



Best Practice-1

1. Title of the Practice

Green Campus Initiatives

2. The objectives – 100 words

- To initiate eco – friendly practices in the institution and thereby promoting sustainable living in the community as a whole.
- To instill environment consciousness among students, faculty and non – teaching staff, who in turn would spread this awareness to the community.
- To entrust students' with a responsibility for sustenance of green for personal well-being and societal well-being
- To demonstrate feasible measures in resolving the existing environmental issues
- To spread awareness on lethal environment practices
- To minimize the reckless use of natural resources and energy; minimize pollution and emission of toxic gases
- To conserve and restore the healthy environment for the posterity

3. The Context – 150 words

Recent decades have ushered in a sense of environmental consciousness among people. The society is increasingly growing cognizant of a healthy planet that sustains congenial living conditions in present and future. The unprecedented climate change affecting the the survival of mankind and planet earth is pondered over. Increasingly, countries across the world are attempting to adopt sustainable eco-friendly practices. The combined efforts of individual and communities together is realized to yield conducive results. The green campus concept is adopted at the organizational level. A Green Campus promotes implementation of scientific environmentally friendly practices to conceive sustainable and eco-friendly campus. The green campus concept



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enables Institutions with large expanses of land to become a pioneering force in revamping the environmental culture within the institution as well as in surrounding areas. Such institution may generate innovative models to create sustainable solutions towards the current environmental crisis faced by mankind. Our institution too strives similarly to attain the said.

4. The practice – 400 words

The Institution's concern over the lethal environmental condition has prompted into adopting green canvas concept on campus. In this regard, the Institution has a defined mechanism that bears environmental concerns at the core. The structured waste segregation system of the Institution facilitates the affable atmosphere on campus. Solid waste is disposed in bins which are placed at various points across the campus. Solid waste management is facilitated by source segregation of waste through the placement of dustbins for dry and wet waste collection at road pavements on the campus. The waste water flow is channeled through canals to the recycling sewage treatment plant. The recycled water is drained to a storage pond for further re – utilization. E-waste management is accorded high priority by the institution, through regular review, update and disposal of obsolete devices to the dump yard. The generation of hazardous chemical waste is monitored as per the MSDS standards. Fume hood chambers are installed in the Chemistry Laboratories to monitor reactions and usage of chemicals under safer conditions. The chemical fumes are trapped in the filters and exhausted through the capacity suction provided chimney. The non – hazardous chemical waste are diluted and disposed. No radioactive material is in use. Activities in compliance with environmental laws are held under UBA and Swatchh Bharat Scheme to nurture eco-friendly attitude among the students, faculty members and natives in the neighborhood. The newer challenges that arise during the implementation are resolved by the Institutional initiatives. The Institution has an effective solar energy system and also uses LED bulbs to conserve energy to the utmost. The NSS and NCC unit of the Institution as well as various departments organize tree plantation and sapling adoption drives on and off campus regularly. The Institution is committed to its identification *Plastic Free Zone*. The Canteen makes use of paper glasses for serving tea and coffee and makes use of reusable plates for serving eatables. The staff and students are instructed on minimal use of papers. The internal test question papers are printed with optimal



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use of space on A4 page and encouraging back-to-back printing as much as possible. Large scale documentation of academic and administrative particulars are done in soft copies and stored in laptops, pen drives, Google drives and hard drives. Entry for automobiles is restricted inside the college premises; the two-wheeler' and four-wheelers' entry is regulated to designated parking spaces on the Institution campus.

5. Evidence of Success – 200 words

The Institution underwent a green audit by an external auditing agency. The methodology used by the external auditing agency included physical inspection, review of the relevant documentation, and interviews. This audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. Further, the Institution's green practices stand acknowledged for its sustainable development.

The Institution is also a proud recipient of the District Green Champion Certificate – Bengaluru Rural District for the year 2020 – 2021. The award is testimony to the fact that the Institution has successfully set up the Swachhta Action Plan Committee, adopted and implemented best practices in the areas of sanitation, hygiene, waste management, water management, energy management and greenery management. The Institution is one of the chosen institutions for Swachhta and Jal Shakti scheme implemented at higher educational institutions. The Institution was lauded by Mahatma Gandhi National Council for Rural Education (MGNCRE), Ministry of Education, and Government of India for its Swachhta activities at the Institution. The letter of appreciation received in July 2022 acknowledges the progressive activities related to Swachhta at the Institution and terms it inspiring. Further, the letter suggests collaborative enterprise of the Institution with MGNCRE towards the nationalist endeavor of promoting sustainable practices.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required – 150 words

The 120 acre campus has been utilized towards set up of educational institutions with due allocation of brief landscape towards cultivation of herbal plants. Even as the campus is designed conducive to healthy environmental setting, certain concrete measures towards waste disposal is yet to be implemented. The Institution is located in the village panchayat premise. The Institution



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requires a proper open space that is away from residential areas towards waste disposal. There are no definite methods towards the segregation and disposal of wet, dry and e-waste too. Owing to the green lush landscape, there is large scale deposit of leaves and twigs which may be constructively utilized as organic manure and soil compost. In the said regards, the Institution requires funds and permissions of authorities concerned to raise a conducive infrastructure for segregation of waste and waste disposal. Adequate allocation of funds from governing agencies would be helpful to work towards appropriate and effective long – term solutions within as well as outside the campus.



Best Practice-2

1. Title of the Practice:

Adoption of ICT Practices

The Institution recognizes the role of the 'Digital India' programme as a revolutionary initiative of the central government which has the potential to transform India into a knowledge-based economy and digitally empowered society.

2. The objectives –

- To be part of the national mission on 'Digital India'.
- To impart technology-based education to the students.
- To enhance the digital infrastructure of the campus to promote online learning
- To shift into a paperless campus.
- To enhance e-governance practices in the campus.
- To improve digital literacy and digital skills of the students.

3. The Context

The current and future era is information technology driven. Accordingly, the Institute has been in the process of adopting e – governance practices and moving towards paperless administration. The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system initiated at the administrative level in 2016 was aimed at streamlining organizational practices and was introduced into the academic arena as well by 2018 – 2019. The advantages of utilization of ICT practices in teaching and learning pedagogy have been well documented. Therefore, in order to enhance learning outcomes, the faculty actively integrate ICT practices into their teaching methodology. The Covid – 19 pandemic struck a huge blow at theory and skill – based higher education. The pandemic was thus a catalyst to enhance



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the application of ICT practices, particularly with respect to academics and necessitated a paradigm shift from offline mode to blended/online learning mode.

4. The practice

In 2016, the ERP system was introduced across Acharya Institutes, including Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies. The system was initially executed in the Accounts Department and the Administration Department. All the faculty have their individual ERP profiles, where all their relevant details are updated and easily accessible. Faculty can also view their daily attendance as well as biometric punching details on a regular basis which allows timely resolution of any discrepancies if present. Student admission, payment of college fees, faculty leave approvals, conduction of events (conferences, seminars, guest talks etc.) are currently facilitated through the ERP portal. By 2018 – 2019, the ERP system was also introduced into the academic aspects in a phased manner. Presently, faculty subject allotment, time table creation and conduction of internal examinations are facilitated through ERP. Students are supported to view the College fee payment, allocated classes, internal tests and proctee-proctor details.

The Central Library of the Institute is glowing testimony to the Institution's whole – hearted adoption of ICT practices. The Institutional repository provides access to faculty and students to various online reading material across disciplines, including Management, Health Sciences and Social Sciences. The library is completely digitized not only with respect to the provision of e – resources and provision of computers but also in regard to issue and return of books.

Faculty at the Institute have been actively utilizing ICT practices to enhance learning outcomes. These include use of PowerPoint presentations, assignments involving the use of online resources and use of relevant videos in the classroom, all of which serve to keep students engaged and cater to their different learning styles.

In 2019, Acharya Institutes, rolled out its indigenous platform to facilitate online learning – “Acharya Alive”. The service is utilized by all the Institutions of Acharya Institutes including Acharya Institute of Graduate Studies. The platform is designed to facilitate optimal e – learning



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for students across various disciplines. Classes may be engaged on audio – video as well as only audio mode. The platform is equipped with screen – sharing facility which facilitates PPT and video – based learning. Break out rooms' facility is available which allows faculty to facilitate small group discussions. Additionally, faculty have the option to also utilize the platform to share learning resources and provide assignments to students. Facility for recording classes is available too. Faculty member may conduct student polls or surveys on the platform. Attendance for classes is automated. Students can interact with faculty during classes by unmuting themselves or using the chat box to ask questions and clear their doubts. The online learning experience is also rigorously monitored for quality by Subject Matter Experts and management representatives.

Evidence of Success

The introduction of the ERP system has streamlined and automated organizational practices to a large extent. This has resulted in optimal use of human resources and enhanced efficiency. Additionally, this has also facilitated a shift to paperless systems in keeping with the “Go green” ethos of the Institution.

The usage of ICT practices in teaching has propelled student understanding of subject matter as well as performance in a positive direction. This is evident from the regular feedback obtained from students as well as their academic performance.

Over the last 2 years, the “Acharya Alive” platform has been a catalyst for optimal student learning. It has been a safe and secure learning space for students. Learning outcomes have continued to be good as is evident in student performance and class involvement. The virtual class room facility for the students allows the students to access study materials, power point presentations, video lectures etc. available on the platform.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required



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Despite all its benefits, adoption of technology comes with its downside too. Power outages and unstable internet connectivity can interfere with a seamless experience. Practical solutions need to be sought out and executed in order to deal with this issue effectively.

The “Acharya Alive” platform is a work in progress and is continuously upgraded by technical experts. Technical glitches that occasionally occur especially when class – load is high interferes with student learning experience. Also, students in remote areas without good internet connectivity may miss out on online classes. Though the team of experts devise timely innovative plans to tackle the issues, it remains a challenge in the teaching-learning. Adequate allocation of funds from governing agencies would be helpful to work towards appropriate and effective solutions.