

Best Practices of the Institute

Best Practices of the Institute “Open Defecation Free (ODF) Village Campaign”

2. Objectives: • To swing the populace into the Central Government’s Scheme of Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan. • To make the villages clean through behavioral change. • To eliminate the lumber of communicable diseases like Malaria, Diarrhea and Cholera. • To materialize the dictum “Sound mind and body reside in clean environment. • To free the rural women folks from the restraint of shame. • To make the villagers aware of Government’s scheme of financial assistance in building toilets through Grampanchayat. • To establish an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use.

3. The Context: Despite government’s continuous efforts to bring rural area in the mainstream, Indian villages are still Under developed in most of the departments. Especially, Indian villages need to work hard in the area of health and hygiene if they really want to exterminate the dark clouds of epidemics. Even in the new millennium, Indian villages are still indulging in the hazardous traditional practices that pose a dire threat to their very existence. Open defecation is one such practice which has not only polluted the air we breathe in, but also the water which is an elixir of life. This has led to invite many an epidemic in the countryside area and has had a disrupting influence on the health of the people. Many reasons can be counted for open defecation in the rural areas. Either the villagers do not have a toilet readily accessible, or they do not want to renounce the traditional cultural practice. The result is that they choose fields, bushes, forests, ditches, streets and canals for defecation. This dirt then spoils the soil, water and air and becomes the chief instrument for spreading diseases rapidly all over.

4. The Practice:

Near about 80 of our students are from nearby villages. Tirthpuri being central to the villages in the neighborhood, we all are well connected to the whole rural community. While conducting various extension activities in these villages through N.S.S. camps and other activities, we found that most of the population of these villages defecates openly. The Programme Officers discussed this issue with the local sarpanch along with the natives and found that financial constraints and traditional habits are chiefly counted for this. This issue was seriously discussed with the principal and the decision of conducting a survey on sanitation in nearby villages is taken in the IQAC meeting conducted in the year 2015. Three different villages were chosen to conduct the sanitation survey each year in order to aware the people of hazards of open defecation. The idea was also to relate to them that financial assistance under the government's scheme of "Swaccha Bharat Campaign" is available to construct the water closets through Grampanchayat of the village. The questionnaire for conducting the survey was prepared and the first survey took place at Bhoggaon which is 08 Kilometers away from Tirthpuri. The N.S.S. Programme Officers along with 15 volunteers and some teachers conducted the survey. It was found that 60 toilets in this village were available and there was a need to prompt the remaining families to construct toilets with safety tanks. The villagers were convinced by this team and the local sarpanch and assured these families to help them fill the forms to avail the financial assistance. Now there are 95 toilets at Boggaon thanks to the efforts taken by the institute with the support of the local sarpanch. In the year 2016-2017, second village Bachegaon was selected for sanitation survey. The condition of sanitation was worst in this village as there were only 45 toilets. Largely, the outskirts of the main road which is very close to the habitation was used by the villagers to defecate. Remaining 55 families were oriented about the necessity of toilets and the efforts came to full fruition as there are now more than 80 toilets. Eklahera is the third village

where the sanitation survey was carried out in the year 2017-2018. Basically, this village is restructured through rehabilitation and maximum families are well-off due to the availability of ever flowing water through the express canal. Initially, there were more than 75 toilets available here and due to the directions given to the rest of the families by the team, now almost every family has got its own toilet constructed either with their own money or with financial assistance by the government. In short, the efforts taken by the teachers and the students of the institute have come to full culmination as the use of toilets has increased to an overwhelming degree. In the year 2019-2020, one more village Ramasgaon was adopted for sanitation survey by the N.S.S. team. Initially, almost 70 toilets were available there and it was decided that efforts should be taken to increase the sanitation of the village. Same procedure was adopted and through the Sarpanch, the N.S.S. unit oriented the villagers and the result was wonderful as always. Now the percentage of toilets increased to almost 88 thanks to the efforts taken.

5. Evidence of Success: 1) The percentage of illnesses has decreased as per the opinion expressed by the natives due to the optimum use of toilets. 2) The use of toilets has minimized the air, water and soil pollution to a considerable degree. 3) Women of the villages are now free from the restraint of shame. 4) More and more families are applying for financial assistance from the government through Grampanchayat.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The job of convincing the villagers about the use of toilets was a challenge to a considerable degree. The villagers were reluctant to use the toilets in spite of its availability. The chief reason for this was that they were unable to free themselves from the chain of past habit. When they were systematically made aware of different diseases caused by open defecation, they were convinced. Most of them were also not in the mood to spend 20-30 thousand

rupees for constructing their own toilets as they felt that this is a sheer wastage of money, time and energy due to the availability of fields of their own to perform this task. But the example of cities regarding the optimal use of toilets, government's campaign for maintaining cleanliness and crusade carried for Gram Swachata by Sant Gadgebaba changed their minds. The chief resources required to implement this practice are skilled man power to build toilets, money which the scheme of the government has provided to the needy and a will power to free the mind from traditional habits. The painstaking efforts of the institute overcame these problems and contributed in the Gram Swatcchata Abhiyan as a part of government's Swaccha Bharat Campaign.

Best Practice II

1. Title of the Practice: Inculcation of Nationalistic Spirit through Daily National Anthem and Suvichar (Thought of the Day) Reading in the Morning congregation.

2. Objectives: • To Inculcate the feeling of Patriotism in the minds of the young learners • To spread the message of liberty, equality and brotherhood • To promote values, ethics and morality through different thoughts expressed by philosophers and thinkers • To extend the feelings of mutual love and respect • To entice the students to read philosophical books. • To persuade the students to enhance their General Knowledge

3. The Context: The idea of starting the morning congregation occurred to the principal due to the meager student strength on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony. This issue was discussed with the staff members in one of the meetings and it was unanimously decided that the morning congregation is essential to foster the feeling of patriotism in the minds of the students. It was also decided to invite at least one student to read proverbs, Thought of the Day and important news across the world.

4. The Practice: Each day in the

morning at 11.15, the students assemble in front of the main building for singing National Anthem. After this, students are required to read the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. One of the students reads it line by line and other students follow the suit. This activity is followed by reading “Thought of the Day” and important news from the newspapers after which the congregation comes to an end. It takes approximately 15 minutes to complete the process.

5. Evidence of Success: Due to this practice, the number of students in the Republic Day and Independence Day functions increased to a considerable degree. It is also noted that the students have started reading miscellaneous books in order to enhance their general knowledge which is likely to benefit them in various competitive examinations. As per the information provided by the librarian, most of the students are seen reading various General Knowledge books to share the information in the morning congregation. It is also noted that this practice helped the students to cast off their shy nature and enhanced their stage courage. In addition to this, this practice helped to inculcate a spirit of patriotism in them. It is also to be proudly mentioned here that the Government of Maharashtra made singing of National Anthem compulsory in all Higher Educational Institutions across the state from the year 2020.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Initially, very few students ventured to perform on the stage in order to read the preamble and thought of the day due to lack of stage courage. However, the number of students increased gradually. A lot of reading resources on general studies is available in the college library and more and more students are reading this material. • The institute plans to undertake a new Best Practice of making the villages near Tirthpuri aware of different Governmental schemes which highlight and foster the importance of Girls Education, Family Planning and schemes for two girls in a family like Mazi Kannya Bhaggyashree. As most of

the villagers are still unaware of these schemes, they are unable to avail the benefits of these schemes as these are yet out of reach of the masses. Hence, the N.S.S. unit of the institute is collaborating with the departments of Zilla Parishad for spreading awareness about these schemes.