



Best Practice 1

Prakrithi Dhaara - Transformative Sustainability Initiatives at Kuriakose Elias College

Objectives of the Practice

The green initiatives at Kuriakose Elias College aim to foster energy conservation, environmental sustainability, waste reduction and promotion of eco-friendly practices among students, staff and the community. These initiatives are rooted in environmental stewardship, responsible resource management and sustainability.

Context

Mannanam, with its biodiversity, engaged community and supportive climate, offers an ideal platform for green initiatives. The college leverages these natural advantages to serve as a model for sustainability. The challenges include behavioural resistance, low awareness, and limited resources. These were addressed through awareness campaigns, workshops and funding from grants and partnerships. Sustainability was integrated into the curriculum to align academic and environmental goals.

The Practice

The college's green initiatives include **composting, e-waste disposal, rainwater harvesting, solar energy harvesting** and **waste segregation**. By promoting student-led sustainability projects and research, KE nurtures future environmental leaders. This community-focused approach aligns with India's broader sustainability goals, setting the college apart.

Evidence of Success

The numerous awards and recognitions received by Kuriakose Elias College amply testify its successful environmental and social initiatives. The recognition by **Haritha Keralam Mission** as a **Haritha Institution** for green initiatives in 2023 reflects the college's dedication to sustainable practices, achieving the benchmarks set by the state's environmental mission.

The consistent **Outstanding Performance awards** received by the NSS Unit of our college from Mahatma Gandhi University in 2021, 2022 and 2023 and **recognitions from the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education** for both social entrepreneurship and the Swachhta Action Plan in 2022, etc. demonstrate the college's ability to meet and exceed





targets in community service and social outreach. The college's active role in the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Drive**, recognized by the Rotary Club of Ettumanoor in 2022, highlights its impact on promoting cleanliness and environmental awareness.

The college's collaboration with local bodies, such as the Thiruvappu Grama Panchayat and Arpookkara Grama Panchayat, for cleaning drives and hand sanitizer preparation, illustrates its strong community engagement. These results indicate the college's excellence in environmental sustainability and social responsibility, consistently achieving targeted outcomes.

Problems Encountered and Resources required

Despite its success, the green initiatives at KE face several challenges and constraints as listed below:

- **Financial constraints:** High initial costs for infrastructure like solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems and waste management facilities. While some funding has been secured, scaling these projects requires further financial support
- **Cultural and behavioural challenges:** Shifting entrenched habits, such as reliance on non-renewable energy, requires persistent efforts. Educating and incentivizing students and staff to adopt eco-friendly habits is a long-term process
- **Technical expertise:** Maintaining systems like solar panels and overseeing waste segregation requires specialized skills and regular maintenance. The college has provided staff training, but long-term sustainability depends on continuous monitoring and improvements

Despite these challenges, the college's commitment to overcoming financial, cultural and logistical barriers, catapults it as a leader in promoting sustainability in the Indian higher education scenario.




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