

Best Practice I

1. Title of the Practice:

Prohibition of vehicle entry in college campus on Wednesdays.

2. Objectives of the Practice

One of the practices started in institute is to prevent the entry of any vehicle in the college campus on Wednesdays. This practice has been started for increasing awareness in society about vehicular pollution and its impact on human health and environment. It will help in developing environmental consciousness in the youth. It is believed that this practice will encourage pooling of vehicles and use of bicycles. It is expected that it will be a small contribution to reducing air pollution. Moreover, it will encourage walking habit in society and lead to improved fitness of individuals.

3. The Context

An important challenge at present is reducing our dependence on petrol/ diesel vehicles. This will pave the way of developing better and sustainable cities and improving well-being of the individuals. To get people out of their cars is a global challenge. This process is not simple but the practical and easy strategy is to temporarily take vehicle off the streets or form particular area so that people can start looking differently. Starting “vehicle free days” is a new approach which can help in changing outlook of the society. Temporary” vehicle free zones” provide a platform for use of bicycles in local area and reducing dependence on petrol/ diesel vehicles. Here people can move freely and swiftly but not by vehicles. This will help in developing towns and cities which are healthier and more sustainable.

4. The Practice

Kalaburagi is a medium level city having population of about 6 lakhs. In this city public transport is not highly developed. In earlier days people mostly commuted by bicycles, however, at present by and large people travel to their workplace by their own vehicles (Cars/ motor cycles) which are driven by petrol/ diesel. Although it has increased the comfort of the individuals but it has led to enormous increase in air and noise pollution in the city. This increase pollution level has created several health hazards like asthma, allergies, neurological, and cardiovascular disorders, immunological problems, cancer etc. The toxic gases in air also negatively influence plant growth. Hence, it needed that public should be made aware regarding

vehicular pollution and its impact on human health and environment. Public needs to be educated regarding judicious use of vehicles. Keeping this in view we started the practice of prohibiting entry of petrol/ diesel vehicle in the campus on Wednesdays. Every Wednesday in campus “vehicle free zone” is created. Every one moves in the either by walking or on bicycles. Although there was resistance to this in the beginning but with time people have learned to “step out of their cars”. Special permission is given for taking vehicles inside the campus in case of emergence, sickness or any other purpose. Interestingly few individuals started coming to college on their bicycle. The temporary “vehicle free zone “created new vision for the students and the society.

5. Evidence of Success

The practice of prohibiting vehicles in the campus has met with partial success. Some individuals who live near the college have started commuting on bicycle. The campus looks very serene and peaceful on Wednesdays. Although we have not quantified but the air in the campus on these days seems to be more pure and cleaner. The chirping of birds can be distinctly heard in absence of any other noise. Thus, it appears that we are on our way for creating sustainable and healthier society and city by increasing awareness and educating students.

6. Problems

Encountered and Resources Required Several problems were encountered during execution of this practice. The foremost was to bring individuals out of their comfort zone and induce them to reach their department by walking or on bicycles. Several individuals still follow this unwillingly. Difficulty in following this is practice faced during rainy and hot summer days. Guest who are unaware about this practice also grumble when they have to walk for conducting examination or other official/ unofficial duties.

Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice: Clean and Green Campus

2. Objectives of the Practice

The overall goal of initiating this practice was to make students realize the significance of cleanliness and trees in their lives. The students should develop a sense of responsibility towards their surroundings and become accountable for keeping their surroundings clean. The teachers and other staff members are expected to take active part in this activity and encourage the students. The prime objective is to develop a clean and green campus by removing the weeds, planting trees and maintaining cleanliness.

3. The Context

Our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given top priority to hygiene in our basic lives which is required to improve our living environment and elevate our thinking. Lack of hygiene inhibits the progress of a country in every sphere and adversely affects tourism and all other economic activities. It also negatively influences human health. India has a huge population which has a varying degree of education and awareness, hence, achieving a clean hygienic environment for everyone is a huge challenge. Trees are essential for life and their importance in our lives and environment is indisputable. Trees increase beauty but their benefits are beyond this. They provide oxygen, food and shelter to animals. They provide various ecological services like improve soil structure, help in water conservation, moderate climate and regulate temperature. They help in reducing pollution and floods. Hence, everyone should learn to respect trees and every educational institution should encourage tree plantation. It is expected that teachers and students play a lead role in developing a “Swachh and Hari Bharat” and realizing the goal of our country. In view of the above, the practice of cleaning campus has been initiated in this college. Regular tree plantation is also done throughout the year.

4. The Practice

Every teacher, staff member, and student of the college takes part in “clean campus” drive. During this drive following major activities are conducted in the campus. 1. Removing weeds from campus 2. Cleaning of laboratories, glassware, equipment’s etc. 3. Cleaning of classrooms 4. Cleaning of campus 4. Plantation of trees and flowering plants. The teachers, students and staff members willingly perform these activities and help in keeping the surroundings clean. This has resulted in developing friendly relations between individuals and a cleaner and healthier

atmosphere which is necessary for any educational institution. In the beginning there was hesitation in some individuals but with time their inclusiveness in the activities has increased. It is difficult to bring the students to class after this activity so it is performed on the weekend afternoon as students can go home after this task.

5. Evidence of Success

Considerable success has been achieved after following this practice. It is clearly visible that a large number of new plants have been planted in the campus and weeds have been removed. It is hoped that when this newly planted plant will flourish into flowering trees then it will be sight to behold. This had resulted in increased number of birds etc. visiting the campus and hence, has led to increase in biodiversity. The decrease in Parthenium and other harmful weeds has reduced allergy problems. The clean tables and working place had increased happiness index our or institution. The involvement of everyone in clean derive has created sense of equality among individuals.

6. Problems

Encountered and Resources Required: The gardening tools, cleaning mops, cleaning powder and aprons etc. have been provided by the college encourage and facilitate this.