THE COCHIN COLLEGE

Koovapadam, Kochi-2

Affiliated To Mahatma Gandhi University
Re-accredited by NAAC With B+ Grade

Fourth Cycle
NAAC Accreditation 2024

Criterion 7
Institutional Values and Best Practices

7.1 - Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

Metric No. 7.1.3

Quality audits on environment and energy regularly undertaken by the Institution. The institutional environment and energy initiatives are confirmed through the following: *Green audit / Environment audit*, *Energy audit*, *Clean and green campus initiatives*, *Beyond the campus environmental promotion activities*

Environmental Promotional activities: 2020-2021

Submitted to

National Assessment and Accreditation Council

Digitally signed by
Mrudula Menon V.
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

2020-2021

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1 House and Surroundings Cleaning Activities

The NSS volunteers participated in cleaning their houses and surroundings. This activity aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene in their immediate environment. The volunteers were encouraged to maintain cleanliness as a habit.

2 Classes on Innovative Farming Methods

On January 27, 2021, Mr. Sajimon Joseph, Deputy Manager of VFPCK, conducted an insightful session on innovative farming methods. During the class, he introduced the volunteers to modern agricultural practices and sustainable farming techniques, emphasizing the importance of adopting these methods for a sustainable future. The session aimed to inspire the volunteers to consider agriculture as a viable career option and to deepen their understanding of sustainable farming practices. Following the class, the students actively participated in a tree planting activity, reinforcing the practical application of the concepts discussed and contributing to environmental conservation efforts.

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3 BIOMAG - Community Based Solid Waste Management through Re-Cycling and Up-Cycling In an Adopted Ward Of Corporation of Kochi, Kerala, India.

The BIOMAG project was aimed at creating awareness among the public particularly the residents of ward VII of Kochi Corporation about the need to manage plastic waste properly. A consumer state like Kerala has a high per capita generation of plastic waste. This is particularly true in a city like Kochi. The project was perceived as relevant by the Department of Zoology of The Cochin College because of the coastal proximity of Kochi Corporation. Domestic plastic waste that is not managed properly will invariably find its way to the ocean through the storm-water drains and other public dumps especially during the rainy season.Thus it will become a threat to various species of marine life. On land also the dumps and litter lying around results in other threats to animal life through ingestion by birds, cows and other animals. Leaching from dumpsites like Brahmapuram leads to the contamination of ground water by additives

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and synthetic dyes used as colouring agents.

The Department of Zoology of The Cochin College took up this project as an Outreach project that can be steered by the students of the department under the guidance of the teachers. The main tasks of awareness creation and sensitization about the need to dispose plastic waste properly was undertaken by the students and teachers through door to door visits to the households of the ward and one on one explanation to the residents. Public activities like street plays and skits were also planned to spread awareness. Workshops were conducted on other methods to manage plastic waste such as reduce, reuse and refuse. Do It Yourself (DIY) workshops were also conducted for the public on how to make their own shopping bags from used clothing. Workshops were also conducted on how to do home composting of kitchen waste. The Project was not only aimed at giving awareness and sensitizing the target group about reduce, reuse and refuse strategies but went one step further in offering recycling solutions as well. It was fully understood that despite reduce, reuse and refuse strategies there is inevitably generation of plastic waste in every household particularly due to the fact that every item of food and grocery, from food grains to soap, comes in plastic packaging. Hence it was imperative that for the project to have an impact, recycling options too have to be provided to the public. For this purpose, the Department of Zoology engaged a reliable agency that has considerable experience in the field of door to door collection of plastic waste, followed by grading and finally dispatch for recycling. The agency selected for this was PlanatEarth a non-profit agency based in Aluva.

The recycling solution that was offered to the target community proved to be the main aspect of the project for the public was offered both strategies to reduce the per household generation of waste as well as a way to ensure that whatever plastic waste that is still generated gets collected and recycled. Total 5547 kg of plastic waste has been removed. Some non –recyclables have to be despatched to cement manufacturers for use for use as RDF. This process incurs charges.

The project got widely accepted and was published in American Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development (AJMRD).

For accessing the article:click

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"BIOMAG - Community Based Solid Waste Management through Re-Cycling and Up-Cycling In an Adopted Ward Of Corporation of Kochi, Kerala, India."

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Figure 4: Awareness and training classes for residents of Ward 7, Kochi Cooperation.

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