

Best Practice 1:

To encourage students to utilize library resources and honour them with “Best Library User” Award

A library is considered to be the backbone of every institution. It is the store-house of knowledge and the utilization of library resources not only make the students self-sufficient in terms of academic matters but also give them wide exposure. Therefore, “Best Library User Award” is given to students to encourage and motivate them to use library resources.

Objectives:

1. To make students academically self-sufficient
2. To widen their knowledge about the external world
3. To enhance their domain knowledge
4. To encourage the students to make maximum utilization of library resources
5. To creating a better future for them
6. To create employability opportunity

Context: As said earlier, library is seen as the store-house of the knowledge. Rabindra Nath Tagore, the Nobel laureate had a deep sense of regards for library and his remarks can be quoted in this regard, “A library can be thought of as a Tower of Silence --- like a sleeping child, which embodies the entrapped vibrations of an age old (sic) ocean. Here language is still, like a calm mass of water that has stopped flowing. Man’s unbounded enlightenment, shackled with words, is imprisoned in the papers in black and white. If all these sublime aspirations of the quest of human mind suddenly finds expression – if the rebellious words fly in all directions, it will be akin to a torrent from the melted ice of the Himalayas. The library encloses within itself this very deluge of the ardent expressions of human souls.” A maximum use of library books not only widens the domain knowledge of the students but also boosts their confidence level. A good library, like the one our institution has, is equipped with journals and books which can give a student good idea not only about his/her subject but also the external world. Students can make use of the library resources to prepare for several national and international level examinations. Thus, a good library plays a pivotal role in shaping not only a student’s personality, but creates an opportunity of employability for them. But in recent times, due to the advent of science and technology and the digitization of books, the tendency of

the students to visit libraries has drastically come down. The availability of materials at the click of the button metaphorically shoos them away from the temple of learning, the library. Hence our institution follows the practice of “Best Library User” to motivate the students and to build a habit among students to visit our institutional library and to use the resources.

Practice: The “Best Library User Award” is given annually to the student who is best among the lot taking into account his/her regular library visit, borrowing of books, interaction with the staff members and fruitful utilization of time. A record book is maintained where the students are asked to enter their entry and exit time and the total number of books by the students is also checked. His/her suggestions regarding the library are also heard. Based on all these criteria, one student is chosen every year to confer “Best Library User Award” by the respected Principal of the institution and the award is given on a special day like either on “World Book Day” (23rd April) or “National Librarians’ Day” (12th August). Other faculty members of the institution also attend the felicitation program. Either the college multipurpose hall or the college library is chosen as the venue for the above-mentioned program. It has been found that conferring of awards has made a positive impact among the students as the tendency among the students to pay a visit to the institutional library has multiplied. The best library user for the academic year 2020-2021 was Grace Malsawmdawngkimi from B.A. Economics (currently in Semester 4):

Sl. No	Name of the Student	Time Spent in the library (in hrs.)	No. of Books borrowed	Whether interacted with the library staff or not	Suggestion/ s for improvement given or not
	Grace Malsawmdawngkimi	270	48	Yes	Yes
	Lalramtluangi	248	33	Yes	Yes
	Vanlalchhuanawma	230	42	Yes	Yes
	Zonunmawii	195	27	Yes	Yes
	Ramengmawia	190	38	Yes	Yes
	Mina Lalhmingmawi	177	40	Yes	Yes
	Mary Lalpawlsangi	150	37	Yes	Yes
	Lalramchhani Colney	148	34	Yes	Yes
	Lalawmpuia	132	28	Yes	Yes
	Lalsangzela	115	29	Yes	Yes

Evidence of Success: This effort has proved successful in making library going a regular not only among the students but the faculty members as well. As many of the staff members are pursuing research, a regular visit to library has been helping them a lot with regard to providing resources. The staff members who have already completed doctoral research do help their peers in using the library as library use is an integral part of research. The interaction between the library staff, teaching staff and the students do build a healthy academic environment within the campus.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The conferring of “Best Library User Award” no doubt is motivational if seen from a larger context. But it is still not free from any problem. Some of the common problems encountered are the following:

1. So far, the “Best Library User Award” is given only to the students but not to the staff members. At a certain point, the teachers may tend to feel discouraged and demotivated.
2. It has been found that sometimes more than one student is eligible to receive the same award fulfilling all the criteria. Hence, it sometimes becomes difficult to choose one particular student among the lot.
3. Since the institution has only six departments, the resources, although adequate compared to the student-teacher ratio, are somewhat limited. It has been found that some books have multiple copies, but with the same edition. Hence, resources are required to purchase books with more editions

Notes (Optional): The above-mentioned limitations however do not deter the students from not going to library. But the following actions may be taken to address the above-mentioned problems:

1. The teaching staff members should also be given “Best Library User Award” in appreciation of their good work and to encourage and motivate them
2. A proposal may be sent to the state government to establish few more departments in our institution. More departments will lead to procurement of more library resources
3. Instead of one, at least Two/Three Best Library User Awards can be given to the students

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice: Environment Awareness and Green Campus

Green Campus Program enables schools and colleges to conserve natural resources like water and biodiversity, optimize energy efficiency, manage waste and educate about climate change and sustainability while addressing well-being of the students as compared to conventional educational institutes. 'Green campus' is a concept that stands for the efforts to establish environmentally sustainable practices in any institution. Its goal is to diminish the impact of ecological footprints by implementing the principles of sustainability at every level of institutional functioning

Objectives:

Green campus initiatives are becoming an integral part of the modern-day education system and the institutions can act as pioneers in promoting these principles within society. Govt. Khawzawl College has initiated the green campus program in order to support a sustainable and climate-friendly environment. The main objectives of these initiatives are to create environmental awareness and to give education on the use of sustainable energy and energy efficient measures and comprehensive recycling and composting and green landscaping in the campus. The main aim and objective of this green audit are to assess the environmental quality and the management strategies being implemented in the college. The specific objectives are:

1. To impart quality knowledge through effective teaching and to make the students become an environmentally-conscious complete man
2. To assess the quality of the water and soil in the college campus
3. To monitor the energy consumption pattern of the college
4. To quantify the liquid and solid waste generation and management plans in the campus
5. To impart environment management plans among the students and staff members of the college
6. To create a database for corrective actions and future plans
7. To assess whether extracurricular activities of the institution support the collection, recovery, reuse and recycling of solid wastes.
8. To identify the gap areas and suggest recommendations to improve the Green Campus status of the College.

The Context:

The main focus behind this Green campus program is to ensure the sustainability of sufficient water, materials and other resources for the future generation. But the main challenge is the proper translation of the education for sustainable development into practice so that it can be more effective. Any new development should consider and maintain the proper balance of economic, social and environmental conditions and the participation of all the staff members and students is very important. More stress is being given on the proper infrastructural development so as to continue and maintain the green practices. Waste minimization plans for the educational institute are now mandatory to maintain the cleanliness of the campus. To find out the environmental performance of the educational institutions and to analyze the possible solutions for converting the educational campus as eco-campus the conduction of Green Auditing of institution is essential. This is the first attempt to conduct green auditing of this college campus. This audit mainly focuses on greening indicators like consumption of energy in terms of electricity and fossil fuel, quality of soil and water, vegetation, waste management practices of the campus.

Green Campus:

Eco campus is a concept implemented in many educational institutions, all over the world to make them sustainable because of their mass resource utilization and waste discharge into the environment.

The institution organizes various environmental programmes through clubs and committees. Activities like cleanliness drive, plantation programme, weed clearing, paper recycling and nature work are included in these programmes. The institution also observed various environmental days like Earth Day, World Environment Day, Green Mizoram Day, Awareness campaign on Water Conservation etc

The Practice:

Govt. Khawzawl College has promoted a wide array of activities to help protect the environment and sustain its natural resources. The college is smoke free and is also a partially plastic free campus. During rainy season the roof rain water is collected through filter fitted pipes in a reservoir and used for urinal, toilet and

gardening purposes. The college has installed solar panels on the roofs which generates 900kW/month energy. The college has also installed LED facilities in the classroom, seminar room and examination room of the main campus. The campus harbours a diverse amount of flora and fauna. About 100 trees&plants& different species of animals and birds are there in the campus.

Plastic-free campus: It is a programme organized in the campus that aims to reduce plastic pollution on college campus with special focus on the reduction and elimination of plastic bottles, plastic straws, utensils and plastic food packaging materials. The college organizes various programmes like Recycling of Plastic Products campaign and awareness classes on World Environment Day, Green Mizoram week& World Earth Day. Instead of buying bottled water student take initiatives to buy refillables to carry in the campus and the students are also encouraged to use paper pens.

Waste Diversion: The College has implemented composting and recycling programmes. Separate dust bins are provided to collect bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Every week, College wastes are collected by District Urban Development Office, Khawzawl.

Water Usage: Rain water harvesting facilities were established for the effective management of water and they are promoted among the student.

Energy Management: The college also implemented various methods to save energy. Solar panels were installed in college and hostels to reduce the consumption of electricity. Street lights were erected around the campus and they are powered by solar energy. Instead of CFL lamps, LED bulbs are used in hostels, class rooms and in the office.

Green Campus: The maintenance of the garden on a regular basis is done by green campus volunteers. As a part of this a team of volunteers visiting the garden on a set time rears the plants. National Service Scheme and Eco Club of Govt. Khawzawl College jointly organized “Fire Prevention Week 2022” in the college on 21st February, 2022 by cleaning the campus and classrooms and spreading awareness among the students on Fire Safety.

Important Activities:

Apart from the activities mentioned earlier, there were some other activities

which were carried out in the campus and in the locality. To mention a few:

1. World Environment Day: It was observed on 4th June, 2022 and Tuisen River was cleaned as part of it and plastic waste and garbage were removed from the river.
2. Green Mizoram Day: Green Mizoram Day was observed on 10th June, 2022 and thirty students participated and tree saplings were planted as part of the programme.
3. Introduction of Apiculture (Honey Bee Culture)
4. Green Audit: With the initiative of Green Audit Cell, an awareness programme was conducted on environmental issues. The cell also examined the effect of green initiative campaign in the campus and a review was made. The college was certified for conducting Green Audit by Divisional Forest Officer, Khawzawl Forest Division (External Auditor).
5. Ban on Single Use Plastic: A pledge was taken on the “Ban on Single Use Plastic” by the students and the staff members.
6. Paper Recycling Management Training: NSS Unit of the college and Eco Club of the institution jointly organized “Paper Recycling Management Training” in the Multipurpose Hall of the college on 27th April, 2022. A total of 1027 paper bags were made as part of programme. The first prize went to Vanlalchhuanawmi of 6th semester for making 228 paper bags.

The institution also organises various environmental awareness programmes through clubs and committees. Activities like cleanliness drive and plantation programme are included under these programmes. The institution also observed various environmental days like Earth Day and Awareness Campaign on Water Conservation was organized. This had developed a sense of responsibility among the students and they got a better understanding of their role as advocates of environmental conservation. The presence of a large number of participants from various school and colleges in different awareness programs organized by our college is really appreciable. The waste disposal management initiative taken by our college is yielding very good results. Also, the solar energy generated (900kW/month) by the solar panels installed in the college directly goes to the grid and in the long run can play an important role as a renewable energy source. By installing solar panel, the college is able to save from the monthly electricity bill and no problem like power shutdown is faced during the college hours.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

The main problem encountered in the Green Campus initiative is development and maintenance of proper infrastructure for the green practices. The Green Campus programme should be considered as a necessity in every institution and separate funds should be allotted for this. Implementation of the green practices needs series of awareness programmes to educate more people and train them for it. Going green not only needs investment in terms of money but also a strong will from all the beneficiaries. There were a number of barriers in executing green campus campaign. It was a tedious task in banning plastic completely in the campus. The attitude of faculty members and the students towards changing the campus into plastic free environment was not fully positive. Recycling of non-biodegradable waste material is very expensive and time-consuming. Climatic conditions oftentimes adversely affected the survival of the tree saplings planted by green campus volunteers.

Provide web link to: <https://www.gkzc.edu.in/best-practices/>