

Triggering Gender Sensitisation: A Silent Social Revolution

Title: Creating Zero Tolerance of Gender Inequality

Objectives:

- To make the student community aware of the gender divides that still persist amongst us - family, educational institutions, work place and the community at large
- Using the above as the foundation, to instil in the students and staff appropriate attitude and behaviour towards the other part of society- girls, women, and others who stand beyond the long-held gender binary
- To put an end to all forms of gender stereotypes through changing the attitude and mindset of different stakeholders, and helping them to reflect these in their actions and activities
- Ultimately, to create zero tolerance for gender divide and discrimination to create a society based on gender equality and equity

Context:

Despite several measures undertaken to ensure gender equality and equity in various sectors of national development, gender divide continues to persist albeit on a much-reduced scale. This gender discrimination continues to have its sway right from the family to the work place, both nationally and internationally.

Education offered in educational institutions can make a significant difference in the form of changing the mindscape of students to make gender equality a reality on a sustained basis.

Evidence of Success:

- The College environment evidently demonstrates an inclusive environment wherein boys and girls, men and women are treated equally without a semblance of discrimination.(Code of conduct for classroom and outside)
- The College conducts Gender Audit reflecting its commitment to gender equality and equity and the targets to be achieved for the next academic year.
- In fact, our girl students have consistently exhibited better performance in academic and non-academic activities through several initiatives of the College. (Report Cards of academic and non-academic performances)
- Knocking down the stereotypes of gender barriers, girls enrolled in the College are more than 50 per cent of the students enrolled.
- The College has been successful in enabling the students, both boys and girls to navigate the societal barriers and challenges for acceptance of the “new normal”.

Problems Encountered:

Changing the mindset largely steeped in conservatism and inertia is relatively difficult and takes time. Coordinated action is needed to move away from traditional thinking and practice.

Resources Required:

- The College requires targeted allocation of resources for generating a totally gender neutral and inclusive environment. (Academic, financial)

BEST PRACTICES-2

Title: Thinking Globally and Acting Locally

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Objectives:

- To protect the environment and ensure wellness of individuals and the society at large
- To create an appropriate physical environment upholding the principle of sustainability
- To harness alternate sources of energy
- To take up collaborative programmes in association with NGOs working for the protection of environment
- Reaching out to community by the students with inputs for environmental protection and cleanliness to translate the knowledge acquired and attitudinal change to ensure wellness of the people in their areas.

Context:

Environmental protection is one of the major challenges the global community faces in contemporary times. It is one of the basic prerequisites for the overall development of any society and the world at large. Therefore, it is of paramount significance for any institution to sensitise its students about the significance of the environment, its protection and restoration. Therefore, protecting the environment and ensuring wellness of individuals and the society at large finds a place in the institutional landscape of the College. The College leaves no stone unturned in creating an appropriate physical environment.

Evidence of success:

The following are some exemplar initiatives of the College:

- The College conducts “Green Audit” reflecting its commitment to environmental protection.

- Boards of Studies of all disciplines- Arts, Science and Commerce- have incorporated environmental crisis, concerns and issues in the curriculum and text materials
- A Botanical Garden with wide varieties of medicinal plants has been created, diligently nurtured and developed on the College Campus.
- On important occasions like World Environment Day, World Population Day, Earth Day and Soil Day plantation drives have been taken up largely through the initiatives of NSS, NCC, YRS.
- The College Campus is always kept neat and clean through the collective efforts of students and staff.
- Nine units of solar panels were installed to harness solar energy to be used during exigencies on the College Campus, primarily to ensure lighting of the Campus.
- The College has designed a Core Paper on Environmental Education which has been introduced to the undergraduate students across streams at entry level. Several issues and concerns relating to environment and its protection have been included in this Paper which prepares young students with a mission to protect their environment at all spaces. Members of the teaching work force are being provided with Continuous Professional Development on methodology of teaching environmental education for its greater impact on students, both intended and hidden curriculum.
- Environmental Calendar is a planned and systematic programme, the College accords topmost priority. It is never taken up as an episodic event, rather it is taken up through a well-articulated Plan of Action: Institutional Environmental Calendar. A series of programmes and activities dispersed across the academic year are placed in the Calendar for their execution. The Calendar reflects an omnibus range of activities that are intended for protection of environment of the campus.
- The College has taken up a number of collaborative programmes in a association with NGOs working for the protection of environment.

Problems Encountered:

- Sensitising the community about the significance of environment and its protection is difficult and takes time.

Resources Required:

- Inadequate manpower for maintaining cleanliness on the campus
Inadequate resources for investment in use of alternate sources of energy
- Trained manpower to realize the commitment towards environmental protection
- Our mission for Environmental Protection does not remain as a rhetoric, rather it is being translated into reality through the collective action of all concerned- students and staff. All students and staff swear a pledge to protect, preserve and create the College environment transforming into a green and clean campus. This has created a sense of self-driven voluntarism towards creating a “common”.
- Collectively conceptualised as long-term vision and mission, the intervention has produced demonstrable results creating a model institutional environment, with its spill effects on other educational institutions in the state. This has developed a strong and sustainable connect between students and the environment. The guiding *mantra* has been the creation of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP).



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