

7.2.1 Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice

Sustainable Practices for Green Campus

2. Objectives of the Practice

Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University Chhattisgarh is an eco-friendly institution. The university campus is surrounded by greenery including plants, trees, farms, ponds, garden, and open grass grounds. There is an eco-friendly atmosphere for the learners in the campus. Various sustainable practices are carried out by the university to keep the campus green. The university has installed solar panels, solar water heater, and sensor based energy conservation equipment's in the campus. The objective is to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices in the campus, and to motivate and set practical examples for the learners to be eco-friendly and to keep the environment green.

3. The Context


Due to the numerous environmental difficulties we are facing today, it is imperative that we practice conservation in the areas of energy, water, and afforestation. Humans are depleting natural resources far more quickly than they can be regenerated, which is the primary cause of these issues. Due to deforestation and urbanization, pollution is getting progressively worse. Since the institution is situated in a region of the state with little rainfall, it seldom gets any. To utilize the water and other resources that were readily available, it was vital to plan ahead. An atmosphere that is clean and healthy promotes learning and is conducive to learning. A Green Campus combines eco-friendly activities and education to enhance sustainability on campus. The green campus concept allows an institution to rethink its environmental culture and build new paradigms by creating sustainable solutions to environmental, social, and economic concerns. We choose to inform and enlighten learners on topics like renewable energy sources. We made the decision to focus on the clean-up, water, power, and infrastructure sectors. The stakeholders collaborate to create a sustainable, eco-friendly campus and to spread the idea of an eco-friendly culture.

4. The Practice

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In order to promote a campus culture of self-sustainability and environmental responsibility, the university resolved to collaborate with stakeholders. Following are the initiatives for making the campus eco-friendly:

a) **Plantation:** Most area of the university campus is surrounded by plants and trees. The ground in the campus is covered with grass. Every year plantation is done in the campus by the learners, employees, teaching staffs and officers. Especially on the occasion of world environment day plantation is organized in big scale. The Learners of the university learn that everyone is responsible for keeping the environment clean and green.

b) **Energy Conservation:** In the context of conservation of energy following initiatives are employed in the campus:

1. **Solar Panel Power Project:** To keep the campus green, the university has set up solar panels power project of 50 KW and 5 KW in 2018-19, and recently installed 200 KW solar panel. This fulfills the institution's energy requirements. The present solar installation will give the output of 255 KW. With this, university reduces the cost of government electric supply. University has enough roof top space to generate much capacity of solar power which can be utilized in future.

2. **Solar Water Heater:** Solar water heater is installed at the VC bungalow in the campus.

3. LEDs and CFL bulbs are placed in the various buildings of the university in order to save electricity.

4. **Rain Water Harvesting:** Rain water harvesting system is in place to collect roof runoff in some buildings of the campus.

5. **Pond:** 2 ponds have been built in the university campus to store rain water.

6. **Sensor Based Energy Conservation Mechanism:** It is placed in the street light to save the electricity.

7. **Water Controller Mechanism:** It is placed with the tanks at the roof top of the buildings to stop water overflow and save water.

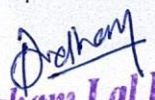
c) **Waste Management System:**

1. **Liquid Waste Management:** University is structured in such a way that proper handling and treatment of all liquid waste are taken care of. All these liquid wastes are stores and disposed of in the campus through underground sewage.

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2. **Solid Waste management:** Solid waste management system is in place in the campus. All the solid waste are collected and dump into waste dumping area.
3. **Electronic Waste (E-waste):** E-waste are collected and placed in the E-waste room in the campus.
4. **Plastic waste management:** The university is practicing various activities to make the campus plastic free.

5. Evidence of Success

The university has planted thousands of plants over the years in the campus. Also, the university has set up a solar panel power project of 50 KW and 5 KW in 2018-19, and recently installed 200 KW solar panel to cater its electricity requirements. Apart from the mechanism of energy generation, there are mechanism of energy conservation at the university through sensor-based street lights, water level controller and LED bulbs etc. The university has farms and ponds in the campus. Plants, trees and farms are irrigated with the proper water supply through boreholes and ponds. Ponds are also helpful in order to maintain ground water level. Green audit and energy audit have been conducted by the university in recent years.

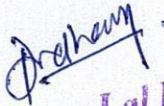
6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The development and maintenance of a proper infrastructure for green practices is the most significant obstacle to the Green campus programme. For the successful implementation of Green campus practices, specific funding should be allocated. Also, it requires a succession of awareness activities to educate and teach more individuals.

7. Notes (Optional)

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