

7.2.1 Best Practice

Title of Practice 1: Reduction in utilization of single-use plastic in college

Objectives of the Practice:

- **Prohibition of Single-Use Plastic:** Aiming to diminish the usage of single-use plastic by banning the use of such plastic commodities in the college premises.
- **Promoting Sustainable Alternatives:** Encourage the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives to plastic, such as reusable containers, jute bags, and steel water bottles.
- **Raising Awareness:** Educate students and staff about the environmental impact of plastic pollution, fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness.
- **Waste Reduction:** Implement waste reduction strategies, such as recycling programs, to minimize the overall environmental footprint associated with plastic disposal.

The Context:

In response to the escalating environmental concerns associated with plastic pollution, the "Beat the Plastic (Eco SDG Championship)" campaign was conceived as a proactive measure within our college community. Recognizing the imperative to mitigate the adverse impacts of plastic consumption, this initiative emerged with a central focus on fostering awareness, instigating behavior change, and strategically collaborating with existing college entities. By addressing the contextual urgency of plastic pollution, the campaign aspires to shape a sustainable and responsible paradigm within the college environment, aligning with broader global efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Practice:

1. **Awareness Campaigns:** Students took proactive measures to raise awareness about the adverse effects of plastic consumption. Engaged in educational campaigns highlighting environmental hazards associated with plastic usage.
2. **Plastic Collection Drive:** Organized and participated in a collective effort to collect plastic waste within the college premises.
Emphasized responsible waste management by channeling collected plastic towards donations, notably to organizations like Blue Planet.
3. **Collaborations with College Societies:** Forged strategic partnerships with existing college societies, including Pravridhi, the eco club of the college.
Leveraged collaborative efforts to promote sustainable practices and amplify the impact of plastic reduction initiatives.

- 4. Engagement with College Events:** Identified high-impact events such as the Karvaan fest, which leads to substantial plastic waste generation. Collaborated with event organizers to implement sustainable practices and minimize the environmental footprint associated with plastic usage during such occasions.

This structured framework showcases the diverse strategies employed by the initiative, ranging from awareness-building to collaborative endeavors, contributing to a holistic and effective reduction of plastic usage within the college environment.

Evidence of Success: The college was recognized as District Eco-SDG Champion 2023 with outstanding performance Grade 'S' for East Delhi District by APEX SDG, MSME. The college successfully demonstrated its support to sustainable development goals and social responsibility by conducting and showcasing several Eco-SDG and Skill development activities. The College received another certificate of appreciation under the Blue Nudge - DRIIV – DEEPC fellowship for carrying out a collection drive for 3 months for waste plastic, PET and paper, nudging students and staff in the college. This program was carried out under the able guidance and leadership of the faculty members including Dr. Rekha Mehrotra, Prof. Radhika Bakshi and Dr. Richa Sharma as the chief faculty Coordinators for proper implementation of the program. The college also participated and contributed to the World Environment Day 2023 by implementing the activities of Mission LIFE for adding impetus to behavior change useful for the institution neighborhood and home. The college was awarded the GREEN DISTRICT CHAMPION certificate in the east district of Delhi for the session 2022-23. The college was also recognized for its holistic approach toward spreading awareness, influencing and sensitizing various stakeholders on cleanliness, resource management, energy-efficient practices, and promoting environmentally sustainable practices.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Due to the heavy academic workload in science courses and time constraints, faculty and students face difficulty in integrating environmental activities within their regular academic schedules. There is also a need for awareness about better plastic alternatives which are convenient to use so as to motivate the anti-plastic movement.



Title of Practice 2: Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation and Imparting Entrepreneurial skills

Objectives of the Practice:

- Cultivation of various types of mushrooms such as button mushroom, oyster mushroom and king oyster mushroom.
- Determining the favorable conditions of growth required by different types of mushrooms.
- Development of an appropriate compost.
- Learn optimum farming techniques
- Identify and devise resources for mushroom cultivation.
- Enhance entrepreneurial skills.
- Develop networks with other mushroom growers and institutions.

The Context:

The mushroom cultivation program by Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women is a certificate course and faculty development program organized by the Department of Microbiology in association with Enactus, Rajguru. The program aims to popularize mushroom cultivation and consumption among masses by imparting quality knowledge and training about the methods and benefits of mushroom growth. The program also enhances entrepreneurial skills and develops network with other institutions. The program is conducted in hybrid (online and offline) mode and sessions are held at periodic intervals. The program started in the first week of October 2023.

The Practice:

The Mushroom Cultivation Program at SRCASW is a comprehensive learning experience encompassing both theoretical and hands-on practical sessions. The theoretical aspect delves into diverse topics including the historical context, taxonomy, morphology, ecology, and overall diversity of mushrooms. Complementing this knowledge, practical sessions offer demonstrations and immersive training covering substrate preparation, spawning, incubation, harvesting, and preservation techniques.

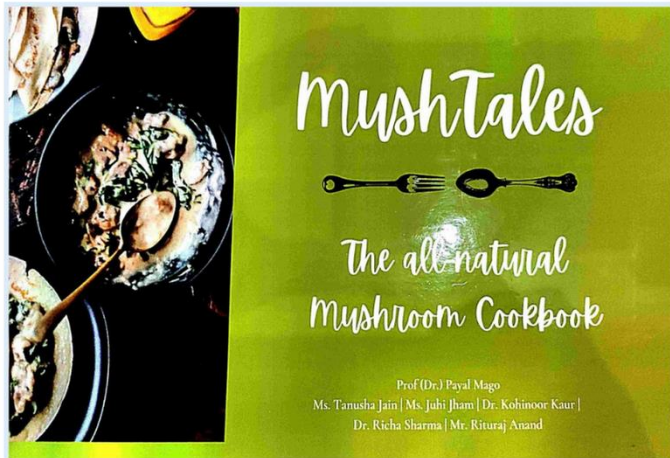
Participants not only gain insights into the nutritional, medicinal, and environmental advantages of mushrooms but also navigate the intricacies of challenges and opportunities in cultivation. The program extends exposure to various mushroom types like button, oyster, milky, shiitake, and reishi, broadening participants' understanding of the field. Ultimately, the program is meticulously designed to empower participants with the skills and knowledge essential for initiating their own mushroom cultivation units or enterprises.

Evidence of Success: The college was invited to put up a stall showcasing mushroom cultivation at the Flower Show organized by the University of Delhi in February 2022. The event was graced by Prof. Yogesh Singh, the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of University. The vibrant variety of mushrooms were also displayed at the DU Centenary Celebration event in May 2023. The showcase was visited by the honorable Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, who appreciated the efforts and achievements of the program. The students and faculty members also

received appreciation certificates for their enthusiastic participation in organizing India Mushroom Summit 2023 in association with Milkyway Spawn Technologies Ltd.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The Mushroom Cultivation Certificate Course and Faculty Development Program has been organized by the College for 3 years, however, presently only seasonal cultivation of mushrooms can be undertaken. Upscaling of the mushroom cultivation and round the year cultivation would require more sophisticated facilities like climate control rooms, compost yard, spawn lab etc.

Mushroom showcase at DU Centenary Celebrations, visited by Honorable Prime Minister



INVITED STALL IN UNIVERSITY FLOWER SHOW VISITED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. YOGESH SINGH AND OTHER DIGNITARIES



