

# 2018-19

## BEST PRACTICE 1

Title of the Practice: **No Motor Vehicle Day**

**Objectives of the Practice:** The main objectives of this practice in the college campus are to generate awareness among the student community and, by extension, among the common public on the importance of minimizing the greenhouse gases and to contribute to the global initiatives against environmental degradation. Due to emission of greenhouse gases, the phenomenon called global warming has posed serious menace to all living beings on earth. The practice of 'No Motor Vehicle Day' on each Saturday aims at increasing the sense of responsibility and accountability in the young minds and to have serious impact on them about the concerns of environment.

**The Context:** Saving the environment from degradation is the moral duty of each person across the globe. Due to development activity and modern luxurious life style, the greenhouse gases have increased to a dangerous level. That is why there is the strong cry for sustainable development across the globe. It is seen that due to modern life style and development activities, emission of greenhouse gases cannot completely be stopped. Yet, it can be minimized by following methods of green practices. With this philosophical bent, Morigaon College has launched the 'No Motor Vehicle Day' in 2019 which is to be enacted on every Saturday. The college family believes that every effort or every bit of contribution towards saving environment really matters. By practicing 'No Motor Vehicle Day' on each Saturday, the young minds are encouraged to follow the dictates of the cry of environmentalists. Though the syllabi have contents of the environment issues, yet the students earn the theoretical knowledge only about it. This practice is the example of practical execution of saving the earth and its environment by minimizing emission of greenhouse gases.

**The Practice:** The college family has taken a solemn vow in 2018 that from the next year they follow no motor vehicle day each Saturday to contribute to the cause of saving the environment from its degradation. Thereafter, all the stakeholders of the institution including the principal of the college, teaching staffs, non-teaching staffs and student community follow this practice on each Saturday by avoiding personal motor vehicles like car, motor bike, scotty etc. Instead, the college family uses bicycles and public transport. The persons residing in the nearby areas come to college by walking. This green practice of 'No Motor Vehicle Day' is also highlighted in the college prospectus intended to spread the message of environmental concern of the institution to the new incumbents and the parents and guardians. In addition to that, when the new admission process is over following the new academic year, orientation on this practice is given with highlights on the responsibility of each member of earth towards saving the environment. The new incumbents take oath that it is their accountability 'to save environment and to save life'. The knowledge of the students on environment is

freshened and deepened that global warming in the present-day context is a major hurdle to the environment and to life. In the context of higher education system, this is a unique and distinctive practice in an academic institution. Though there are contents of syllabi for students that deal with environment issues and concerns, those are theoretical parts. By practicing ‘No Motor Vehicle Day’, the students are familiar with a practical approach to save the earth and its environment. The students adopt habits of eco-friendly approach and start considering this to be a part of their culture.

**Evidence of Success:** The college considers ‘No Motor Vehicle Day’ to be a best practice of the institution. This practice has a lot of positive outcomes and results. Mainly, it is a remarkable green practice. Firstly, by this practice, the student community has become more aware to the environmental cause. They learn about green approach through practice. There is visible change in the students’ behavior towards environment. There is reflection of environmental concerns in the students’ behavior in using drinking water, fans and lights in the classrooms and in the canteens. Secondly, there is remarkable increase of responsibility and accountability of students towards environment and its pollutants. Thirdly, the teachers as well as students are habituated to green practices like cycling and walking. Due to this practice, there is revival of olden habits of cycling and walking. There is remarkable increase of using bicycle and walking among the teachers and students. Fourthly, through this practice, message of environmental concerns is spread to the common public. In the alumni and parents/guardian meetings, this practice is highly appreciated and encouraged to plan and execute more such practices.

**Problem Encountered and Resources Required:** There are constraints and limitations in every system. In exercising this practice of ‘No Motor Vehicle Day’, there was certain problems initially. A majority of students come from rural areas. Likewise, many teachers reside outside college campus. On Saturday they require to rely on public transport. Initially many students were a little bit hesitant, but gradually they coped up with this problem and found adjustment with the public transport system.

## **BEST PRACTICE 2**

Title of the Practice: **Horticulture Gardening**

**Objectives of the Practice:** The main objectives of this practice are to impart training to the undergraduate students, to enhance skill and ingenuity in gardening for self-employment, to make students familiar with the eco-friendly practice and to heighten the sense of aesthetic beauty in students and to generate an additional source of income for the institution. Horticulture gardening is one of the most profitable and eco-friendly practices in the present world. Giving training and knowledge to the undergraduate students is not only increasing the sense of

aesthetic quality, but also it provides them opportunities of earning in future by gardening and by establishing nursery for commercial purpose.

**The Context:** In the modern-day context, horticulture gardening is an aesthetic as well as ecological practice that has substantial contribution to environment and economy. Nurturing and nourishing saplings of flowers, fruit trees and any other plant species is a wonderful activity. It has all the positive aspects for caring of varieties of plant species in a systematic and scientific way. By this practice, the undergraduate students receive training and orientation on this science and art of gardening for sustainable development and production, marketing and use of high-value, intensively cultivated food and ornamental plants. The students are empowered with practical skill which can motivate them to engage in such green practice of gardening. The students receive inspiration by this practice for further study of such courses of horticulture. It creates an environment of interest and curiosity among students for this art and it also germinates interest among students for research in this field.

**The Practice:** The horticulture garden in the college campus is established in 2018 with the main initiatives from the Botany Department of the college. The garden is located in five-acre land areas in the eastern side of the college campus. Organic method is adopted in the practice. The garden was inaugurated by Mr. Piyush Hazarika, State Health Minister and Mr. Rama Kanta Dewri, MLA, Morigaon constituency. There are fourteen types of plant species and currently one hundred seventy-seven number of plants. There are *Mangifera Indica*, *Citrus Sps*, *Selenicereus*, *Ziziphus Sps*, *Musa Sps*, *Litchi Sinensis*, *Capsicum Sps*, *Lycopersicum Esculentum*, *Solanum Melengona*, *Solanum Nigrum*, *Luffa Sps*, *Cucurbit Asps*, *Pyrus Malus* and *Solanum Lycopersicum*. The Botany department, Morigaon College, has been given core responsibility to lead the practice of horticulture gardening. A majority of the students from science departments and commerce department take part in this practice. However, interested students from arts departments also take part in the practice. The botany department arranges and makes schedules for training and orientation. A more practical approach is adopted in the training. The students enjoy learning different aspects of the practice like plant identification, propagation, disease management, plant breeding, land restoration, soil management, landscape and garden designing etc. The learners get ample scope for understanding of plant diversity and ways to take care of them in correspondence to the environmental factors prevailing such as seasonal changes and disease management. Horticulture training also helps the students to expertise in soil quality assessment and administration for better plan growth, development and productivity. Nursery development and management techniques are taught in such way which is of practical utility. In the context of higher education, this practice is a distinctive and unique one. In the era of serious environmental problems, this practice bears significance. It gives inspiration through theoretical and practical knowledge and motivates the students towards green practice. It enhances their skill and knowledge which show them new avenues for further study and research. It also consolidates their belief that by horticulture gardening, one can earn and can become entrepreneur.

**Evidence of Success:** Morigaon College considers horticulture gardening to be a best practice of the institution. It has a lot of positive outcomes and impact on the student community. Firstly, a substantial amount of money is earned last year and the production of fruits and vegetables in the garden is remarkable. A fund of the horticulture garden is maintained by the department of Botany. Secondly, it has proven to be a successful practice as the student community, especially the science stream students are highly benefitted. The student community express a demand to the authority of the college for introduction of regular degree course of Horticulture in the college. Thirdly, it is a sustainable green practice that has benefits on different counts. Due to this practice, the green carpet is increased in the campus. It has contribution to the global noble cause for environment protection.

**Problem Encountered and Resources Required:** There are constraints and limitations in every system. In implementing the practice 'Horticulture Gardening' in the college, there were certain problems at the initial stage. The problems are mainly related to the infrastructural inputs for starting up the practice. Problems like lack of skilled labour, fencing the land area and financial requirement for buying seeds and saplings are initially faced. However, the problems are sorted out with the cooperation and help from the college authority. The college authority is also ready for extra inputs for channeling more resources.