

Best Practices: II

Title of the Practice: Sensitizing Students about Environment, Hygiene and safety.

Goal: The B. K. Birla College aims to stimulate the students about creating awareness about emerging environmental issues, hygiene and safety thereby fostering a sense of personal responsibility, inspiring them to stay committed towards the protection of the environment.

Context: The College has played a vital role in maintaining and disseminating quality education about environment, safety and conservation throughout the 50 glorious years of imparting higher education. After the Covid 19 outbreak when the world was under threat, the College feels more responsible towards sensitizing students, faculties, and others about the ecological, medical and social imbalances that the world was facing, so that they understand and assume their role in making our world a better place.

The Practice:

- The College organized numerous talks, webinars, lectures, rallies, cleanliness drive, and environment awareness programs regularly.
- Faculties, NCC and NSS Units, Department of Environmental Science, Botany, Biotechnology, and others take regular initiatives in organizing programs that give information and create awareness about environmental safety and protection.

Evidence of Success:

- In the last one year, the college had arranged several programs which are listed below:
- Department of Environmental Sciences on the occasion of ‘*World Environment Day*’ organized a webinar on the topic ‘*Ecosystem Restoration*’ on Saturday, 5th June, 2021 on the digital platform of Microsoft Teams. Dr. Bivash Pandey, Director, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai delivered the Keynote Address.
- NCC Unit organized a special lecture on ‘Rainwater Harvesting’ on Sunday, 13th June, 2021 on the digital platform of Microsoft Teams. Dr. Avinash Patil, Principal, BKBCCK was the Resource Person.
- Departments of Biotechnology, Bioanalytical Sciences and Environmental Sciences celebrated ‘Marine Week’ from 26th to 31st July 2021 and the inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Prof. Dept. of

Life Sciences, and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai on the topic 'Mangroves for Sustainable Human Development' on the digital platform of Microsoft Teams. This program is celebrated on the occasion of the 'International Day of Conservation of Mangroves'.

- Departments of Botany and Environmental Sciences celebrated 'Wildlife Week' from Monday, 4th October to Thursday, 7th October 2021.
- A Special Guest Lecture was conducted by Dr. Shubalaxmi Vaylure, Moth Lady of India, Founder and Director, Ladybird Environmental Consulting LLP on Wednesday, 6th October, 2021.
- A Special Guest Lectures was conducted by Dr. Sudhir Dhuri, Former Head, Department of Botany, V.G. Vaze College, Mulund on Thursday, 7th October 2021.
 - Various Competitions were also arranged during this period, like
 - Mandala Art - Theme: Flora and Fauna
 - Warli Paintings - Theme: Flora and Fauna
 - Mask Paintings - Theme: Wildlife Biodiversity
 - Bird Bath - Theme: Ecofriendly
- Departments of Environmental Sciences, Management Studies along with NCC and NSS in association with KDMC organized a 'Swachhta Abhiyan: A Cleanliness Drive' on Friday 24th December 2021 to clean the area of walking track around Kala Talav, Kalyan. The activity was conducted by Dr. Sonal Tawde, Dr. Sandesh Jaybhaye, Mr. Anil Tiwari, Lt. Prakash Sansare, Mr. Anand Dharmadhikari, Mr. Bharat Bagul, and Mr. Ganesh Kumawat, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and students from dept. of Management Studies. Around 175 students participated in the drive. Mr. Ramdas Kokare, Asst. Commissioner, Solid Waste Management, KDMC guided the activity personally.
- Departments of Zoology and Environmental Sciences organized one day National Webinar on 'Paryavarnam 2021: Research in Biological and Environmental Sciences: Challenges and Opportunities' on Friday 23rd July 2021. The Chief Guest for the Inaugural function was Shri Sudhir Shrivastav, IAS, Former Chairman, MPCB and the keynote address delivered by Prof. M. M. Salunke, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Bharti Vidyapeeth, Deemed University, Pune on digital platform.
- Department of Information Technology organized a webinar on 'E-Waste Management' on Thursday 9th September, 2021 on digital platform of Microsoft Teams. The webinar was coordinated by Dr. Maninder Kaur Dhaliwal, Vice Principal and Head, Dept. of Microbiology, BKBCCK.

- NSS organized 2nd One Day Interdisciplinary National Conference on ‘*Climate Change and Youth: Time for Action*’ held on 12th January, 2022 on digital platform of Microsoft Teams platform. Dr. Vijay Suryawanshi, IAS, Hon’ble Commissioner, KDMC, Kalyan and Padma Shri Prof. Sharad Kale, Former Associate Director, Bio Science Group, BARC, Mumbai, was the Chief Guests. Prof. Harshvardhan Pol, Principal Scientist & Assoc. Professor (AcSIR) CSIR-NCL, Polymer Sci. & Engr. Division, Pune delivered a talk on *Recycling of Polymer waste* (Covid PPE kit); Dr. Jayshree Ram Kumar, Scientific officer, BARC, Mumbai spoke on ‘*Water Pollution and New Technology*’ and Dr. Monika J. Kulshreshtha, Sr. Scientist, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, delivered a talk on ‘*Air pollution, Prevention and Precaution*’. Dr. Debdatta Ratna, Scientist ‘F’ Head, Polymer Analysis Division, NMRL, Ambernath was Chairperson for Paper presentations (oral session) and Dr. R. S. Lokhande, Research Director and Prof. Poonam Dwivedi, Department of Chemistry, JNU, Jaipur as Chairperson for Paper presentation (poster session).
- Department of Environmental Sciences organized a One Day webinar on the occasion of ‘World Water Day’ on the topic ‘Climate Change: Impact and Solutions’ on Tuesday 22nd March, 2022 on digital platform of Microsoft Teams. Prof. Subimal Ghosh, Institute Chair Professor, Water Resources Engineering, IIT-B was the Resource Person for the same.

Problems encountered and resources required:

- The lockdown caused due to covid-19 posed as a barrier for physical engagement of students for conducting activities on ground. Activities like ‘Cleanliness Drive’, ‘Tree Plantation’ were conducted in offline mode by following all the SOPs. The students were provided with masks, sanitizers, gloves besides the other resources used for cleaning and tree plantation.
- While all the other programs were conducted on online platform of MS-Teams. Hence digital resources were used.

Tree Plantation



Cleanliness Drive



Plastic Waste Collection Drive



Cleanliness Drive

