

Best Practice #1:

1. **Title of the Practice:** Green initiatives
2. **Objectives of the Practice:** Raging environmental degradation is a cause of global concern. As citizens of the world community it is imperative that each one acts responsibly towards the environment while working for its conservation. As an educational institution, Loreto College is aware of its duty to educate the youth on the importance of conserving the environment by encouraging the adoption of a sustainable lifestyle. The College believes in teaching through practice and therefore attempts to set an example for the students by adopting and encouraging a number of green initiatives.
3. **The Context:** The College is located in one of the busiest areas of the city and draws upon the limited resources along with residential and commercial establishments. The civic infrastructure of the area has not been modified adequately to deal with the increasing demands of the population. Poor sewerage, pressure on water resources and electricity, vehicular pollution are some of the issues plaguing the area. Being over a 100 years old the structure of the College was not equipped to deal with the changing lifestyle patterns and scarcity of resources. In spite of the limited resources to overhaul and maintain the old infrastructure, the College has taken steps to become an environmentally conscious space and regulate its demand of limited natural resources.
4. **The Practice:** A holistic education is imperative to create socially responsible individuals. Higher education cannot limit itself to merely providing academic training. It is important that students are made aware of their duties and responsibilities towards society and the world at large. Being sensitive and responsive to the environment is a trait that has to be inculcated in children at a young age in school and be reinforced at the level of higher education. To set an example and inspire all stakeholders to opt for environment friendly alternatives, Loreto College has initiated the following practices :
 - **Solar energy:** The College has installed 28 KVA rooftop solar panels and by linked it with the existing Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC) grid system.
 - **Rainwater harvesting:** The College is steadily working towards the creation of an infrastructure to facilitate rain water harvesting on a large scale. The green grounds around the College building allow the rainwater to percolate through the soil so that the deep water aquifer/underground water reserve gets replenished. Storm water drains have also been positioned all along the perimeter of the large terrace to collect rainwater.
 - **Vermi-composting:** The infrastructure for vermi-composting has been successfully installed on campus and the product is put on sale during College events to promote organic gardening, solid waste management in homes and reduce dependence on chemical products.
 - **Saving paper:** The College is consciously working towards reducing the use of paper by way of digitalization of documents and introduction of an e-academic management system which involves digital management of students' academic details including marks, attendance, etc. The College also encourages duplex printing and photocopying and recycles paper. Used printed letter heads are used for internal memos.

- **Herbal garden:** The College has also created a herbal garden and maintains medicinal trees. This initiative contributes to the expansion of the already green campus of Loreto College and creates awareness of the medicinal properties of plants and trees.
 - **E-waste management:** Repairing and recycling of laptops, computer hardware, projectors is encouraged and executed frequently. Some departments use overhauled computer peripherals and laptops as a part of this process. Disposal of unusable hardware is achieved through buy-back policies and the money is utilized to get new and upgraded equipment. There is also a disposal box for E-waste collection in the College.
5. **Evidence of Success:** Each initiative undertaken by the College is a small step to contribute to the greater good of humankind. As it may be understood these initiatives take time to bring about significant changes, however the efforts are bearing fruit and gradual changes are becoming visible.
- There has been a sharp decline in the total electricity consumption after the installation of solar panels.
 - The tanks for rain water harvesting are currently under construction and it is hoped that by early 2020 the project of rain water harvesting will successfully be implemented as planned.
 - As targeted, vermi-composting has been successfully implemented and the second batch of vermi-compost generated was sold to the stakeholders.
 - The e-academic management system and duplex printing has visibly reduced the use of paper in the College.
6. **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** Financial constraints remain the biggest problem for expensive green initiatives like rain water harvesting. The College is attempting to raise funds for this through a number of channels. Educating the local community about green initiatives so that they too adopt adequate measures also remains a challenge, given that there are many commercial establishments and high rise buildings in the locality.

Best Practice #2:

1. **Title of the Practice :** Value Education
2. **Objectives of the Practice:** Loreto College has always believed that the very purpose and main function of education is development of an all round and well-balanced personality of the students, and also to develop all dimensions of the human intellect so that young citizens can help make our nation more democratic, cohesive, socially responsible, culturally rich and intellectually competent. Keeping this in mind, the college holds regular Value Education classes that are integrated into the curriculum.
3. **Context:** Teenagers on the brink of adulthood are in need of special attention and guidance in order to protect them from falling prey to vices and developing mental health issues. It is a fundamental requirement in today's fast-paced world that young adults are trained to care for their physical and mental health with as much diligence as they have for pursuing their

ambitions. In a technologically-driven world, where a knowledge-based, structured and information-oriented education is emphasized upon, Loreto College strongly feels that modern modes of teaching-learning must be balanced with a simultaneous awareness and training in ethics and human values in order to impart a holistic education. Value Education classes are held to develop other facets of one's personality like the emotional, social and spiritual aspects that are required for the growth of healthy attitudes, habits, values, skills and interests among students.

4. **The Practice:** The Principal of the College conducts Value Education classes once a week throughout each academic year with every batch of students ranging from the undergraduates to the post graduate and B.Ed students. It has become imperative to include Value Education in the context of higher education in India to impart life skills to technologically competent but often spiritually and emotionally impoverished students, who despite their academic credentials, find it difficult to cope with real life situations. Value Education classes emphasize the need for a commitment to integrity, care, respect, discipline and discernment while teaching soft skills like decision-making, participating in group discussions and communication strategies. It also teaches life skills to cope with gender issues, compatibility in family life and coping with anger and stress. These classes stress on the need for morals and ethics in a commercially-driven and material world where one is likely to face unscrupulous colleagues or associates.
5. **Evidence of Success:** Value Education has always been an integral part of a Loreto education. Many enter college as diffident students lacking self-confidence but graduate as confident, happy individuals who believe in their worth and effectively utilise the important soft and life skills that they learn in college. A number of our students have enrolled in social work-related programmes at the level of higher education and have passionately made it their profession and established successful NGOs. Even while in college, students enrol in the NSS, Social Service and LTS societies to actively put into practice the values and zeal they imbibe for life and society in Value Education classes. Reaching out to make a difference is taken seriously by all students and they extend their assistance to slums, NGOs, environmental issues and also spearhead relief programmes in times of natural calamities. Our students selflessly dedicate themselves to the cause of blood donation, tuberculosis awareness and promoting decent standards of health sanitation. The participation of students in social causes is not restricted to their commitments through the Institution, a number of students are passionately involved in outreach activities outside College as well.
6. **Problems encountered and Resources Required:** The most difficult challenge faced is usually reaching out to students suffering from social and emotional issues who prove to be resistant to any kind of help. Assistance is provided by the College counsellor. However there is scope to introduce specialised professional assistance with the help of psychiatrists, therapists and gynaecologists all of which would certainly require resource generation.