

Best Practice- 1

1. **Title of the practice:** Eco-friendly campus and Sustainable Development

2. Objectives of the Practice

At Zakir Husain Delhi College (ZHDC), we are dedicated to creating an environmentally responsible campus. Our goals include eliminating plastic and e-waste, reducing carbon footprints, and achieving self-sustainability in energy and water. We strive to foster a culture that is aware of and actively addresses climate change by adopting sustainable practices that benefit both our campus and the environment.

3. The Context

Climate change and resource depletion are pressing global issues. ZHDC aims to address these challenges by integrating sustainability into our curriculum and campus operations. We seek to instill environmental respect and responsibility among our students and staff, ensuring that our campus serves as a model for sustainable living.

4. The Practice

ZHDC has implemented a range of eco-friendly initiatives:

1. **Plantation:** Our campus features Herbal, Rock, and Rose gardens. The Herbal garden includes various medicinal and aromatic plants. The Nature and Environment Society, Aranya, conserves native tree species through a nursery that grows and distributes trees like *Moringa oleifera* and *Acacia senegal* to other institutions.

2. **Solid Waste Management:** Since 2005, we segregate waste into green and blue bins. We practice vermi-composting to produce nutrient-rich manure and maintain a paperless administration. We also collaborate with the NGO Jagruti to recycle used paper.

3. **E-waste Management:** Partnering with Attero Recycling Pvt. Ltd., we handle e-waste responsibly. Collection boxes are provided for e-waste, which is then sent for recycling.

4. **Water Harvesting and Solar Energy:** We use a rainwater harvesting system and solar panels, which generate over 50,000 units of electricity annually, reducing CO₂ emissions by approximately 1,733.37 tonnes, equivalent to planting 2,774 teak trees.

5. **Green Practices:** Our ‘Say No To Plastic, Use Cloth Bag’ campaign and promotion of eco-friendly colors during festivals support our environmental goals. We also organize an annual ‘Inter-College Rolling Shield Environment Quiz’ to raise awareness.

6. **Audits:** Regular Green and Energy Audits by Spectro Analytical Labs Ltd. help us assess and enhance our environmental practices.

5. Evidence of Success

1. **Native Tree Nursery:** Developed with BNHS, this nursery distributes native tree species to other institutions.

2. **Solar Panels:** The 50.22 KW installation reduces CO₂ emissions and generates over 50,000 units of electricity annually.

3. **Vermi-Composting:** Four pits convert organic waste into green manure, avoiding chemical fertilizers.

4. **Awards:** Our Herbal Garden has won First Prize in the University of Delhi’s Annual Flower Show for four years and continues to receive accolades.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

1. **Waste Collection:** While the College segregates waste, the MCD does not follow it up with separate collection, thereby laying to waste our efforts.

2. **Plant Maintenance:** Extreme weather complicates plant care without a greenhouse. We manage this currently by relocating plants to sheltered areas.

Resources Required: Maintaining the campus requires water, manure, shelter for plants, and manpower. Space constraints limit our ability to establish a greenhouse, although we manage manure needs through vermi-composting.

Best Practice- 2

1. **Title of the Practice:** Knowledge Oasis: Mirza Mehmood Beg Library

2. Objectives of the Practice

The Mirza Mehmood Beg Library at Zakir Husain Delhi College (ZHDC) is committed to conserving knowledge, expanding ideas, and supporting educational and research programs. Established in 1792, it is one of Delhi University's oldest libraries. With a collection of approximately 90,000 documents and a fully air-conditioned environment, it provides a productive space for students and faculty.

3. The Context

In line with the National Education Policy 2020's focus on digital literacy, the library has been fully automated since 2017-2018. It uses Web Centric LSEase for operations, including three circulation points and Online Public Access Catalogue (WebOPAC) services. This shift from a manual to an automated system was accomplished by the college's internal staff, showcasing a successful modernization effort.

The library features two air-conditioned reading halls to seat 200 students and two multimedia labs with 78 computers and two faculty enclosures. These labs connect users to Delhi University's network and offer remote access to e-resources and photocopying facilities.

4. The Practice

Several practices are in place to promote academic values and inclusivity:

- **Enabling Unit:** Supports differently-abled users with Braille books and Lex Scanner software, which converts printed text to voice, ensuring accessibility for visually impaired students.
- **Library Hours:** Open year-round except Sundays and University holidays, from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM on weekdays, offering extensive access to its resources.
- **Book Bank:** The largest in Delhi University, with about 12,000 books and 500 new titles added annually. It provides textbooks to students at no extra cost, reducing financial

burdens.

-**Archive:** Delhi College Archives contain a large number of files and books related to the College history and significant developments in higher education in Delhi and North India from 1823 onwards. The collection includes original writings by teachers and alumni of the College in Urdu, Persian and English and textbooks prepared and used during the 19th century for instruction in mathematics, history, geography, literature etc.

- **Social Media:** The library uses its Facebook page to provide Current Awareness Services (CAS), Reference Services, and updates on examinations, results, and syllabi.

- **Motivational Activities:** In line with NEP 2020's focus on lifelong learning, the library organizes workshops, quizzes, and book exhibitions, including the biennial 'Bhisham Sahani Book Fair'. Important occasions like National Librarian's Day and Gandhi Jayanti are marked with book exhibitions to foster reading and knowledge-seeking.

5. Evidence of Success

The library's strict code of conduct ensures high usage with minimal issues. Effective collaboration with department heads maintains a relevant and up-to-date collection. The Book Bank has alleviated financial stress of students by providing essential textbooks at no extra cost.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The current library space is insufficient for the college's needs. Expanding the library could be facilitated by relocating the ZHDC (Evening) college library to the new building, allowing the Mirza Mehmood Beg Library to enhance its reading and research facilities for both students and faculty.