of the college to organizing seminar on the cross-cutting issue of Gender Sensitization. Other imperative frames that provided a context for this practice included addressing Safety and Security of female students, Environmental Issues, Prevention of Drug Abuse, etc.

Objectives: The primary aim is to produce an awareness and sensitivity towards gender and women's issues. This would lead further to the empowerment of young women by providing them with strategies to achieve sustainable goals for personal, academic and social growth creating responsible citizens for nation building.

The Practice: As a part of the Women Welfare Advisory Committee, its students' wing, called Vidyottama Club, enthusiastically implements its activities. In the year 2020-21, several activities were conducted with the active help of the NSS units in the college. International Womens' Day was observed on the eighth of March, 2021. The thoroughly enthralling talks delivered by the speakers focused on gender equality in the society and women's empowerment.

Evidence of Success: The vision of creating an inclusive learning community has led to the success of D. S. College students establishing themselves on the national arena in terms of service to society. The following are some indicators of the success of the practice of empowerment that begins with awareness:

- Programmes were held to support the victims of domestic violence in the nearby locality of Hariganj Mohalla.
- The college has Gender Studies and Women's Issues integrated into the curriculum of various departments that creates a robust atmosphere for taking up women-centric topics at the doctoral level research. For example, Renu Kumari, an alumina of the college, presently enrolled for doctoral research programme in the Department of English, Purnea University, Purnia is working on 'The Psychological Aspects of Female Characters in Select Novels of Anita Desai'. The title of the doctoral dissertation of Nida Zaki, an ex-student of the Department of English, D.S. College, Katihar, presently enrolled for doctoral research programme in the Department of English, Purnea University, Purnia is 'An Enquiry into the Identity of Muslim Women: A Study of Selected Muslim Women Novelists'

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Though there are problems which are encountered in the effective implementation of a practice such as creating Gender Awareness and Empowering Women, its long-term benefit and impact has been tangible. The challenges include the lack of support from external agencies, vulnerability of young women, and need

for better networking amongst institutions to mention a few. The lack of resources to conduct programmes has been one hindrance for the conduct of many programs.

Best Practice-II:

Title of Practice: Clean and Green Campus

Goal: Clean and green campus is one of the fundamental aspects of any academic institution. D.S. College, Katihar keeps the campus clean and green by engaging fourth grade staff. The college NCC unit, along with three NSS units, engages the students to actively take part in the green initiative of the college.

Context: At the college level students are made aware of the consequences of environmental plunder. The necessity for afforestation and the conservation of greenery are among top most priorities of today. The students are sensitized through various events about the maintenance of the eco-friendly milieu of the college.

Practice: In order to make the campus clean the college has put many dustbins at common corners of the campus. The burning of dried leaves is strictly avoided. The bio-degradable solid waste of college is dumped in the vermi-compost pits where it is turned into manure. The plantation drive is regularly organized by college administration with the help of NSS and NCC volunteers. On the 5th of June every year environment awareness and cleanliness march is organized by students, NCC and NSS volunteers.

Besides, this college, to a large extent, has replaced CFL bulbs with low power consuming LED bulbs. Students and staff of the college are encouraged to use bicycle instead of motor bikes and cars. We have been able to ensure a plastic free and smoke free campus.

Evidence of success: The College has clean and green campus. There are plenty of old trees and plants inside the campus. The fields of campus covered in dense green grass. Watering and cleaning is done regularly by college students which makes it a beautiful campus. We have installed several solar-rooftop panels which power a small segment of the building.

Challenges: The College is situated in the outskirts of Katihar town. It has a very big campus. There is a Botanical Garden in the college. But due to lack of funds and staff it is very difficult to maintain the eco- friendly atmosphere of the college. There is the requirement of plenty of Solar Panels to make the campus self sufficient in energy requirement.