



## 7.2. Best Practice

### Title of Practice 1: Sustainable Environmental practices through Eco-club

#### Objectives of the Practice

Environmental awareness ethos by creating an understanding of sustainable living and conservation of resources. Pravridhi the eco-club incorporates these concepts, through mutual collaborations with other environmental societies, organizations, institutions, and NGOs.

- It recognizes the significance and the pivotal role of the students and staff in safeguarding future sustainability.
- It empowers students in solving the environmental crisis through participation in different environmental activities and projects.
- It promotes the ethos of the conservation of resources by optimizing their use and minimizing wastage.
- It provides the platform to influence and engage young minds, and staff in promoting sound environmental behaviour.

#### The Context

PRAVRIDHI- Eco Club of Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women was established in 2005 by a group of teachers and motivated students. It is a part of the National Green Corps program undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, 2001.

#### The Practice

Pravridhi undertakes various activities, like organizing workshops, seminars, and inter/intra-college competitions like debates, lectures and talks on various environmental issues, as mentioned below.

Tree Plantation Drive: Every year the college organizes a ‘tree plantation drive’ in and around the campus. SRCASW maintains a herbal garden on its premises for creating awareness and educating the importance of herbal plants. It also maintains the indigenous composting pits. The “Plant of The Week” campaign helps in sensitizing the students and staff about the importance of the plant in context.

Conservation of Resources: The college focuses on minimizing the wastage of resources like water by preventing its overflow from the tanks. It maintains underground rainwater harvesting tanks for collecting rainwater that is utilized for irrigating the playground, and gardens and for re-charging the groundwater table.

Waste Reduction and Management: The college discourages the use of plastic bags, and plastic items and encourages the right way for waste disposal. It participates in recycling activities like paper recycling by connecting with NGOs. It barter wastepaper, and scraps

from the college in exchange for stationery items made from recycled paper like spiral pads, paper pencils etc.

Awareness Programs and Campaigns: These include various activities on environmental issues to educate students about the re-use of waste material, adopting a sustainable lifestyle and managing resources. For instance, an online awareness campaign was organized on “Prevention of Ozone Holes” during the COVID-19 pandemic to sensitize students and teachers in realizing their role in protecting the ozone layer. An awareness campaign was conducted to disseminate a message about not using synthetic Manja/thread for kite flying, on occasions like Makar Sankranti, Independence Day and Pongal. On other occasions like Diwali, students were motivated and sensitized for not using crackers and fireworks. The Eco Club also organizes various environmental activities on world environment day and the eco-fest.

Pravridhi, Eco-club has also helped in increasing the participation of the students and has enhanced their observation in understanding the environmental crisis. On various occasions like World Environment Day and World Tiger Day, talks were delivered by ecologist Vijay Dhasmana (Restoration of Aravalli Biodiversity Park) and wildlife photographer Ms Latika Nath (the conservation of wildlife and tigers), Dr Ashok Ghosh, Mr AV Shivakumar (Rainwater harvesting), Arun Krishnamurthy (Wetland and water bodies management), Sahar Mansoor, and Tim de Ridder (Bare Necessities: Sustainability in our daily lives), Dr Anwasha Borthakur (e-waste management), Mr Venkatesh Charloo (Coral reef protection and conservation). This has motivated students and enhanced their understanding of wildlife and biodiversity.

Mutual collaborations with different eco-clubs: Pravridhi, eco-club encourages collaborations with other eco-clubs, environmental societies and environmental organizations of different colleges. This helped in creating environmental awareness among students and the public outside the college. Students of the club have conducted campaigns, drives, and field activities in collaboration with different NGOs. The college has presently collaborated with the eco-clubs and NSS units of more than 40 colleges across the University of Delhi.

### **Evidence of Success**

The college has a variety of ornamental plants, fruit trees, and several herbal and wild varieties of plants on the campus. More than 50% of the total area of the college is under green cover. Moreover, for carrying out the largest tree plantation drive in East Delhi, it has received an award. In response to the visit conducted by MGNCRE, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, the college was also recognized for its holistic approach toward spreading awareness, influencing, and sensitizing various stakeholders on cleanliness, resource management, energy-efficient practices, and promoting environmentally sustainable practices. It was awarded the *Green District Champion* in the east district of Delhi, in March 2022.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

Due to the heavy academic workload in science courses and time constraints, faculty and students face difficulty in integrating environmental activities within their regular academic schedules. There is also a need to increase the existing infrastructure and financial support for the upgradation of the wastewater treatment plant. To inculcate the conservation of resources, we need to install more solar panels, rainwater harvesting plants and biogas plants.

## **Best Practice 2**

### **Title of the Practice- Skill Enhancement through collaborative learning.**

#### **Objectives of the Practice**

SRCASW not only imparts subjective and classroom knowledge but also aims at creating an atmosphere conducive to enhancing the skills of students. The college encourages higher-level thinking through innovative and creative learning. The college in its pursuit of holistic development offers various programs by collaborating with organizations like CISCO, IGNOU, and Delhi University School of Languages. Collaborations with institutions aim to build scientific temper among students. Innovative ideas and projects are realized by students under the guidance of the ED cell. The college offers international and national collaborations through MOUs and agreements. Moreover, the placement cell offers a platform for students, companies and investors for job opportunities and internship programs.

#### **The Context**

Since its inception, the college has promoted international and national collaborations in various disciplines. The college encourages exchange programs with international universities in various disciplines through Entrepreneurship Development (ED) Cell, MHRD Innovation Cell (MIC), National Innovation and Start-Up Policy (NISIP), placement cell (PC), and distance learning and certificate programs like IGNOU, CISCO Academy Learning Program, and Language Program.

#### **The Practice**

**ED Cell** was established in 2015 to inculcate innovation and entrepreneurship.

**MIC** Ministry of Education (previously known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development has established the MHRDs Innovation cell, MIC) to nourish the intellect of innovation systematically and comprehensively among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). MIC has come up with the idea of creating the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) across selected HEIs. The IIC of SRCASW aims at creating an integrated ecosystem for its students and faculties which stimulates an environment of innovation among them.

**NISP** Ministry of Education in the year 2019 has released a guiding framework for higher education institutions (HEIs). SRCASW is the selected HEI to have NISP implemented in 2020.

**PC** of the college has a prominent placement policy. It is associated with more than 25 companies to name such as Wipro, Tres Vista, Google etc.

### **IGNOU program**

The programs offered in the college are as follows:

Certificate in Library and Information Sciences (CLIS)

Bachelor's and Master's in Library and Information Sciences (BLIS/MLIS)

Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking (PGDLAN)

### **CISCO Academy Networking Program**

The Cisco Local Academy offers training for the CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) certification. We have a fully functional CISCO laboratory with a high-speed internet connection.

### **Language Courses**

SRCASW offered a year-long (100-150 h) add-on certificate and a diploma course in the German language in association with the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies (GRS), University of Delhi. These classes are open to students at the college, and outside the college, and faculties.

### **Evidence of Success**

SRCASW takes privilege in successfully conducting the activities that reflect its achievements towards imparting collaborative learning. ED cell organized webinars, interactive sessions, and panel discussions on topics as making resumes, approaching internships, and building networks and business plans in 2021-2022.

21 students have completed a semester in various courses taken by CISCO Networking Academy Program. It organized a course on Introduction to IoT and an exploratory course on Cyber Security from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

IGNOU conducted and certified two batches in BLIS, MLIS, and PGDLAN respectively in July 2021, and January 2022.

A batch of students applied and certifies for the German Language in 2021-2022 in collaboration with Delhi University.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

- Efficient marketing and networking of the services.

- Financial assistance and support for the upgradation of equipment/labs /services/courses.
- Scaling up of the pilot project.
- Lack of connection with various industries.
- Lengthy and time taking procedures for filing applications for projects and financial support.
- Training programs/workshops/faculty development programs for the faculties in their respective fields for regular up-gradation.

**Photo Gallery:**

