



Best Practice 1

Title:

Reviving a 'Reading-Ecosystem' through Holistic Library Practices

Objectives:

1. To promote healthy reading habits among newly admitted students through library service, resources, and facilities.
2. To develop awareness among the school children, during their educational visit to the University, regarding the importance of library and usage in one's academic life.
3. To create a better research ecosystem by providing remote access to digital resources of the Central Library.

Context:

- Library Membership Drive-cum-Orientation Program.
- Encouraging Library Literacy among School Students.
- Optimum utilization of library resources.

Practice

- Every year, the Central Library conducts membership drive-cum-orientation programs for newly admitted students across departments. The section-in-charge of membership and circulation and the trained staff have been entrusted with the responsibility of extending their services through library membership drive-cum-orientation programs. An email notification is generally sent to all heads of departments / centres to enlist newly admitted students and their allotted slots for the smooth conduction of the program. All the academic departments participate in this endeavor.
- Visit to the Central Library is mandatory for School students, during their educational tours. During such tours, young minds are sensitized on the benefits of reading books and the role it can play in shaping up of their minds.
- The central library has created a conducive environment for reading and research.

Evidence of Success

- The library membership drive-cum-orientation program has increased the usage of library facilities, both in physical and digital platforms.



- Library visit has become a popular practice among the school students during Educational Tours.
- A sustained increase in the use of digital resources by the faculty, scholars and students.

Problems encountered and Resource Required

- The distance of some academic departments from the Central Library and the short intervals and breaks in-between classes are major hindrances for physical uses of library resources.
- Unavailability of books suited to school children.
- Poor economic condition of students along with slow internet connectivity in remote parts of the state.

Following resources were required while implementing the practice

- Trained, capable and dedicated staff for each section.
- Adequate number of subscribed e-resources along with computer facility with uninterrupted internet connectivity and library automation software.

Best Practice 2

Title:

Reclamation cum development of wastelands for Organic Horti-agricultural farming and related Knowledge Generation

Objectives:

- To transform wastelands into productive holding for cultivation of organic fruit and vegetable
- To sensitize university stakeholders on farming techniques through firsthand knowledge and grow own food

Context:

Tripura University, spread over 79 acres of land, has a fair share of productive and wastelands within its campus. While infrastructural augmentation had taken over the available flat lands, the wastelands spread over the undulating topography of hilly Tripura, had remained barren over the years. The University had taken initiatives to develop those



lands for cultivation of horti-agricultural products as a part of its extracurricular pedagogy to impart holistic education through cultivation of body, mind and soul of the stakeholders in the campus. The initiative was also intended to generate knowledge on organic farming techniques and management of wastelands using locally available resources.

Practice:

The wastelands were converted into fallow lands involving University students and staff under the able guidance of a competent horticulturalist. One part of the degraded land was converted into an orchard and another into a garden, to plant various fruits and vegetables. For the orchard, a crop high in demand, but hardly grown in the state of Tripura, sweet lemon (Mousambi), was selected. Organic fertilizer required for growing this crop was initially procured from the market. Subsequently, a decision was taken to set up a vermicomposting unit to furnish organic manure for the orchard as well as to solve the problem of solid waste disposal, otherwise requiring separate disposal mechanism involving high cost.

High quality produces from this orchard are sold to the University stakeholders in half of the market price and occasionally distributed to the boarders. A part of the revenue generated from this practice is utilized in meeting the recurring cost of the project to make it a self-sustaining one.

Since, the project was implemented with active participation of many University stakeholders and within the campus, it provided enthusiasm, motivation and confidence to the beneficiaries to take up such projects voluntarily within their respective premises. The orchard is also a research field for many of the students in the departments related to plant sciences.

To meet the demand of manure in the cultivation, a vermicomposting unit was set up. The unit served the dual purpose of managing bio-degradable solid wastes of the University as well as supplying requisite quantities of manure for the project.

Evidence of Success

A significant share of fruits and vegetables grown in the campus was sold at subsidized rates, at half the market price, generating around INR 2 lakhs in the first year itself. Demand for the



product was so high that an upper limit of per capita sale was imposed to reach maximum number of beneficiaries. To popularize the practice and as part of social responsibility, efforts were taken to distribute significant number of the produce in the adopted villages and among the boarders, at free of cost. The success story was well covered by local media outlets. The TSS level of the harvested sweet lemon was found to be within 15 – 16 Brix which is higher than the standard.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Apparently there were no problems encountered while undertaking this project, except for the expert manpower required. The project was highly appreciated by local and outside visitors to the University.

Following resources were required for implementing the project.

1. A Start-up grant
2. Landscaping specialist and expert horticulturist to further develop the project
3. Agricultural labour for sweet lemon cultivation
4. Irrigation facility
5. Sale mechanism of the produces and use of revenue generated
6. Production of organic manure

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