

**CO-OPERATIVE ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE,
MADAYI**

AQAR – 2020-21

Re-Accreditation Cycle 2



CRITERION 7 – BEST PRACTICES

Title of the Programme:

Use of Solar Energy as a Sustainable Campus initiative

Goals

1. To promote Renewable Source of energy
2. To minimise the cost of electricity
3. To reduce the maintenance cost
4. To promote effective use of natural resources

Context

With the increasing emphasis on renewable energy sources and sustainability, integrating solar power systems on college campuses not only reduces the institution's carbon footprint but also serves as an educational opportunity for students and faculty. The transition to renewable energy sources is imperative for minimising the climate change and its effect on the environment. Solar energy, being abundant and environmentally friendly, offers a viable solution for colleges seeking to hold sustainable practices. Our institution is undergoing a situation of more electric power requirement both for academic and administrative purposes. Further the college is situating in a place which is more suitable for availing and exploiting the solar energy. The institution utilising the solar energy as a substitute for electric power for almost 40% of its administrative activities.

Practice

The institution is using Solar energy as an alternative for electric power. About 60 % of the power requirement of the institution is met by this source. The main advantage of using it is its multiple usage value. Majority of the power required for office and other administrative work were met from this source. Low electricity bill and diverse application is the most attractive factor of Solar energy. Further, the climate and the domicile of the institution favours towards the most effective use of the system with lower maintenance cost.

For operationalising the system, installed solar panels on the rooftops, and took necessary steps to generate electricity. The practice involves students, faculty, and staff in solar energy initiatives through workshops, seminars, and practical demonstrations. The system provides the campus community to ensure that solar projects align with their values and expectations.

The institution established a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the performance and impact of solar installations over time, ensuring optimal efficiency and addressing any issues.

Evidence of Success

Solar energy is a clean and renewable resource, significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the college. Solar installations lead to substantial cost savings on electricity bills, contributing to the college's financial sustainability. Electricity power failures do not affect the administrative work of the college. The solar panels stand as a standby mode during power cuts that may extend to several hours.

Problems Encountered and Resources required

Initial investment became a challenge for the institution to introduce it as a best practice. Grants and incentives received from govt and other agencies were only limited. Apart from this the institution has to be informed about the regulatory requirement and work with relevant authorities to ensure regulatory compliance of solar energy installations. Because of Covid 19 pandemic the institution was not in a position to use the benefit of the solar energy like all other facilities.





Title of the Programme:

Title "Street Sustenance: Nourishment and Aid for the Homeless"

Objective

- a. To provide immediate nourishment and aid to homeless individuals.
- b. To establish sustainable support systems for the sidelined people of the locality.
- c. To foster empathy and sympathy for the suffering.
- c. To build the students as a committed and dedicated citizen for tomorrow by understanding the pulse of society they live.

Context

As part of our commitment to social responsibility and community engagement, we have initiated various programs aimed at providing sustenance, support, and aid to the homeless

population in our locality. Support for the homeless is a best practice initiative aimed at addressing the nutritional and humanitarian needs of homeless individuals living on the streets. In response to the growing crisis of homelessness in street areas such as bus stand premises, Railway station etc. This initiative focuses on providing sustenance and essential aid to those experiencing homelessness. The increasing number of individuals experiencing homelessness in street areas necessitates effective interventions to address their basic needs. Students of our college identified this requirement and formulated a practice in association with the college union, NCC and NSS named the programme of "Street Sustenance: Nourishment and Aid for the homeless". During the months of November and December the students make it a point to collect bedsheets and blankets to be distributed among these homeless people. This initiative has been called 'Snehaputhappu' meaning blanket of love. Further once in every Thursday, the selected students carry extra meals packet from their home and supply it to the vagrants. This practice is carried out under the banner of various student organisations, NCC and NSS. The teachers also support the practice in various ways. This practice operates within the socio-economic context of urban homelessness, addressing the immediate needs of homeless individuals of the locality.

Evidence of Success

- Supply of meals to the homeless is treated as a blessed one by those who were to the ones who were sidelined in the society.
- Nourishment and Aid for the Homeless Programme is success by both qualitative and quantitative measures, reflecting its impact on homeless individuals and the broader society.
- Active Community engagement is Possible by the students and thereby learn the lesson of commitment and helping mentality towards their fellow beings.
- Positive Feedback and Responses from the society is an added grade to the programme
In short it is evidenced that effectiveness of the programme in addressing the immediate needs of homeless individuals, fostering community solidarity, and advocating for systemic change is commendable.

Problems Encountered and Resources required

- Limited Resources: Securing adequate resources becomes a major problem encountered during the implementation of the practice. The programme was initiated by the students and they bring food from their own home to supply to the homeless people of the street.

- The demand for the services and the number of individuals experiencing homelessness fluctuate seasonally. Therefore, proper planning was not possible regarding the supply of essential
- During exam days some days students were to do full justice to do this practice.



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