

**7.2 BEST PRACTICES**  
**(Session 2023-24)**  
**Kamla Nehru College for Women, Phagwara**

**Best practice I**

**1. Title of the practice: Sustainable Waste Management Approaches and Plantation Practice**

The following are the waste management approaches implemented in the campus:

ObjectiveS:-

1. To promote sustainable waste management practices.
2. To educate students about the benefits of vermicomposting.
3. To enhance soil fertility through organic methods.

The Context:-

KNC is committed to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing the environmental health of the campus. One of the key initiatives includes setting up vermicomposting beds for the efficient conversion of organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. This practice not only helps in waste management but also contributes to soil enrichment. The following steps were taken to establish and maintain vermicomposting beds:

**A. Vermicompost bed construction**

- Collection of organic waste from the campus, including kitchen waste from college canteen, garden waste and agricultural byproducts.
- Construction of suitable vermicomposting beds using locally available materials.
- Use of earthworms to decompose organic matter and produce compost.

The Practice:-

Vermicomposting is an environmentally friendly process that uses earthworms to decompose organic waste and produce high-quality compost. The compost produced is rich in essential nutrients that improve soil structure, fertility, and water retention. The process begins with the construction of a compost bed, where organic materials are layered and earthworms are introduced. The worms break down the organic material, turning it into nutrient-dense compost, which can then be used to enrich the soil.

Scope and Objectives:-

- Setting up and maintaining compost beds on the campus.
- Educating staff and students on the benefits of composting.
- Reducing organic waste, sent to landfills.
- Using the compost to improve campus garden soil and promote sustainable gardening practices.

Resource Consumption:- The college evaluates the use of natural resources in the vermicomposting process, including the collection of organic waste, the construction of compost beds, and the

maintenance of earthworm populations. Opportunities to reduce resource consumption are identified, such as reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers by using the produced compost.

Evidence of Success:-

- Increased awareness among students and staff about the benefits of composting.
- Significant reduction in organic waste sent to landfills.
- Improved soil quality and increased plant growth on campus.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:-

Some challenges encountered in the vermicomposting process include:

- i. Difficulty in sourcing and maintaining sufficient quantities of organic waste.
- ii. Ensuring optimal conditions for the worms to thrive, including proper moisture and temperature control.
- iii. Limited initial knowledge and skills among participants regarding the vermicomposting process.

Conclusion:-

Vermicomposting is an effective and sustainable way to manage organic waste while enhancing soil fertility. With continued efforts and participation, this practice can significantly contribute to the college's sustainability goals.



**Vermicomposting Bed**

## **B. Horticultural Pit Construction**

### *Objectives:-*

1. To promote sustainable waste management through composting.
2. To enhance soil fertility and green cover on campus.
3. To educate students and staff on environmental conservation.

*The Context:-*Our institute is committed to sustainability, and one of the key initiatives is the construction of horticultural pits for composting organic waste. These pits are designed to decompose garden and kitchen waste, converting it into nutrient-rich compost that can be used to improve soil quality and promote healthier plant growth.

*The Practice:-* The horticultural pit is strategically located across the campus, designed to efficiently process organic waste. Staff and students contribute garden waste and food scraps, which are then layered in the pits. Over time, microorganisms break down the material, resulting in rich compost that can be used to enhance the campus's greenery and garden beds.

### *Scope and Objectives:-*

- To reduce organic waste sent to landfills.
- To create nutrient-rich compost for gardening purposes.
- To involve the campus community in sustainability efforts.

### *Evidence of Success:-*

- Decrease in waste generation.
- Improved soil health and increased green cover across the campus.

### *Problems Encountered and Resources Required:-*

- Ensuring consistent waste collection and proper composting practices.
- Sufficient space and maintenance for the horticultural pit.



**Horticultural Pit**

### **C. Decomposing Dry Leaves Through Pit Composting**

*Objective:*

To promote sustainable waste management by decomposing dry leaves in dedicated pits, reducing waste accumulation, and creating nutrient-rich compost for campus landscaping.

**The Context:** With the growing amount of dry leaves on campus, the need for an environmentally friendly solution to manage organic waste became evident. This initiative was launched to address waste reduction while contributing to the green infrastructure of the institution.

**The Practice:** The institution established designated pits where dry leaves are collected and left to decompose naturally. These pits are monitored to ensure efficient decomposition, and the resulting compost is later used in campus gardening projects.

**Scope and Objectives:** The scope includes all dry leaves generated across the campus, particularly in areas with dense tree cover. The primary objective is to minimize leaf waste, recycle organic matter, and reduce the environmental footprint of the campus.

**Evidence of Success:** The decomposition process has led to the creation of high-quality compost, which is being utilized in the institution's gardens and green spaces. Additionally, the initiative has contributed to a noticeable reduction in leaf litter and waste disposal costs.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** The main challenge faced was ensuring consistent monitoring of the pits and managing the decomposition process during varying weather conditions. Resources required include designated space for the pits, manpower for maintenance, and regular input of organic material to maintain proper conditions for decomposition.



**Decomposing Dry Leaves Through Pit Composting**

## **Best Practice II**

### **2. Title of the Practice:** Social Awareness by N.S.S. Unit through village adoption (Village- Chak Hakkim)

#### **Objectives:**

1. By adopting a village, to maintain consistency in social activities and to get desired results.
2. To involve NSS volunteers actively and sensitizing students to pay back to society by involving in various national unity, health and social awareness, environmental sustainability and awareness programs.
3. To provide volunteers with opportunities to develop leadership, organizational, and social skills through active participation in community-oriented activities.
4. To encourage volunteers to contribute positively to society through activities such as cleanliness drives, health awareness, and national celebrations.
5. To cultivate a sense of social responsibility and patriotism among volunteers by participating in nation-building initiatives.

#### **The Context:**

The activities mentioned took place between July 2023 and June 2024, by involving NSS volunteers who participated in a wide range of events focusing on national awareness, social issues, environmental sustainability, and community welfare. These events were aligned with national celebrations and social causes like cleanliness drives, voter awareness, health and hygiene, patriotism, women empowerment and youth empowerment, aligning with national campaigns such as 'My Bharat', 'Har Ghar Tiranga,' 'Meri Matti Mera Desh,' and 'Fit India Movement.' Moreover, such targeted activities would undoubtedly be beneficial in sensitizing students to give back to society and help them develop essential skills.

#### **The Practice:**

NSS volunteers organized a variety of regular campaigns and events, each marked by a series of carefully planned activities aimed at raising social awareness, fostering nation-building, and promoting community service among the villagers of Chak Hakkim. These events featured rallies, biodiversity conservation by promoting plantation of saplings, competitions, poster-making contests such as 'Together against corruption' under International youth social anti-corruption advertising competition, pledge-taking ceremonies like Panch Pran Pledge, and awareness drives such as "Swachhta hi seva hai" campaign, all aimed at fostering community involvement. The volunteers were actively engaged in organizing, executing, and participating in these events. They were encouraged to conduct community service activities like clean-up drives, tree plantation, health check-up camps and extension lecture on "Menstrual Hygiene", thus ensuring their direct involvement in spreading awareness on various social issues such as personal health and hygiene, education, and environmental sustainability among the people of Chak Hakkim. In addition to it, many activities were conducted online and featured digital certificates. Besides the activities in Chak Hakkim, the college was also involved in various campaigns like 'Selfie with Tiranga' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga,' ensuring the broader participation and wider visibility while adapting to modern, digital communication methods that enhanced the personality

development of students. Furthermore, some initiatives were organized in collaboration with external agencies, adding greater depth to the campaigns. For example, the 'Meri Matti Mera Desh' and 'Swachhta Hi Seva Hai' campaigns were coordinated with government initiatives, while voter awareness programs were conducted in partnership with the Election Commission, ensuring broader community involvement and impact. NSS played a vital role in shaping the minds of villagers of Chak Hakkim for social and civic responsibility.

### **Evidence of Success:**

1. **Volunteer Participation:** NSS volunteers participated in various initiatives, including quiz competitions, cleanliness drives, rallies, and educational camps.
2. **Recognition and Appreciation:** Volunteers received E-certificates for their participation in multiple events. E-certificates were provided for campaigns like 'Har Ghar Tiranga,' 'Meri Matti Mera Desh,' and quiz competitions, recognizing their engagement and contribution.
3. **Positive Feedback:** There was active participation in competitions and awareness programs, and positive feedback from volunteers, students, and external collaborators, indicating the success of each event.
4. **National and Local Impact:** Events like the 'Fit India Swachata Run,' cleanliness drives, and voter awareness campaigns contributed significantly to the community. NSS volunteers actively participated in national initiatives, promoting the importance of issues like cleanliness, patriotism, voter participation, and health awareness.

### **Problems Encountered:**

1. Organizing large-scale events like rallies, cleanliness drives, and camps required coordination among villagers and volunteers, in terms of transportation and venue arrangements.
2. Some online events, like e-pledges and virtual lectures, faced issues with internet connection.
3. Some campaigns and events clashed with academic schedules, causing lower participation in some cases. Volunteers had to manage both their studies and event timings.
4. Despite efforts to raise awareness, some people didn't understand or just didn't care about the message we delivered. In certain campaigns, it was obvious that people either weren't interested or didn't want to change their habits.



**Social Awareness by N.S.S. Unit through village adoption**

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