

BEST PRACTICE - II

1. Title of the Practice:

Paper Recycling Unit

2. Objective of the Practice:

The major objective of the paper recycling unit in the college is to recycle the used paper disposed of by the students, staff and different sections/departments of the college (administrative, accounts, computers, library, Principal's office as well as different academic subject departments). It aims at providing training to the students and the teaching and non-teaching staff to make paper by their own hands by using the waste paper of the college. This would raise awareness among all the members of the college community towards paper saving as well as the need of environment protection. One of the basic ideas behind this endeavor is the belief that at least those who prepare recycled paper even once do not waste paper themselves.

3. The Context:

College is an academic institution where the use of paper is integral. Students use paper for various purposes such as class notes, assignments, class tests etc. A considerable quantity of paper is also used in different administrative departments as mentioned above. Most of the used paper was earlier thrown in the dustbins and got wasted. It was realized that when a paper can be recycled and reused for a number of times then why not to have paper recycling machine in the college itself and train the students.

4. The Practice:

We have a manual paper recycling machine installed in a separate room where the students come for paper making training. They themselves prepare the pulp for making paper and carry out the whole process till they put the paper in the pressing machine. Different colours are mixed in the pulp to get different coloured papers. Some chemicals and bleaching powder are mixed in different proportions for getting different varieties of paper. Thus the waste paper collected from different departments of the college are recycled to be used for various purposes such as post cards, envelopes, note sheets, file covers, diaries, coloured papers besides the making of a regular A4 size papers. Everyday a good number of students use the paper recycling machine and approximately 5 kg. of waste paper is recycled.

More and more students are encouraged to make paper by themselves for writing their assignments. All the records are maintained.

5. Evidence of Success:

There are clear indications that students are getting aware about the proper use of paper. It also includes the idea that they should not waste paper at all. This is evident from the fact that every year during the student union elections some of the students preferred not to use paper at all during the election campaigns in the college. Generally it is realized that such students carrying out a paperless campaign are well recognized by the student voters so much so that some of them even won the elections. Some teachers have successfully motivated the students to submit the assignments by using the recycled paper sheets. The invitation letters to the guests are also sent on our own recycled paper which is always appreciated by the distinguished guests visiting the college. Sometimes media persons also visit to college to see our Paper Recycling Unit.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

One of the problems is the staff crunch to run the Paper Recycling Unit. We have only one staff assigned for this job. Secondly, it requires special efforts to motivate the students and co-ordinate their activities. Also the machines and instruments used are manual and not very advanced. So it involves a lot of physical activity.

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