

BEST PRACTICE 1

Title: Involvement of Students in Community Welfare Activities through NSS

Objectives:

- To identify the needs and problems of the community by engaging the students as NSS volunteers.
- To arouse the social conscience of the students, and to provide them an opportunity to work with the people.

The Context: A volunteer in the NSS is expected to maintain regular contact with the community in accordance with the NSS's essential values. In order to ensure that the NSS programmes are carried out effectively, it is essential to choose at least one village in the surrounding area rather than fritter away energy in a no. of locations. The successful utilisation of the village's resources and the accurate planning of future development can be greatly aided by the accurate identification of both the issues and the opportunities that exist within the adopted village.

Practice: Nowgong Girls' College has an effervescent NSS unit which is a platform for interested students to partake in social work apart from their regular classes. The students extend their services to the neighbourhood community and society as a whole by providing different kinds of services like awareness drives on domestic violence evil effects of tobacco, AIDS awareness, ban on single use plastics, swachhta abhiyan etc. Extensive support was provided to people affected by the devastating floods in Nagaon district from time to time. Voluntary blood donation camps in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Club are organised regularly. Regular visits are made to old-age homes, blind schools, orphanages etc. Distribution of food, medicines and other essential commodities including Covid-19 protection kits were foremost important tasks taken up during the COVID period. Hand Sanitizers were prepared for use against Covid-19 pandemic and distributed in the adopted villages free of cost. Regular cleanliness drives under (Swachch Bharat Abhiyan) are held both within the college campus and the neighbourhood. Awareness on conservation among local community of the historical site of Jongal Bolohu, Nagaon and support for beautification and landscaping of the same is an initiative taken up by the NSS since the last three years. Health, hygiene-related seminars, visit to blind schools, orphanages, old age homes, extending support in kind to the needy and deprived street children, supplying relief materials during natural calamities like earthquakes, etc. are other initiatives of the NSS that deserve special mention. They also disseminate information about various government schemes in the adopted villages.

Evidence of Success:

- There is a growing interest among the girl students towards joining NSS. As a result, two units of NSS volunteers with 200 total volunteers have been incorporated at present. This is a rare achievement for a girls' college like ours.
- Significant change is seen among volunteers with respect to their personality development, civic responsibility and volunteerism.
- Tremendous benefit on the target community through welfare measures and awareness programmes about various plans and policies of the government
- Positive behavioural change is seen amongst the target community.

Problems Encountered: Convincing the villagers towards the implementation of new schemes and programmes is a problem encountered. Adult population of the villages is found to take least interest in such programmes. Finance and equipment is a hurdle at times as they receive a meagre grant. Few other limitations include issues of management, timely training, limited resources etc. Pre-planning, pre-awareness about the NSS camp before visiting the camp is of utmost need.



BEST PRACTICE 2

Title: Dedication towards Green Initiatives both on and off campus and Constitution of the ‘Green Hero Award’

Goal: Nowgong Girls’ College is committed to conserve and protect the environment through its dedicated service in green initiatives and constitution of “Green Hero Award” annually.

- It constantly endeavours to maintain an eco-friendly campus and inculcate the idea of sustainable development in the young minds and train them towards maintenance of resources for a safe and healthy environment.
- To recognise the contribution of individuals towards conservation and protection of environment and biodiversity at the grass root level.

The context: In the recent times all sectors are working to integrate green initiatives into their operations. Green initiatives aim to preserve and improve the environment by leveraging sustainable, eco-friendly, and environmentally safe practices and alternatives. With this objective in mind, Nowgong Girls’ College plans and executes its green initiatives efficiently.

Secondly, many unknown faces are working selflessly towards environmental conservation at the grassroots. It becomes the duties and responsibilities of the society to accord due recognition to such anonymous workers.

Practice: The Green Campus initiatives of the College include:

- Ban on single use plastics.
- Promote clean-up and plantation drives.
- Segregate biodegradable and non-biodegradable and hazardous waste.
- Scientific treatment of chemical waste.
- Promote rain water harvesting and recycling of waste water.
- Promoting E-governance and ICT as eco-friendly initiatives.
- Judicious use of electronic devices and promoting use of alternate energies.
- Formulation of the Green Protocol and conduct of Green energy audit.

Off campus green initiatives by the college include:

- NSS volunteers carry out regular cleanliness drives under (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) both within the college campus and the neighbourhood.

- Plantation Drives, distribution of saplings, Awareness programmes on ban on single use plastics etc. are regularly organised in collaboration with Nagaon Municipal Board and local NGOs.
- Awareness on conservation of the historical site of Jongal Bolohu, Nagaon and support for maintenance, beautification and landscaping of the same in collaboration with members of alumnae association and local voluntary organisations has been carried out by the NSS volunteers since the past three years.
- On World Environment Day, lecture programmes, art competitions, plantation drives are organised not only in college but also in nearby schools.

The 'Green Hero Award' is conferred annually on the occasion of the World Environment Day (5th June) to recognise the contribution of grassroots level conservationists. The very first Award was conferred upon Sri Gobinda Kakati, a casual employee of the forest department in 2018. In the year 2019, Sri Pranab Jyoti Baruah, Forest Guard of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, in 2021 Suranjan Debnath, Conservationist and Animal Rescuer and in 2022, Sri Prasanta Kumar Bordoloi, Conservationist and Wildlife Filmmaker were conferred upon with the "Green Hero Award".

Evidence of success: The green initiatives as well as the conferment of the Green Hero Award has received praise from the various stakeholders of the College including the past and present teachers, students, alumnae, media, and forest department. Local and state level audio and visual media accorded wide coverage to our initiatives.

Problem encountered: None



