

**BEST PRACTICE-1 GOVT' DB GIRL'S AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE
RAIPUR**

I. Title of the practice-

**"Greening our Future: Environmental Conservation through Pottery
and Reforestation"**

II. Objectives of the practice: The objectives of our program, "Greening Our Future: Environmental Conservation Through Pottery and Reforestation," at DB Girls PG College in Raipur, serve a dual purpose. Firstly, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to create environmentally-friendly pottery, thus promoting a sense of environmental awareness and responsibility. Secondly, we want to instill in our students a deep connection with nature by actively participating in tree planting activities. Moreover, by selling the pottery items crafted by our students, they generate funds that can further support our environmental initiatives. This holistic approach is our way of educating, engaging, and financially sustaining eco-friendly practices for a greener future.

III. The context: In the wake of growing global environmental concerns, we, the students of DB Girls PG College in Raipur, have embarked on a meaningful initiative called "Greening Our Future: Environmental Conservation Through Pottery and Reforestation." This endeavor is our response to the urgent need for action in safeguarding our environment.

Our program takes a two-pronged approach. Firstly, we are committed to equipping ourselves with the knowledge and skills needed to craft environmentally-friendly pottery. This not only fosters our creativity but also underscores the importance of sustainable practices in our lives. We're learning to appreciate the harmony between artistry and nature.

Secondly, we're actively engaging in tree planting activities, getting our hands dirty to understand the vital role trees play in maintaining ecological balance. Through hands-on reforestation efforts, we're becoming advocates for our environment.

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What makes our initiative even more special is our plan to sustain it financially. By selling the pottery we create, we aim to generate funds that will support future environmental projects, ensuring the continuity of our conservation efforts.

In a world where environmental issues are increasingly urgent, "Greening Our Future" is our way of stepping up, shouldering responsibility, and working toward a greener, more sustainable future.

IV. The Practice:

The following protocol outlines the key steps and procedures for implementing the "Greening Our Future" program, initiated by the students of DB Girls PG College in Raipur. This innovative initiative focuses on students crafting pots, planting them with ornamental and other plant varieties, selling the creations through the college's Research Development Cell, and generating funds to support environmental conservation efforts.

AIMS:

1. To educate students about eco-friendly pottery creation.
2. To promote a sense of environmental responsibility and sustainability.
3. To engage students in hands-on reforestation through potted plant cultivation.
4. To establish a sustainable funding mechanism for future environmental projects.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

A. Pottery Making

1. Students will receive training in pottery making techniques.
2. They will create eco-friendly pottery using sustainable materials.
3. Pottery sessions will be conducted by experienced instructors or artists.

B. Planting and Cultivation

1. Ornamental and other plant varieties will be selected for planting.

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2. Each student will be responsible for planting their own crafted pots with the chosen plants.
3. Proper care instructions will be provided for plant maintenance.

C. Selling and Fund Generation

1. The college's Research Development Cell will oversee the selling process.
2. Students will collaborate with the Cell to market and sell their pottery creations.
3. Funds generated from sales will be used to support future environmental projects.

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS:

A. Pottery Making Workshops

1. Organize pottery making workshops with skilled instructors.
2. Ensure availability of necessary materials and tools.
3. Schedule regular sessions for students to create their pottery pieces.

B. Plant Selection and Cultivation

1. Collaborate with horticulture experts to select appropriate plant varieties.
2. Provide students with guidance on planting and cultivation techniques.
3. Monitor plant growth and health regularly.

C. Sales and Marketing

1. Establish an online and on-campus sales platform through the Research Development Cell.
2. Create marketing materials and campaigns to promote pottery sales.
3. Collaborate with local markets and events for increased visibility.

D. Fund Allocation

1. Allocate funds generated from pottery sales to support future environmental initiatives.
2. Maintain transparency in fund utilization and accounting.

E. Evaluation and Monitoring

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1. Regularly assess student progress in pottery making and plant cultivation.
2. Monitor sales performance and gather feedback from buyers.
3. Adjust the program based on evaluations to improve its effectiveness.

CONCLUSION:

The "Greening Our Future" program is an innovative and holistic initiative aimed at promoting environmental conservation, creative expression, and financial sustainability among students. By following this protocol, we aim to achieve our objectives while nurturing a sense of responsibility towards the environment and empowering students to contribute positively to a greener future.

V. Evidences of Success:

The economical upliftment of students through the sale of pots with plants is a remarkable facet of our "Greening Our Future" program. This initiative not only fosters environmental awareness and creativity but also provides students with a unique opportunity to earn income and gain financial independence. The eco-friendly pottery with plants are not only contributing to environmental conservation but also developing valuable entrepreneurial skills. The sales generated from their creations offer a means of economic empowerment.

These earnings can be particularly significant for students, many of whom may face financial constraints while pursuing their education. The income they generate can help cover their educational expenses, purchase study materials, or even support their families. This financial independence instills a sense of confidence and self-reliance in our students.

It also inculcates essential life skills such as marketing, budgeting, and financial management, which are invaluable as they step into the world beyond academia. The economical upliftment of students through this initiative is a testament to the holistic benefits encompassing not only environmental consciousness but also personal and financial growth. It empowers students to shape their future and

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aspire to achieve their dreams, all while making a positive impact on the environment.

VI. Problems encountered and resources required:

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

- 1. Pottery Expertise:** Many students may lack prior experience in pottery making, leading to challenges in creating high-quality eco-friendly pottery. Adequate training and guidance are required to overcome this obstacle.
- 2. Plant Care Knowledge:** Ensuring the health and growth of the planted ornamental and other plant varieties can be challenging, especially for students without a background in horticulture. Ongoing support and education on plant care are essential.
- 3. Marketing and Sales:** Selling pottery creations can be a competitive task. Students may face difficulties in marketing and attracting buyers. Effective marketing strategies and access to suitable markets are essential.
- 4. Funding Allocation:** Proper allocation and management of funds generated from pottery sales require careful planning and transparency to ensure they are used effectively for environmental projects.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- 1. Pottery Supplies:** Adequate pottery materials, including clay, glazes, and kilns, are necessary to facilitate pottery making workshops.
- 2. Horticulture Expertise:** Collaboration with horticulture experts or resources to provide guidance on plant selection and care is crucial for the success of the project.
- 3. Marketing Tools:** Resources for marketing, such as promotional materials, a website, and social media presence, are essential to reach a wider audience.

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4. Sales Channels: Access to both online and offline sales channels through the Research Development Cell or partnerships with local markets and events is necessary for selling pottery creations.

5. Funding Tracking System: An effective system for tracking funds generated and their allocation to environmental projects must be established to maintain transparency and accountability.

6. Ongoing Education: Continuous education and training sessions for students in pottery making, plant care, and marketing are vital to enhance their skills and knowledge.

7. Monitoring Tools: Tools and methods for monitoring plant growth, sales performance, and program effectiveness are required to make informed adjustments and improvements.

Addressing these challenges and allocating the necessary resources will contribute to the success of the "Greening Our Future" program, ensuring that it achieves its objectives of environmental conservation, skill development, and financial sustainability.

I. Title of the practice-

“Participative Management of our Women’s Hostels”

II. Objectives of the practice: The College provides hostel facilities inside the campus for students. In order to ensure affordability, the cost payable for hostel accommodation has been kept very low. Therefore, the physical, financial and administrative resources at the disposal of the Institute are quite limited, while the objectives of their safety and comfortable stay are not negotiable.

In order to address the inadequacy and challenge, a practice of participative management of our hostels has evolved over time, under which all members of teaching faculty along with the resident students and non-teaching staff contribute to the smooth management of the hostel.

III. The context: Our College is located at Raipur, the Capital of Chhattisgarh, with excellent geographic connectivity. The student catchment area includes all parts of Chhattisgarh and other states. The College provides hostel facilities within the campus at affordable cost. The four hostels, Rani Laxmibai, Rani Durgawati, Avantibai and Mini Mata, have a total capacity to accommodate about 700 students, selected among approximately 2000 applicants. On the other hand, infrastructure has not developed much over the years, to meet the present day demands. Hence, scarcity of the necessary infrastructure has affected multiple aspects of hostel functioning and the college.

With such a large number of students and our commitment to provide a premium stay along with a peaceful learning environment for each and every student, a direct challenge in the managerial component of the hostels was observed. Hence, the college decided to implement **“Participative Hostel Management”** involving all the faculty members, hostel students, and external medical officers with other non-teaching staff to achieve our goal.

IV. The Practice: In order to encourage smooth functioning of our hostels, through participation, multiple layers have been created with adequate transparency among them.

- The hostels are being managed by a core management team of faculty and office staff. The team is headed by a warden and includes two assistant wardens, a hostel manager and

a matron. The warden reports to the Principal, who is also patron of the hostel. Multiple groups of support staff have been hired by the Core Management Team to perform different functions.

- In order to ensure participation of stakeholders, students' committees are constituted amongst hostel residents. These committees ensure responsiveness and accountability and supplement the core management as the first layer of participative management. The Mess Committee not only decides the menu, but also keeps a watch over food quality. Similarly, the Newspaper Committee ensures that subscription of newspapers and magazines as per student preferences, and fair distribution of reading opportunities. Discipline related minor issues are immediately attended, resolved and reported by the Discipline Committee of hostels residents. Other aspects of hostel life are managed by participation through various other committees.
- As the second layer, six committees (three members in each of them) are formed amongst the teaching faculty of the college. Each of the six committees has been assigned a specific day of the week as per the roster. They supervise different aspects of functioning of the hostel and communicate with the resident students to resolve their issues. The roster system ensures distributed workload and diversity of communication in the visiting faculty committee. All six committees report directly to the principal, ensuring a fair feedback loop and cross-verification of information.
- As the third layer of participative management, multiple teams of faculty members have been constituted to ensure smoothness, fairness and transparency in hostel management. The tasks of hostel admission, ragging prevention, hostel management, Hostel governance and supervision, and prevention of gender harassment are assigned to different faculty teams who coordinate with the Core Management Committee and supplement or supervise their efforts.
- Besides multiple channels of communication with hostel residents, there has been a "grievance redressal box" for posting grievances. The grievances of hostel residents have been addressed as high priority matters, and reported to the Patron/Principal of the Institution. As the hostel reopens after Covid-19 induced closure, the hostel residents are provided with many options to directly connect with the Principal through Telegram/WhatsApp bypassing all other channels of communication. This would

supplement the existing grievance redressal mechanism, so that hostel residents could have multiple channels to express their grievances.

V. Evidences of Success: The Success of the ‘Participative Hostel Management’ program can be sought through the following substantiations -

- i. A multifold application *vis-à-vis* the actual seats present in our hostels proves the reliability and genuineness of our hostels.
- ii. Many distinguished alumni of who had stayed in the hostel, have credited their respective success to the hostel.
- iii. A considerable fall in students’ grievances in hostel related matters point towards the success of the program.
- iv. The feedback from students and parents indicates a higher level of satisfaction.
- v. In spite of a large mess being operated at our hostels, with complex electrification and ample instrumentation in place, there are no records of any accidents till date.
- vi. Our hostellers have been major participants and winners of various sports, literary, cultural and other competitions.
- vii. Hostellers of our college have excelled in NCC and NSS related activities and examinations.
- viii. The process of waste management had improved with the installation of Bio-Gas plant and compost manufacturing units along with a subsequent reduction in the amount of waste.
- ix. Solar water heaters installed in the hostels are fully functional and add to the benefit of the students.

VI. Problems encountered and resources required: The practice of participative management for hostels has come up in order to address constant inadequacy of resources. Reluctance to share responsibility has been the most severe problem in implementing this solution. However, rather than implemented, this practice has evolved to address a need, and hence its growth was quite organic in nature. The participation of different faculty teams in supplementing hostel management has grown over the years.

In terms of resource requirements, this practice required zero resources. In fact, this practice has encouraged faculty-student interaction, and helped in creating a better academic environment at the College. There have been multiple instances of faculty members extending financial support to needy students, which have become possible only due to enhanced communication among them.