

Second Best Practice:

1. Title of the Practice: “Eco-development Programme”

2. Goal:

The Modern College Environmental Club has been set up in April, 2012 with a hope to create a sound environment in and around the College campus. The club focuses on achieving the following goals:

1. To give awareness of environmental issues to the staff and students of the College and also to the people residing around the campus.
2. To establish a Green Zone in the Modern College campus and in the surrounding areas.
3. To conduct seminars, lecture programmes, group discussions etc. on environmental related issues.
4. To plant rare and medicinal plants inside the College campus.
5. To make the College campus a solid waste free zone.
6. To harvest rain water.

3. Context:

Forests are home to a wide range of flora and fauna biodiversity's. But, the forests of Manipur have reached a critical stage of ecological degradation due to the increase in anthropogenic activities. The clearance of vast areas in the hills due to the practice of shifting cultivation and over exploitation of the forest produces remain the main reasons for forest degradation.

The Modern College situated at Imphal East District happens to be one of the oldest Colleges of Manipur. The College standing at Porompat, Imphal East connecting with other important parts of Manipur at four sides, is concerned about the ever-increasing urbanization, noise and air pollution etc. The College has been facing ecological backlash such as frequent flood as it is lying in a low-lying area of Manipur River Basin and also being located between Imphal river and Kongba river.

4. The Practice:

The Modern College Environmental Club is creating an eco-friendly environment in the campus. Members of the Club (Staff and Students) meet at regular intervals to discuss environmental problems at the local and global level. The Club has come up with an idea to conserve the micro environment of the Modern College campus and also to enlarge the scope beyond the campus. The practice of the Club concerns the creation of an environmentally friendly and waste free green zone inside the Modern College campus.

The Club started its activities by observing UN World Environment Day on the 5th June 2012 under the aegis of Forest Department, Government of Manipur, with tree plantation in the Campus. In relation to this observation, a meeting of the

members of the local club, organization and people settling around the campus were invited to attend and made discussions with teachers/experts regarding the importance of maintaining a clean environment. Keeping in mind the importance of preserving water and also about the varying rate of monsoon rainfall, members started harvesting rainwater and storing the same in the College ponds and reservoirs. The College Keeper and chowkidar are presently growing seasonal vegetables and crops and they also rear fish in the College ponds.

Plants are natural healers and they are of great importance to us. We collected various plants including medicinal plants and planted them in the College Campus. For beautification and keeping the Campus green, some wild plants grown in the hilly areas have been collected and planted in the College Campus. The Club is now planning to develop two small eco-parks in front of the College office. With the approach of maintaining the College Campus a plastic free zone, the Modern College Environmental Club gave awareness to all the teaching, non-teaching staffs and the students to discuss as how to minimise the use of plastic products for a safer environment.

5. Evidence of Success:

With the establishment of the Environmental Club in the College, the teaching, non-teaching staffs and students, in particular, are very much involved in beautifying the College Campus. The students are becoming more aware while using and handling the College properties. The students have started respecting and knowing the values of our surroundings. The habit of using dustbin has been strengthened with the initiative of this club. An effort has been made for the reuse of the waste papers and the plastic wastes by giving them to the solid waste collectors. The NSS and NCC volunteers of this College are giving an immense support for the welfare of the college from various perspectives.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

As the College lies at the headquarter of Imphal East District, many important offices/ centres such as Police Headquarter, D.C. Office, Hospital, Water Supply Department, Census Department, District Industry Centre, etc. surround the College Campus. The noise and air pollution which is the outcome of the heavy transport system is causing havoc in the academic atmosphere. The clogging of water drainage and the hospital waste is of great concern for the College and the surrounding people. The crematorium lying just outside the College Campus also pollutes the College environment. In order to handle all these environmental problems, we need to give more attention on the environmental awareness programmes for people settling around the College Campus. Now the Club needs a strong support from every section of the environment i.e., teaching staff, non-teaching staffs, students, general public, planners and concerned government departments. The allotment of fund from the concerned departments for the proper functioning of the club remains the prime priority.