

1. Title of the Practice:

JayarajAnnapackiam College St. Anne's Federal Assembly (JACSAFA)

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To identify and enhance the democratic governing skills in the students.
- To give citizenship and leadership training.
- To hone the students into being responsible young citizens.
- To creating awareness about the council of ministers.
- To teach them about the electoral system.
- To educate the students on the significance of voting.
- To provide training in the parliamentary procedure.
- To motivate them to become parliamentarians.
- To offer practical experience in solving social problems.

3. The Context

To understand the power of democracy and the importance of making young citizens aware of our parliamentary system, JACSAFA introduces the procedures and proceedings of the parliament to the students and trains them to learn and adopt the pattern in which the parliament functions. The student parliament is modelled on the Indian parliament. JACSAFA consists of 483 members elected from all the departments and associations of the college. Student representatives are elected and appointed as the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers of Home, Finance, Education, Health, Sports, Environment, Women Welfare, Arts and Culture and Transport minister of the youth parliament. They are entrusted with the responsibilities related to their office. On the advice of the Prime Minister, the Principal appoints the Deputy Prime Minister. With representation from all departments and associations, members are selected by the Prime Minister as the Cabinet Ministers, State Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

4. The Practice

The election of the JACSAFA is conducted on the first week of July and its sessions meet thrice in a year. The 483 members of JACSAFA hold the power to elect their leaders. Among the leaders, the Prime Minister is appointed by the principal. On the advice of the PM, the principal appoints the Deputy Prime Minister.

The quorum of the JACSAFA is 1/10 of the total number of members ($483/10=48$). Orientation and leadership training programmes are organized at the beginning of the year. The tenure of the office for the members is three years. The PM and the council of ministers

are responsible for the activities of JACSFAFA and are answerable to the principal of the college. At the end of every year, the third-year members would retire from service and in the beginning of the next academic year, first-year members would be elected in their place.

- The Home Ministry ensures that the office of JACSFAFA functions smoothly towards the benefit of the college and its members.
- The finance ministry plans and manages the funds of JACSFAFA.
- The Ministry of Education brings awareness among the students regarding scholarships and also supervises remedial coaching for minority students and those who procure low marks. The Sports and Games Ministry motivates the students to participate in tournaments and encourages the learning of martial arts.
- The Health Ministry prepares the statistics regarding the basic health-needs of the college and its surroundings. It warrants that the students undergo regular health check-ups and stay fit and healthy.
- The Environment Ministry creates consciousness to the students and the people on the harmfulness of the use of polythene things and encourages the students to plant trees.
- The Communication & Information Ministry is in charge of the bulletin board of the college & departments for displaying news clippings from journals and newspapers for the benefits of the students.
- The Women Welfare Ministry brings to the notice of the students and the public on the present situation in the society where women are denied of their right to be equal.
- The Fine Arts Ministry guides and trains the students for cultural events in intercollegiate competitions.
- The Transport Ministry makes necessary arrangements with local transport corporation office to avail enough transport facilities to the needs to the students.

Evidence of Success

JACSFAFA proves to be one of the most successful initiatives of the college.

- It has brought out the inherent leadership qualities present in the student community. It has successfully trained the students, who are the future of the nation, in taking up responsibilities and understanding the electoral system and the parliamentary set up.
- The students have become increasingly aware of democratic principles.
- Leadership qualities among the ministers and members have been enhanced by arranging special programmes, talks and lectures.

- Competitions like oratorical, essay writing, just a minute and debates on current issues conducted for the members have brought out the innate talents of the members and have helped them stay updated in contemporary happenings.
- Visits to old-age homes, schools for physically and mentally challenged during “Joy of Giving” week have inculcated the noble habit of giving among the members and have increased sensitivity towards the lesser privileged.
- Pertaining to the social and national responsibilities of Swachch Bharat, the members help in the maintenance of a clean campus.

JACSAFA has succeeded in nurturing a positive attitude towards nation building among the students.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Owing to the rural background of the students, their understanding and orientation towards healthy electoral habits are poor. This makes it difficult to introduce them to the nuances of an elaborate and well-structured parliamentary system.

As the members are from all the departments and cells in the college, coordinating them as a unit becomes a challenge which is usually alleviated by the enthusiasm shown by its members.

More staff members are required to guide and facilitate a smoother and more efficient functioning of JACSAFA.

Best Practice - 2

1. Title of the Practice

Environmental Consciousness

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To create awareness among the students on environmental issues. To cultivate appreciation for ecological well-being.
- To enhance sensitivity towards environmental issues. To develop skills to solve environmental problems.
- To engage in dialogue with issues that threatens biodiversity.
- To identify and implementing value-based environmental programmes.
- To instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment we are living in. To nurture the love of nature among students.
- To fashioning a plastic and smoke free campus.
- To promote healthy lab practices that would avoid animal cruelty and excessive usage of harmful chemicals.

3. The Context

Two vibrant environmental concern clubs of JAC- Eco Club and Avian Club, prove to be powerful agents that create awareness about ecological issues among the students and promote conservation of Mother Earth through eco-spiritual activities.

Nestled at the foothills of Palani Hills of the Western Ghats, the hillock where the college is located makes a natural asset of immense value. A variety of conservation approaches are needed to protect the biodiversity in the campus. The need for an effective environmental management system aiming towards sustainability was identified and this ensued in the creation of Eco and Avian clubs. Eco club stimulates awareness among the young minds of the college and in the neighbouring villages of Periyakulam. Avian club provides cultural learning among the students involving fauna, through socially transmitted behaviors.

4. The Practice

The clubs have been immensely successful in ensuring clean and hygienic living and working conditions for the stakeholders and maximizing the quality of life without jeopardizing the life support system. Members of these clubs comprise of students and teachers who aim at creating awareness towards the preservation of the ecological domain.

The activities of the club emphasize practices and value-based environmental programmes towards eco- conservation. The club inculcates a sense of responsibility in members through various ecological activities and competitions. The members keep a check on environmental pollution and monitor overuse of energy resources. The campus makes appropriate use of land resources by developing gardens, dairy farms and fodder resources. The members of the Avian Club have observed 200 species of birds in and around the campus. Working towards the objectives of the clubs, activities like environmental training for the students, guest lectures by experts and trip to the ponds in Periyakulam have been implemented.

Students undergo a three-day “Education and Training in Nature Conservative and Eco-development” programme at The Anglade Institute of Natural History, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal. Close contact with forests and natural resources help the participants observe how these natural systems should be conscientiously approached. Group discussions encourage the students to come up with positive solutions. Feedbacks and reports are collected. As a result of participation with external organizations, the students are exposed to more environmental awareness and help in maintaining the college premises a pollution-free zone.

In connection with Zero-Waste Week, a trip is made from JAC to Periyakulam pond for creating awareness on the effects of pollution. Competitions are conducted on International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer on 16th September. On 28th September, the Green Consumer day, videos are screened related to the reduction of pollution at the consumer’s level. On the 1st week of October, trees are planted in connection with Wild Life Conservation Day. Several guest lectures are organized for the members and the neighboring people to create environmental awareness.

- The eco club members maintain herbal and kitchen garden inside the college premises utilising waste water management.
- Vermi-compost pits are made in the college Campus.
- Cultivation of organic plants is encouraged through C kitchen gardening. Usage of polythene and plastic bags are banned in the campus.
- Financial assistance is provided to the members to establish mushroom cultivation unit. The profit earned through this unit is utilized to pay fees for the economically weaker students.

5. Evidence of Success

- Promoted wise disposal of garbage
- Stakeholders are benefitted through herbal garden.
- Owing to our campaign, farmers have switched over to organic farming. Increase in ground water level in the campus due to rainwater harvesting.
- Small scale mushroom cultivation units in the houses of Eco Club members generate additional revenue.
- Programmes, rallies and cleanliness campaigns pave way for creating Maasilla Theni (Theni without pollution).
- Mushroom cultivation group, Mushroom Spawn Cultivation group, Vermicompost Group, and Kitchen Gardening group are active in the campus.
- Students of Department of Zoology have undergone researches identifying the range of pesticides and the research findings have been published.
- Animal ethics – PCA Act is being observed in the laboratories of JAC, especially in the department of Zoology, more than a decade now. Harming of animals for experimental purposes is restricted and accordingly the syllabi are framed and followed.
- The college prides in hosting a profusion of butterflies. Their presence is highly utilized by establishing an apiary.
- The Department of Chemistry follows microscale procedure for the conduct of practicals to sustain the green environment of the campus.
- NSS volunteers extend their service in the eradication of parthenium plant and Karuvelam trees and use Geoengineering techniques in tree planting to remove CO₂

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Owing to the fact that the college is situated in a rural area, there exists a lack of knowledge and understanding of environmental issues among our students and neighbourhood. This makes the work of the club coordinators challenging.
- Farmers are interested in short term profit and find it difficult to understand the harms of using pesticides, inorganic farming methods and genetically modified seeds. It becomes a herculean task to make them understand the importance of organic and biodynamic farming.
- More equipment like binoculars, compass, camera, spotting scopes etc. is needed to make bird watching activities more informative and pleasurable