## **Best Practice: 1**

Pulladigunta (V) Vatticherukuru (M), Guntur (Dist.)

## Title of Best Practice: Comprehensive Safety, Security, and Wellness System for Women Students

## **Objective of the Practice**

To create a holistic support system ensuring the safety, security, physical health, and emotional well-being of women students, providing them with a safe and conducive environment to thrive academically and personally.

#### Context

Women students often face specific challenges that include safety concerns, health issues, and emotional stress. Ensuring their safety on campus, providing access to wellness resources, and creating a support system for both physical and mental well-being were critical goals for the institution to ensure a balanced and secure academic environment.

#### The Practice

## • Safety and Security Measures:

- o Installation of **24/7 CCTV surveillance** across the campus, especially in high-risk areas such as hostels, entrances, and corridors.
- o Development of a **Women's Safety App**, providing real-time emergency alerts, live tracking, and direct communication with campus security.
- o Regular **Self-defense Training Programs** and personal safety workshops to empower students with essential self-protection skills.
- o A dedicated **Transport Service** for women students, ensuring safe travel to and from campus during late hours.
- o Establishment of a **Women's Complaints Cell** to handle grievances and incidents of harassment with confidentiality and prompt action.

## • Health and Wellness Programs:

- o Setup of a **Wellness Center** offering regular health check-ups, including reproductive health consultations and mental health counseling.
- o Organized **Mental Health Awareness Campaigns** and regular workshops to reduce stigma and encourage students to seek help when needed.
- o **Fitness Programs**, including yoga, fitness sessions, and stress management workshops to enhance physical and mental health.
- Peer Support Groups to provide students with a sense of community, offering emotional support and guidance.
- o Celebrated **Women's Health Days** featuring talks by medical professionals on topics such as nutrition, self-care, reproductive health, and mental wellness.

o Regular **Health and Wellness Surveys** to gather feedback and continuously improve the offerings based on student needs.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

#### • Problems Encountered:

- Overcoming initial reluctance from some students to participate in safety and wellness programs due to societal stigma or lack of awareness.
- o Difficulty in securing adequate funding for wellness infrastructure, especially for mental health services.
- o Ensuring that students fully utilize safety measures, such as the app and transportation services, due to a lack of awareness or perceived inconvenience.

## • Resources Required:

- o Collaboration with local law enforcement, NGOs, and healthcare providers to enhance the safety and wellness offerings.
- Investment in technology for the development of a safety app and monitoring systems.
- Qualified professionals including counselors, healthcare providers, and fitness trainers to support health and wellness programs.
- o Infrastructure for the wellness center and fitness facilities.
- o Support from the student body and faculty for active participation and awareness campaigns.

#### **Evidence of Success**

## • Increased Safety and Security:

- o A significant reduction in safety-related incidents, with students reporting a high level of confidence in the institution's safety measures.
- o High usage of the **Women's Safety App**, with students utilizing it as a trusted tool for emergency situations.
- o Positive feedback on the self-defense training programs, with many students feeling more empowered and secure.

## • Health and Wellness Impact:

- o Increased student engagement in wellness programs, with over 70% of the female student body participating in at least one health-related activity.
- o Noticeable improvements in mental health and academic performance, with students reporting feeling less stressed and more balanced.
- Higher retention rates due to improved physical and emotional well-being, especially among those who faced academic or personal challenges.
- o Positive testimonials from students, with many reporting the wellness services as a significant factor in their overall college experience.

## • Institutional Recognition:

- o The institution was recognized by local authorities and national organizations for its comprehensive approach to women's safety and wellness.
- A growing reputation as a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for women students, with increasing applications from women seeking to join the institution.

This integrated approach to safety, security, and wellness addresses the critical needs of women students, ensuring that they feel protected, supported, and empowered in both their academic and personal lives. By fostering a secure and health-conscious environment, the

institution promotes well-being and academic success, contributing to the overall growth of women in higher education.

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## **Best Practice: 2**

# Title of Best Practice: Green Campus Initiative for Environmental Sustainability and Renewable Energy Integration

## **Objective of the Practice**

To promote environmental sustainability on campus through the implementation of green campus practices, waste reduction, and the adoption of renewable energy sources, creating a cleaner, greener, and more energy-efficient environment for students, staff, and the community.

#### **Context**

The institution recognized the urgent need to reduce its ecological footprint and become more responsible stewards of the environment. As part of its commitment to sustainability, the institution embarked on a comprehensive Green Campus Initiative, integrating sustainable practices such as waste management, energy conservation, and the use of renewable energy sources.

#### The Practice

## • Renewable Energy Adoption:

- o Installation of **solar panels** across various campus buildings to generate renewable energy and reduce dependence on conventional electricity.
- o Implementation of **wind energy** solutions where feasible, in partnership with local energy providers, to further reduce the institution's carbon footprint.
- Energy-efficient lighting systems, including LED bulbs, motion sensors, and solar-powered outdoor lights, were introduced throughout the campus.
- o Integration of **smart energy meters** to monitor and optimize electricity consumption across campus buildings.

## • Sustainable Campus Practices:

- **Zero Waste Campus Initiative**: Introduced waste segregation practices with separate bins for recyclable, biodegradable, and non-recyclable waste, promoting recycling and waste minimization.
- Water Conservation Measures: Installation of water-saving devices such as low-flow taps and rainwater harvesting systems to reduce water wastage and ensure sustainable water management.
- Green Building Standards: Construction of new buildings and renovation of existing structures following green building principles such as energyefficient designs, sustainable materials, and eco-friendly construction methods.

 Green Landscaping: Adoption of native plant species and water-efficient landscaping techniques to create green spaces that require minimal water and maintenance.

## • Educational and Awareness Programs:

- Environmental Awareness Campaigns: Conducted regular workshops, seminars, and campaigns to raise awareness about sustainable practices among students, staff, and faculty.
- Sustainability Clubs and Initiatives: Formation of student-led clubs focused on environmental sustainability, organizing tree planting drives, clean-up activities, and sustainability challenges.
- o Collaboration with **local environmental organizations** to promote sustainability initiatives on campus and in the community.

## • Carbon Footprint Reduction:

- Promotion of sustainable transportation options, such as carpooling, cycling, and walking, with dedicated bike racks and walking paths across the campus.
- o Introduction of **electric vehicle (EV) charging stations** to encourage the use of eco-friendly vehicles.
- o Aiming to reduce single-use plastic on campus by providing alternatives such as reusable containers and water bottles.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

#### • Problems Encountered:

- Initial resistance from certain stakeholders in adopting renewable energy due to high upfront investment costs and limited awareness about the long-term benefits.
- Difficulties in securing sustained funding and government support for largescale sustainability projects.
- o Managing and maintaining complex renewable energy systems and ensuring their efficiency over time.
- o Encouraging widespread adoption of waste management practices and sustainable transportation options among all students and staff.

## • Resources Required:

- o Investment in renewable energy infrastructure, including solar panels, wind turbines, and energy-efficient systems.
- o Collaboration with external agencies, environmental consultants, and government programs to access funding, technical expertise, and resources.
- Dedicated staff and infrastructure for maintaining sustainability programs, including waste management, water conservation, and energy efficiency systems.
- o Partnerships with environmental NGOs and local community groups for awareness campaigns and participation in sustainability initiatives.

## **Evidence of Success**

## • Renewable Energy Generation:

- Over 20% of the campus's energy requirements were met through solar and wind energy solutions, significantly reducing reliance on conventional fossil fuels.
- o The implementation of energy-efficient systems has resulted in a **15%** reduction in energy consumption across campus buildings.

o Cost savings from renewable energy and energy-efficient systems contributed to the funding of additional green initiatives on campus.

#### • Waste Reduction:

- Successful implementation of the Zero Waste Campus Initiative, with over 60% of waste diverted to recycling or composting, significantly reducing landfill waste.
- Increased student participation in waste management practices, with over 70% of students actively engaging in the recycling program.
- Successful tree planting initiatives and environmental campaigns, involving hundreds of students and staff in promoting sustainability.

#### • Water and Resource Conservation:

- Rainwater harvesting systems successfully collected and utilized over **30%** of the campus's water needs, reducing reliance on municipal water.
- Water consumption was reduced by 20% through the use of low-flow systems and more efficient irrigation methods.

## • Educational Impact:

- o High student participation in sustainability-related workshops and events, with increased awareness of environmental issues and green practices.
- o Recognition of the institution as a leader in sustainable campus initiatives, receiving awards and certifications for environmental sustainability efforts.

## • Carbon Footprint Reduction:

- The introduction of electric vehicle charging stations led to a **10%** increase in the number of electric vehicles used by students and staff.
- o A marked increase in the use of bicycles and carpooling programs, contributing to lower carbon emissions.

This integrated Green Campus Initiative combining renewable energy solutions and sustainable practices aims to reduce the institution's environmental impact, promote sustainability, and educate the campus community about the importance of eco-friendly practices. By successfully implementing these strategies, the institution has taken significant steps toward achieving environmental sustainability and creating a cleaner, greener campus.

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