

## **Best Practice-1**

**Title of the Practice:** ‘Women Empowerment in Rural Area’

**Goal:** To promote gender equality conscience among village people.

**Aim:** To bring confidence among women through equal status.

### **Objectives:**

- a. To aware about law, rights, and opportunities in education.
- b. To develop self-respect.
- c. To increase the respect towards women.
- d. To increase the percentage of education among women.

### **The Context:**

Though Maharashtra state is regarded as socially advanced state by having role of saints like Saint Dyaneshwar, Tukaram, Saint Janabai and social reformers like Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Nana Shankar Sheth, Maharashi Dondo Keshav Karve in social reengineering to give empowerment to women in enjoying their rights. Maharashtra leads in establishment of giving first lady doctor, the first girls’ school, promoting widow marriage and so on. In spite of this, the right of equality to women is rejected in this 21<sup>st</sup> century period also.

Our institution has taken up a practice to promote a sense of “Women Empowerment” by involving boys and girls students. In the context of high percentage of girls belonging to minority community, on whom religious restrictions are imposed, the institution had planned to direct girls students to reach at height of success. Nevertheless, the girl students have proved their ability in the field of police services, administrative services, defense services and business occupations.

### **The Practice:**

This practice was implemented through Women Development Cell of our institution. This cell organizes various activities every year which are mentioned below:

#### **1. Suggestions from students :**

WDC conducted meetings prior to implementation of this practice and the valuable suggestion were invited. In all, 562 students gave suggestions through student representatives, 39 suggestions through suggestion box and 13 through social media. These suggestions were compiled and selected. The suggestions are:

- a. The faculties and parents of girl students should have good rapport to counsel the students.
- b. Birth and death anniversaries of great personalities who have contributed in women empowerment should be celebrated.
- c. The street plays should be performed on gender issues with the help of local authorities, self help group and NGOs.
- d. Open discussion between parents and Police Officers and lawyers should be organized to remove fear in the mind of girl students and parents.
- e. The institute should constitute “Intelligence Wing” under the control of the Principal to prevent ragging and teasing incidences.
- f. The girl students should be provided self defense training.

## **2. Facilities provided to women-students and staff:**

- a. On the occasion of International Women Day, the educational material is given to 12 poor and needy girls at free of cost
- b. The staff members paid fees of 5 economical backward girl students through contribution.
- c. A separate girls’ common room with bed for rest is provided.
- d. A separate room for women faculty members along with attached toilet made available.
- e. The girl common room is made well equipped with first-aid box, sanitary vending machine and mirror.

## **3. Implementation of suggestions:**

- a. A lecture by Dr. Shilpa Satve was organised and Rangoli Competition, Poster Competition and Recipes Competition were organised.
- b. Lecture was organised on “Vishaka Guidelines” by inviting Adv. Sunita Marathe.
- c. Dr. Nilima Shinde delivered lecture to 135 girl students on the subject “The Health Problems of Women and Physical Capabilities”.
- d. A street play was organized on the topic “Beti Bachao”.
- e. A meeting of parents were arranged to convince them importance of education for girls.
- f. A training programmes are organised every year, they are:
  1. Beauty Parlor
  2. Soft Skill Training
  3. Cooking and Food Processing Training
  4. Yoga

5. Self Defense Training
6. Establishment of intelligence wing.

**Evidence of Success:**

It is matter of pride that the efforts of Women Development Cell gave fruitful results and brought success stories for institution such as:

1. The admission of girl students increases by 5% and parents have started giving first preference to our institution in admitting their girl wards.
2. The girls could establish Self Help Group (SHG) and have started marketing of different products made by them. This has generated additional earning resource to their families.
3. The girls are motivated to join police force and also to pursue higher education.
4. The boy students give respect to the girl students as the co-activities have been organized by WDC.
5. The overall success of our efforts towards women empowerment was appreciated by the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra.

## **Best Practice-2**

**Title of the Practice:** ‘Mallikarjun Green Hill Project’.

**Goal :** Restoration of green vegetation on Mallikarjun Hill.

### **3. The Context:**

Mallikarjun Hill is a historical place in the history of Goregaon which is mentioned in Raigad District Gazetteer. A temple is situated at the top of the hill named as “Mallikarjun Temple” - Lord Shiva.

This hill was regarded as a place of devotion and prayer as it was surrounded with large number of sky touching trees. In earlier years, some of the eminent persons of Goregaon constructed steps for the convenience of villagers through public contribution under the leadership of Shri. R. P. Doshi (Doshi Vakil). The villagers of surrounding vicinity were visiting temple frequently along with their children as it was a place of attraction.

But the cyclone named as ‘Fayan’ ruined everything by destroying giant trees, medicinal plants and fauna on the hill. It was reported by the forest department that more than 2000 trees were collapsed. This has resulted in converting the green hill into barren hill. In the year 2010-2011, the survey was undertaken by the institution on the Mallikarjun hill and decided to restore the hill by organizing tree plantation through NSS, NCC and Nature Club. This project is named as “Mallikarjun Green Hill Project”, which will be continued till the entire hill gets restored with most of the traditional trees. For last five years, this project is conducted in collaboration with Forest Department, Samajik Vanikaran Department of Goregaon-Mangaon.

### **4. The Practice:**

The project – “Mallikarjun Green Hill Project” has been conducted by NSS, NCC and Nature Club in the following manner:

#### **1. Meetings with Students :**

The departments organise meetings of volunteers, cadets, and the members of nature club. The objectives and aims of project are explained to the students. The students are grouped and duties are assigned to plant and conserve trees.

#### **2. Meeting with Villagers and Forest Department Officers:**

On discussing the preliminary plan with students, the plan is kept before the villagers and forest department to seek their support. In last several meetings, the villagers were convinced to take care of trees along with students. For this purpose, the forest department has been extending cooperation by all means.

#### **3. Survey of Plantation Area:**

The Principal, staff members and students undertake survey of the hill in the month of April to select the area.

**4. Digging of Pits:**

On surveying and selection of plantation area, the Forest Department is informed accordingly and the institution communicates the date to undertake digging of pits work in the month of May every year. The Forest Department officials help in drawing pits design. The students undertake digging work with cooperation to each other. The maximum number of pits is dig by considering land softness. The pits kept open as the heat of Sun make the pits bacteria free.

**5. Rally for tree Plantation:**

One day prior to the actual tree plantation, a rally is organized by carrying plants, posters and pluck cards to pursue awareness of tree plantation and conservation.

**6. Tree plantation Programme:**

From the month of June to August, the tree plantation programme is conducted in different phases with the help of Forest Department Officials. The eminent persons are called to deliver lecture on environmental issues and tree plantation drive wherein the programme is inaugurated by them.

**7. Protection of Plants from Forest Fire:**

Our students take efforts by digging a long border around the area where trees are planted. This work is undertaken in the month of September. Forest fire is a big hurdle for the growth of trees. The forest officer and Ex-Forest Rangers Shri Mangesh Pethe extends his expertise in this context.

**8. Conservation of Trees:**

The NSS, NCC and Nature Club assign duties to the students to pour water to the plants in hot session of October and March to June. The groups of students under the control of faculty members take care of plants allotted to them.

**Evidence of Success:**

- Till the date, about 2000 plants are planted on 15000 Sqm. area of Mallikarjun Hill.
- About 80% of the trees are grown fully resulting in restoring the beauty of hill.
- Beautiful greenery attracts every passerby.
- The continuous access of students to Mallikarjun Hill has generated environmental awareness and sense of environmental responsibilities among villagers.
- The note of this project is taken by Forest Department & Samajik Vanikaran Vibhag of Government of Maharashtra.
- The students of Botany Department have collected and taken photographs of 60 plus species of medicinal plants and about 80 plus species of wild trees, which are recorded and compiled.
- The local newspaper has taken notice of it and published photographs and news.