

Gurukrupa College of Education & Research, Kalyan
Best Practices of GCER

BEST PRACTICE-1

Title of the practice: Greenspace

The context that required initiation of the practice:

Nature is the perfect example of symbiosis... the relationship we share with its components help us to grow and flourish. However, we humans have started exploiting the relationship beyond control. We have caused an irreversible damage to the environment thereby jeopardizing the future of our children. For any community to ensure its existence, natural environment must be preserved as well as conserved. The responsibility lies on the shoulders of the citizens of this world. At Gurukrupa College of Education & Research, it has been our constant endeavour to practice as well as inculcate the values and practices that are eco-friendly. Our institution being a teacher education college gives us the scope to change the attitude of our students who in the future as teachers will be able to multiply the message of environment consciousness.

Objectives of the practice:

- To understand the various aspects of the environment that are important for our survival
- To integrate the values of environment consciousness in our daily activities and teaching
- To promote environmental consciousness to the students and community

The Practice:

It is a belief that through efficient management of natural resources, we will achieve a better performing and quality environment. To achieve the above mentioned objectives our college organized various activities through Environment Club. Durgadi Fort SwachataAbhiyan, Fireless cooking Competition, Disposal of Nirmalya, Workshop on Making Eco-Friendly Ganesh Idols and Decoration, Gift a Plant' initiative with all Practice Teaching Schools and Guests, Installation of Solar Panels and LED lights in the college campus, Gardening in College premises, Recycling wet waste and using it for the plants on the garden, Avoiding the plastic bags and issue cloth bags in our college, Tree plantation in college premises, Using of waste water for the Plantation of Garden are some of the activities we have taken during the year to achieve the objectives of the practice "Greenspace". To promote environmental consciousness to the students, this year we also published E-Magazine "Greenspace" in which our students gathered information related to Environment Conservation and also expressed their

views related to environment through their articles. Various environment-related days like World Sparrow Day (March 20), World Water Day (March 22), are also celebrated.

Impact of the practice:

Greenspace which started as an effort is now a part of our daily life. The impact of our efforts can be seen in the attitude change that we see in our students and Gurukrupa College of Education & Research, teachers. Our student teachers become the messengers for spreading environmental concerns and help in further multiplying the message of environment degradation, preservation, and conservation among their students.

Best Practices 2:

Life Skills Activities:

The skills that make an individual adjust and adapt to the changes and challenges brought to them on an everyday basis are known as life skills. Some examples of life skills are effective communication, decision making, critical thinking, problem-solving, making connections, being a self-starter etc. These are an essential set of skills that is learned by the students throughout their life to enhance their lifestyle in a better way possible. Learning a life skill is a very important and mandatory part of growing up. From the month of March 2020 the whole world has come to a standstill, and the reason is the pandemic COVID-19. All of a sudden, it seems we are a part of a horror movie. The villainous coronavirus is killing thousands of people, and we are feeling helpless. It has turned our lives upside down. Even in our dreams, we could not have imagined ourselves coned to our homes, with no outings and unable to meet our friends and relatives. Reasonably, the situation has given us a chance to look at things differently. These hard times are teaching us the value of everyday food items like fruits, vegetables, and groceries in our lives. We are learning to manage ourselves with limited resources. But all of us took this in a positive way. A lot of hidden talents of students as well as teachers explored during this period. Taking advantage of explored talents and to take away the students from dull environment GCER decided to take some online Life Skills activities which help the students to come out of the stress.

This was really challenge for us to conduct these activities online. But we took this challenge and chalk out the program.

Objectives:

- To make feel students connected and resilient during the pandemic.
- To equip the students with the social and interpersonal skills that enable them to cope with the demands of everyday life.
- To build self-confidence, encourage critical thinking, foster independence and help people to communicate more effectively.

We decided to conduct these online activities as follows:

- First we selected 30 activities that students can do while staying at home and with the help of resources available in the home.
- We took online orientation of these activities. In this orientation we explained importance and need of these skills to them as a teacher.
- One day before information related to the activity which next day students have to perform was sent to the students on the what's app group. They have asked to send photos of performing these activities up to 3.00 p.m.
- The video of the photos sent by the students was made by one of the students and posted on the group.

Above mentioned procedure was adopted for each activity during the month.

Outcomes:

- Students got engaged with the activities throughout the month. It leads to minimization of stress of lockdown.
- Improved self-confidence
- Hidden talents of the students were explored.
- It encouraged critical thinking & fostered independence.
- Students learnt to look at things differently
- Students learnt to see the situations positively.

