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Principal

B. P. H. E. SOCIETY'S  
**AHMEDNAGAR COLLEGE, AHMEDNAGAR**

A Christian Minority Institution

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University. Id No. PU/AN/ASC/01/1947

- 'B++' Grade Accreditation by NAAC, Bangalore
- 'College with Potential for Excellence' Award by the UGC, New Delhi
- 'Best College' Award by the Savitribai Phule Pune University
- 'Educational Excellence Award' by the Brands Academy, New Delhi
- 'Most Promising Educational Institute in Maharashtra' by Worldwide Achievers, New Delhi
- 'International Quality Award for Excellence in Higher Education' by Brands Impact
- 'Best College in Maharashtra for Innovative Educational Programs' by APS Research and Media
- 'The Most Promising Degree College in West India' by Prime Time Research Media Pvt. Ltd.
- A.I.S.H.E. Code : C-41242

## 2022-2023

**7.2.1 - Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per the NAAC format provided in the Manual.**

### **BEST PRACTICES 1:**

#### **1. Title of the Practice: MENTORING SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS**

(Ref: ACA/2022-23/Policy Doc/Mentorship dated 15/06/2022)

#### **2. Objectives of the Practice:**

- In continuation with previous years of mentorship to improve performance and reduce the stress of the students through mentorship.
- To continue with the institutionalized Mentor-Mentee mechanism.
- To promote the mentor-mentee activity in a referral manner, wherever required.
- To frame the policy document to meet the objectives.
- Revise the policy document to make the mentoring service more objective and measurable.

#### **3. The Context:**

A student mentoring system is vital in the education sector as it provides the necessary support and guidance for students to excel academically, grow personally, and make informed career choices. By addressing the challenges related to maintaining an ideal mentor-mentee ratio, institutions can ensure that every student benefits from a mentoring program tailored to their needs and goals.

Students undergo various problems of stress- personal, academic, physical, and mental. Students are new to college life. It creates a lot of stress, especially for hostel students who are

away from family. Students from educationally weak backgrounds feel complex and hesitations in class and are unable to perform well due to inhibitions.

Considering the student-teacher ratio in classrooms, it is difficult at times to give personal attention to students in class. One solution, therefore, is a 'Mentor' who can form a bond with students in the true sense. Mentoring is required for students to achieve emotional stability and to promote clarity in thinking and decision-making for overall progress.

#### **4. The Practice:**

- A centralized office called the Students Facility Centre is created in the college.
- Mentoring is done in Academic, Career-related, and Administrative (admission and examination)
- Each teacher is assigned around 15 students for the complete duration of their study.
- They meet to discuss, clarify, and share various problems which may be personal or academic, etc.
- Services like Advice, Guidance, Counselling, Referral, Financial support assistance to the differentially abled, Earn and learn scheme, wave in fees, concession in fees, and Hostel facility are provided.
- The mentors encourage the students to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities and sports.
- Their academic performance and other activities are all recorded.
- The mentors also keep in touch with the parents on their attendance, test performance, fee payment, examinations, etc.
- The mentors also counsel the students in need of emotional problems.
- When the students have any problem in any department either with the staff or with work completion the mentors speak with the respective staff and sort out the problem.
- Mentors take special care of weak students, who are given advice on how to study, And prepare a timetable for study.
- Students' problems are discussed with the departmental heads, and other faculties, and necessary action is taken to solve it.
- The mentoring process follows the pattern of like, Mentee selects the appropriate channel or the student is guided for the same, then the mentee mentions the issue at the appropriate desk

the case is forwarded to the appropriate help provider, the case is addressed, and recorded and finally feedback is obtained.

## **5. Evidence of Success:**

The mentoring system implemented at Ahmednagar College has exhibited remarkable success, fostered the holistic development of students, and contributed to their achievements across various domains. The evidence of this success is reflected in the following key areas:

### *1. Triumph in Competitive Exams:*

A notable accomplishment of the mentoring system is evident in the academic excellence achieved by the students. A total of 38 students from Ahmednagar College have successfully qualified in prestigious competitive exams such as NET (National Eligibility Test), SET (State Eligibility Test), CTET (Central Teacher Eligibility Test), IIT JAM (Joint Admission Test for M.Sc.), GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering), SLET (State Level Eligibility Test), ICAR NET (Indian Council of Agricultural Research National Eligibility Test), and CSIR NET (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research National Eligibility Test). This impressive feat underscores the effectiveness of the mentoring program in nurturing academic talent and enabling students to excel in their chosen fields.

*Link for evidence:*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v7EIOor8LaMbgfc08l5pT1rJ1EQV8\\_wG/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v7EIOor8LaMbgfc08l5pT1rJ1EQV8_wG/view?usp=sharing)

### *2. Recognition through Awards:*

The impact of the mentoring system extends beyond academics to encompass extracurricular achievements. Thirty students have earned recognition as award winners, securing accolades at the National, State, University, and team levels. These awards span various categories, including sports and NCC (National Cadet Corps). The mentoring framework at Ahmednagar College has not only facilitated academic success but has also played a pivotal role in nurturing well-rounded individuals capable of excelling in diverse arenas.

*Link for evidence:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EMroWjDd0gEnW7l0GJ7S4mMajuF9xCW/view?usp=sharing>

### *3. Placement Success:*

The mentoring system has significantly contributed to the successful placement of students, with 78 individuals securing positions both on and off campus. This achievement underscores the practical benefits of the mentoring program in preparing students for the professional world. The guidance and support provided through the mentoring relationships have equipped students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the competitive job market, ensuring a smooth transition from academic life to the workforce.

*Link for evidence:*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufyz\\_QsF3gtyzCrMO8EQnFpKFazQ4dOD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufyz_QsF3gtyzCrMO8EQnFpKFazQ4dOD/view?usp=sharing)

## **6. Problems Encountered:**

The number of permanent staff is decreasing yearly which is reflected in a high ratio of mentor-mentee. Large Student Populations: A large number of students, making it challenging to assign dedicated mentors to each student. Limited resources, including faculty and staff, make it difficult to ensure that every student has access to a mentor continually. Institutions offer diverse academic programs; it can be particularly challenging to match students with mentors who have expertise in their specific field of study.

## **BEST PRACTICES 2:**

### **1. Title of the Practice: GREEN CAMPUS INITIATIVE**

**(Ref: ACA/2022-23/Policy Doc/Green Campus)**

### **2. Objectives of the Practice:**

- Foster sustainability and eco-friendly practices within the campus environment.
- Explore innovative solutions for addressing environmental challenges.
- Integrate green protocols into the daily routines of both students and faculty members.

- Cultivate environmental awareness and motivation among staff, students, and educators.
- Implement efficient groundwater recharging through rainwater harvest.
- Implement efficient waste management and recycling systems.
- Implementation of e-waste management
- Campaign a plastic-free campus environment.
- Champaign no-vehicle zone inside campus during college working hours.
- Curtail wasteful and unsustainable resource usage.
- Optimize management of waste, water, and energy resources.
- Reduce energy consumption to enhance energy efficiency.
- Transform the campus into a pollution-free and environmentally responsible setting.

### **3. The Context:**

Addressing global environmental pollution is a pressing concern. In the context of Ahmednagar City, which serves as the largest district in Maharashtra State, India, the issue of environmental pollution is particularly relevant. The historic city of Ahmednagar, also the district's headquarters, is experiencing rapid urbanization, contributing to environmental challenges. This urbanization, coupled with the conversion of agricultural green areas into industrial and residential zones, has exacerbated pollution. The effects of these transformations are keenly felt by Ahmednagar College, situated at the city's core. The college's surroundings have evolved significantly in the past five years, primarily due to the construction of a flyover that intersected the college property, reducing its campus size.

Ahmednagar College confronts a multitude of challenges related to water resource management, waste disposal, natural resource conservation, sustainable building practices, greenhouse gas emission reduction, waste recycling, and the prevention of plastic pollution.

To address these concerns, the college has initiated a Green Campus campaign aimed at fostering environmental awareness among both students and faculty. This campaign underscores the college's commitment to promoting sustainable and eco-friendly practices within its campus. Ultimately, the objective is to contribute to the creation of a more habitable Earth for all living beings. The Green Campus campaign is indispensable for securing a prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come.

#### **4. The Practice:**

The college has played a significant role in addressing environmental challenges, with active involvement from students, staff, and teachers in the Green Campus campaign. Various programs and activities have been implemented as part of this initiative, including:

***No Vehicle Inside Campus:*** An initiative aimed at reducing the carbon footprint within the campus. Vehicles are strictly prohibited during working hours, and both staff and students are encouraged to use bicycles within the campus.

***Reducing Plastic Usage on Campus:*** This program focuses on minimizing plastic pollution, particularly through the reduction and elimination of plastic bottles, straws, utensils, and food packaging. The college canteen adheres to strict guidelines, and plastic packaging is kept to a minimum. Activities such as the plastic-free campus campaign, plastic recycling drives, and awareness classes on World Environment Day, World Wildlife Week, and World Ozone Day are organized.

***Rainwater Harvesting Roofs:*** The college has incorporated rainwater harvesting in various blocks to recharge groundwater through wells. The campus boasts four wells for this purpose.

***Separate Bins for Wet and Dry Wastes:*** Composting programs are in place, with compost plants constructed to recycle organic waste generated on the campus. Separate bins are provided for the collection of degradable and non-degradable waste.

***Tree Plantation Program:*** The college actively participates in tree planting initiatives both on and off campus, often in neighbouring villages. On World Environment Day, the entire college community engages in tree planting, and every department actively participates in this endeavor.

***Energy Management:*** Energy-saving methods have been implemented, including the installation of solar panels in the College to reduce electricity consumption. LED bulbs have replaced CFL lamps across the campus.

***Green Campus Committee:*** A dedicated committee takes proactive initiatives and actions for the campus's green initiatives. This committee is responsible for maintaining the college garden and nurturing the plants through a team of volunteers.

***Green Auditing:*** The Green Auditing Cell conducts awareness programs on environmental issues and evaluates the impact of the Green Initiative campaign on campus. External green

audit agencies are invited to assess the campus's sustainability efforts, and the recommendations from the audit reports are executed through the Green Campus Committee.

***E-Waste Management:*** E-waste generated on campus is managed through an agreement with a recycling firm, Kuldeep E-Waste Disposals, which is a SEZ Authorized Vendor. This firm specializes in e-waste collection, transportation, and disposal, complying with the 'E-Waste Handling and Disposal Rules, 2016'.

## **5. Evidence of Success:**

The evidence of the success of the Green Campus Initiative at Ahmednagar College is evident in several key areas:

***Participation and Awareness:*** The active involvement of both students and the college in the Green Campus campaign has significantly contributed to decreasing environmental issues within the campus. This participation has created a sense of environmental consciousness among the college community.

***Reduction of Plastic Usage:*** The plastic-free campaign has been instrumental in encouraging people to give up bottled water and opt for filtered water facilities. This shift in behavior has reduced plastic waste and its associated environmental impact.

***Clean and Green Campus:*** The overarching concept of the Green Campus campaign, coupled with the adoption of environmentally friendly practices, has transformed the college campus into a cleaner and greener environment. This has improved the overall aesthetics and ambiance of the campus.

***Energy Efficiency:*** The substitution of LED bulbs in place of CFL bulbs and tubes has not only reduced energy consumption but also increased energy efficiency. This transition has had a positive impact on the college's energy footprint.

***Water Management:*** Rainwater harvesting and waste diversion strategies have proven beneficial for recharging the groundwater table. By effectively managing water resources, the college has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable practices.

***Awareness through Plantation:*** Tree plantation activities have played a dual role by raising environmental awareness among students and contributing to the overall greenery of the campus. This afforestation effort has the potential to improve air quality and biodiversity.

*Reduced Air Pollution:* Encouraging students to use bicycles as an alternative to motor vehicles has not only reduced traffic within the campus but has also contributed to a decrease in air pollution. This is a tangible step towards a healthier and more sustainable campus.

*Effective Waste Management:* The segregation of non-degradable and degradable wastes into separate bins has streamlined waste management processes. This separation ensures that waste can be more efficiently disposed of and recycled, reducing the environmental burden associated with improper waste disposal.

*Green Power Generation:* The use of solar panels for green power generation has not only reduced the college's reliance on conventional electricity but also contributed to a reduction in carbon emissions. This showcases the college's commitment to clean energy solutions.

*Feedback and Continuous Improvement:* The review of the green auditing process has provided valuable feedback on the Green Campus campaign's progress. This feedback, in turn, has led to the identification of areas that require improvement and the implementation of remedial measures to address challenges encountered during campaign activities.

Overall, the evidence of the success of the Green Campus Initiative in Ahmednagar College is manifest in the positive changes seen in campus practices, environmental awareness, and the reduction of the college's ecological footprint. These initiatives collectively illustrate the college's commitment to fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly campus environment.

YouTube link for the green campus view of the campus:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vds7wE\\_32-I&t=278s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vds7wE_32-I&t=278s)

## **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

There were a number of barriers to executing the green campus campaign. It is a tedious task to ban plastic completely on campus. The attitude of faculty and students towards changing the campus into plastic-free environment is not fully positive. Recycling of non-degradable waste material is very expensive and time-consuming. Climatic conditions adversely affected the survival of tree saplings planted by green campus volunteers. An air quality monitoring system is lacking in the campus.