

KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

TWO BEST PRACTICES

1. **Title of the Practice:** Green Consciousness: Towards a Sustainable Future

2. **Objectives of the Practice** (100 words)

At KNC, the vision of excellence and value-based education encompasses fostering an environmental consciousness amongst the stakeholders:

- To conserve natural resources and promote alternate energy sources in an endeavour towards achieving carbon neutrality in the campus.
- To make the College campus and neighbourhood clean and green by adopting and promoting eco-friendly measures for sustainable development.
- To increase mindfulness about flora and fauna in the surroundings.
- To facilitate value-addition and development of soft skills through students' direct involvement in the practices.
- To help inculcate a culture of self reliance and sustainable development amongst the students, while propagating a sense of commitment and responsibility towards the society and the world we live in.

3. **The Context** (150 words)

In 2019, India generated 1,014,961 tonnes of e-waste, and only 10% of this was officially documented as properly collected and recycled (Source: downtoearth.org.in). The illegal recycling, aimed at profit and recovery of precious metals is done in an unscientific, unethical manner polluting air, water and soil, and posing great occupational hazard. Similarly, on the solid waste production and management front, in metro cities in India, an individual produces an average of 0.8 kg/ waste/ person daily. The total municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in urban India has been estimated at 68.8 million tons per year, of which 51% is organic waste. (Source: indiawaterportal.org) The organic waste can easily be managed on the point of generation itself without increasing the burden on landfills. It is also worth mentioning that India is a country with the largest water footprint of 987 Gm³/yr in the world. Hence the pressing need to save water and manage waste effectively.

4. **The Practice** (400 words)

- **E-waste management:** An e-waste collection bin was installed in the College lobby near the entrance on 12th July 2019. An MoU has been signed with Chintan, an NGO working on waste management for responsible and environmentally safe disposal of electronic waste by licensed recycling units, so as to prevent illegal recycling. The e-waste is collected from the College in due time (as and when the box is full) and involves no financial benefits to the College.
- **Solid waste management:** In November 2019, the College canteen composting plant was inaugurated whereby kitchen waste from the College canteen is systematically treated to yield manure. This manure is used in planters in 'Project Hariyali' – an in-house nursery of curated potted plants for exhibition-cum-sale. The planters particularly appeal to the aesthetic sensibilities of the urban dwellers, who buy them, thus generating some revenue. Thus acquiring the skill of 'learning while doing' as well as exploring sustainable development as a prospective career option.
- **Water footprint:** In a unique initiative of Green Beans Society, the students calculated the water footprint of a representative sample of 800 KNC students using the water footprint calculator developed by the researchers at UNESCO-IHE from waterfootprint.org. It was found that the water footprint of 74% of the students was between 400-1899 cubic meter per year. The study was conducted to make students aware about the judicious use of water by reducing their personal water footprint for a sustainable future.
- The College uses solar power for outdoor lamp posts and practices roof top rainwater harvesting.
- KNC Enactus with its Project Kadam helped the shoemakers to upcycle old discarded denim into fashionable footwear, thus promoting sustainable fashion and generating sustainable solutions to social needs. Denim was collected as part of the Denim Donation Drive organized in College for the said purpose.
- KNC encourages and supports FOD, Family of Disabled, through an MOU signed with it, as an initiative for the disadvantaged and the environment by donating newspapers for the production of pencils made of newspapers to save wood and create livelihood for the disabled people.
- Green Beans, the Environment Club of Kamala Nehru College has been actively raising awareness about biodiversity by undertaking plantation drives, tree count and identification (calculation of biodiversity index), birds, butterfly and dragonfly count in the College campus.
- The NSS and NCC also conduct drives and programmes that contribute significantly towards KNC's commitment to 'Swachh Bharat' campaign.

- NSS volunteers interacted with Vegan Outreach visited to learn ways to promote vegan eating as that causes less harm to the environment and promotes sustainability.
- NSS KNC participated in the National Mission for Clean Ganga, organised on 4th November, 2019 at Dhyanchand National Stadium by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
- Regular lectures, group discussions and workshops on pertinent themes like climate change, forest fires, sustainable development, organic vertical gardens, composting, managing household waste, eradication of single use plastics, among others with industry experts, academics and policy makers has enabled a large community of students to participate in the global discourse on environmental conservation.

5. Evidence of Success (200 words)

- The in-house composting of wet canteen waste produces about 25 kg of organic manure from a waste of 75-80 kg per month. This is directly utilized for enriching the campus soil for cultivation and gardening.
- Further, the organic manure is used to promote Project Hariyali. The latter, as a unique initiative, has been successful in establishing a green entrepreneurial ecosystem in the campus, whereby alongside the harnessing of green consciousness the students are encouraged to adopt sustainable lifestyles.
- The revenue generation under Project Hariyali promotes a sense of independence and creativity with an entrepreneurial mindset.
- The same is true of the e-waste management endeavour as well. Students not only responsibly dispose off their personal e-waste in the College e-waste bin, but also collect the same from their family and neighbourhood. It is worthwhile to note that within three months the 2'x 5' e-waste bin was filled with all kinds of mobile chargers, discarded cell phones, adapters, modems etc.
- This dissemination of green ideology, thus, has successfully initiated a green dialogue in the society at large.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required (150 words)

- The E-waste bin was fabricated with carbonated poly-sheets in the appropriate size and style to have it placed in the College lobby.
- Similarly, the canteen waste composting containers were designed indigenously suiting to the volume of canteen waste and ease of use. The high cost of specialized equipments and set up were avoided in order to adopt economical indigenous options, and thus promote sustainability.

- Some of the environmental initiatives such as water harvesting, use of non-conventional energy option such as solar paneling or waste management plants needs huge investment with long gestation period which is invariably ridden with problems that are technical, monetary and administrative in nature within the institutional machinery.
- Due to the onset of Covid -19, and the imposition of the lockdown since March 2020 as per government guidelines, Project Hariyali is yet to achieve full swing. The composting unit too is temporarily out of operation without any waste as the canteen is non-functional in the absence of students and staff on a regular basis.
- However, webinars and online interactive sessions continue to generate awareness and arouse consciousness of stakeholders.

7. Notes (Optional)

Environment conservation and sustainable development is a continuous discourse at KNC. The stakeholders deliberate on ideas and explore options to adopt an environment conscious approach and practices, that seeks to minimize environmental degradation.

For more information, please see the following:

[KNC Green Initiatives](#)

[KNC Future Plans for Green Initiatives](#)

[Green Talk, the Green Beans' Magazine, 2019-2020](#)

[Detailed Report, Green Beans 2019](#)

1. Title of the Practice: Integrative Curricular Practices

2. Objective of the Practice (100 words)

Integrative Curricular Practices seeks to add value to the learning outcomes of the courses being taught in the College. At KNC the climate of academic excellence promotes student centric learning practices that encompass sports, cultural and extra-curricular activities with equal rigour as academic enrichment. Even as we march ahead into a digital, technological era, we are rooted in tradition, ethics and value-based learning. The aim is to incorporate traditional and indigenous values in modern curricula, as well as hone students' talents, develop and enhance skills, encourage research, innovation and entrepreneurship in order to equip students to be future ready. The institutional machinery is thus geared up for optimal all round performance of the students.

3. The Context (150 words)

The VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) world of unexpected, unprecedented change poses a challenge to higher educational institutions, as the latter are expected to dynamically evolve such that its primary stakeholders, students are equipped with life skills for leading independent, respectable lives, as well as empowered for effective and strategic leadership, and above all for the creation of a knowledgeable society that furthers the national goals of economic sustainability and social growth. In an increasingly globalized world where the dynamics of market are constantly redefined in relation to local needs, the students are expected to be multi faceted, multi talented displaying/ showcasing over all personality development. The outbreak of the pandemic, for instance, has demonstrated the need to make the best teaching-learning practices and principles channel agnostic. In order to achieve this, the prescribed curriculum has to be augmented by discourses and practices that enhance its effectiveness and delivery for professional growth and employment, and to meet futuristic demands.

4. The Practice (400 words)

At KNC, the vision of imparting integrated education is accomplished through the following institutional practices:

- KNC follows the proud tradition of commemorating the profound contribution of its founder Principal Dr. K.K. Gorowara by organizing the annual Dr. K K Gorowara Memorial Public Lecture Series where the subjects addressed are in keeping with the

KNC vision of empowering women through holistic education. Diversity and inclusivity is the basis of the series as reflected in the speakers hailing from transgender, differently-abled or indigenous community, among others.

- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture Series annually organized by the Philosophy Department to commemorate the occasion of Teachers' Day, seeks to foster the indigenous philosophic knowledge systems of India.
- Shining Network, the Youth Empowering and Value Creating Society of Kamala Nehru College endeavours to inculcate a value system based on compassion, ethics and universal values. It has successfully conducted sessions on topics like 'mindfulness', 'happiness', nature of 'good life', and deliberated upon philosophical ideas oriented towards positive self and social transformation. The 'Shining Network SOPHIA Chapter', the international collaboration under SOPHIA, 'Society of Philosophers in America' continues to promote dialogue on Public Philosophy, so as to encourage the application of philosophical concepts in daily life and for public policy, as well as to strengthen the peace building project using the Western and Eastern philosophical traditions.
- As a unique practice, at KNC the plethora of extra-curricular societies provide a platform for developing students' talent under the guidance of skilled professionals who are specially inducted to conduct weekend workshops throughout the year. Along with expert training, these groups become a fertile ground for peer learning, which in turn bolsters multiple personal skills.
- Skill Enhancement Workshops on extracurricular activities such as debates, creative writing, music, film making, community radio channel etc. helps the students find an avenue to express their creative abilities, and participate in community engagement.
- RISE, The Research, Innovation and Sustainable Education Cell augments a culture of systematic and quality research, the basis of intellectual pursuits, and the Incubation Cell, 'Nurture' helps bridge the gap between start-up ideas and their practical implementation. An Entrepreneurship Development Program was organized in collaboration with Industrial Incubation of Entrepreneurship and Skill Training (IEST) and NITCOIN, on elements of start-up and funding.
- The Civil Services Forum encourages enthusiastic aspirants by providing motivation, right guidance and direction for accomplishment. Mr. Pratyush Pandey, AIR 21, UPSC CSE 2019 shared his strategy for exam preparation and syllabus management with the participants.
- KNC offers Certificate Courses in French, and skill oriented Certificate Courses that add to students' profile and lends an extra edge in career building.

- Field trips, industrial visits, visit to book fair, educational fair and museums are organized on a routine basis that supplement theory with praxis.
- The Placement Cell of the College orients students to the right career choices as it conducts workshops and counselling sessions and facilitates internships as well as campus placements.

5. Evidence of Success (200 words)

That the students have gained immensely from the veterans and stalwarts who have been invited to College in view of integrative curricular practices, can be gauged from the increasing number that opt for higher studies and research in their respective disciplines in reputed institutions across the world, as also from the choice of field work, projects and internships through their course of study, thus showcasing a successful academia-industry collaboration. This is highly commendable in an institution that largely offers Humanities and Commerce programme/courses at the undergraduate level.

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT/PROGRAMME DOMAIN	NO. OF STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR FIELD PROJECTS / INTERNSHIPS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY	Art and Culture, Modern Art	11
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY	Livelihood, Vulnerability, Disaster Risks	55
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM	Content Writing in Journals and newspapers, Social Media on Contemporary Issues	35
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH	Report Writing, Content Writing on Contemporary Issues in Journals and News Papers, Social Media etc	30
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE	Civil Societies, Leaderships, Youth Clubs, Content Curator	33
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY	Community Well-Being, Youth Councils	7
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	Internship, Human Resource Management, Designing, Marketing Strategies & Market Research, Risk and Volatility Assessment	33
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS	Internships and Content Publications in Public Policies, Economic Strategies, Financial Management.	40

Still others have taken their talent, and training received under specialists in extra-curricular activities forward by taking it up as a career option. They have established themselves as practicing choreographers (Ms. Tavishi Pownikar), artists and entrepreneurs (Ms. Geetanjali Wadhwa; Ms. Priyanka Gusain, Founder, Zubiya, deals in hand painted footwear and more; Ms. Mansi Bishnoi, Founder, Artwale Event Décor Company), models (Ms. Rhea Sachdev), dancers (Ms. Kritika Goyal), singers (Samahita Narang, Swati Bhatt), to name a few.

Overall, these initiatives undertaken by the College has motivated the students to actively participate in the learning process and feel enriched by it:

- ✓ The impact of Dr. Gorowara Memorial Public Lecture in promoting gender sensitization, social responsibility, community outreach and intellectual discourses has been noted.
- ✓ Value-based education and training to students encouraged positive thinking and better disaster management abilities.
- ✓ 41 UG researchers are enrolled with 22 mentors under RISE. They are being systematically trained in research and academic writing.
- ✓ Currently, 124 students are looking at civil services as a bright career option and utilizing the syllabus of UG towards the preparation of Civil Services systematically and strategically through the Civil Services Forum.

Such activities have long term positive impact as the institution is successful in fashioning rational consumers and wise citizenry for the social welding and nation building process.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required (150 words)

While our success speaks for itself, we have encountered a few impediments along the way:

- Any initiative undertaken by the college has to go through a procedure which has administrative and financial aspects which need to synchronize properly to yield desirable result. Any weak link in the chain may disrupt the whole initiative.
- The students in the College are proactive in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and usually they are able to strike the right balance between academics and extra-academic activities. However, in the case of a few students it has adversely impacted the academic result, as no credits are awarded for ECA.

- Revenue generation has been a big challenge for the institution. Most of the activities are non-profitable in nature, which do not generate any kind of revenue. The fact remains that mostly the students expect subsidized delivery of resources.
- It has been observed that interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary activities need a stronger boost, or else they tend to remain compartmentalized into different departments.
- Identifying and vetting resource people is another hurdle when it comes to a smoother integration of curricular practices and implementation thereof.