

PRANANATH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KHORDHA
BEST PRACTICES
AQAR2013-14

- **Afforestation of 7.5 acres and its maintenance :**

Objectives : Realizing that Odisha has been literally in the eye of the storm almost every second year, the IQAC of Prananath College recommended massive afforestation in its campus. The geo-physical location of the college makes it prone to be affected by natural calamities as it is situated at a distance of forty kilometres from the shore. The terrain is also hazardous.

Context : Cyclone *Phailin* in the year 2013 and Cyclone *Hudhud* in 2015 wiped away nearly five hundred full grown plants in the campus. The green cover in the campus was a thing of the past. Except a few plants protected by the nearby walls and structures, nothing survived the 180 kilometers per hour onslaught. When the college wobbled back to its routine life on 4th November 2013, there was no green cover to speak of.

Practice : The massive destruction in the aftermath of the cyclone prompted the IQAC to insist on taking up plantation in right earnest. It was decided to go for mixed variety of plants in the 7.5 acre land contiguous to the main campus. The Governing Body (Managing Committee) and the parents of students helped the college negotiate with the Social Forestry department. The department was eager to help. This resulted in a mixed plantation in two

patches consisting of fifteen thousand saplings. The trees were chosen on the basis of their viability and survival potential given the soil quality of the locality. Department of Botany took the lead and negotiated with the Dept of Forest and Environment in this regard.

Evidence : The college put in its share of the initiative by nominating students from NCC , NSS and Rovers and Rangers. The volunteers helped both in planting the saplings as well as taking care of the plants for the initial few months.

This facilitated environment awareness among students and members of staff as well as local populace. The visible impact was an upsurge in plantation initiatives in the neighbouring villages and institutions. The message of the importance of plantation was carried into the interiors by our students and this ultimately impacted the air and water quality.

Constraints : The impediments faced in this initiative are largely to do with availability of water. Since the area has scanty rainfall, this aspect has been solved with the digging of two deep tube wells to get adequate water for the plants. The Forest Department of the state has facilitated this.

Note : Since the major challenge in traditional livelihood has proved to be unpredictable weather pattern, all HEIs need to be committed to undertake afforestation. The IQAC of colleges should give a clear mandate regarding this initiative as a part of institutional activity.

- **Felicitation to eminent alumni:**

Objectives : The IQAC suggested that eminent alumni are to be felicitated as a matter of regular practice . The objective was to provide a sense of continuity to the rich tradition this college inherits to our students and members of staff.

Context : The contextual justification is that every stakeholder must realize and internalize the human capital created by the institution.

It was envisaged that a continuity through generations of students of this institution will result in enlightening the present and subsequent generations about their intellectual inheritance.

Departmental heads and the principal take a resolution in the presence of members of the Governing Body to finalise the list every year starting from 2013-2014.

Constraints in this exercise are to keep track of alumni placed at eminent position. Many of the senior alumni are not extremely internet savvy and this causes break in communication. None the less, this constraint is overcome by the alumni network who give their input on a regular basis.

Practice : This practice of felicitating eminent alumni has contributed to the over-all inspiration level of all stakeholders. Students are inspired by earlier generation. Teachers are awed by the fact that they are stakeholders in an institution producing such alumni.

This practice is eminently placed to be adopted by all HEIs. In fact if this is practical in colleges across the nation, it will definitely bring a sense of pride and confidence to the younger generation.

Evidence : The eminent persons who were felicitated in the Commemoration Day were:

1. Sri Laxminarayan Pattanaik - Retired District Judge, present Information Commissioner of Odisha.
2. Mr. Srinibas Paikaray – Oriya Film Producer and artists leading businessman.
3. Mr. Dhiren Pattnaik – Registrar of Co-operative Society (Previous Collector of Puri)
4. Mr. Soumyakanta Chhotray – Conservator of Forest of undivided Andhrapradesh.
5. Commodre Lalit Kumar Agrawal, Deputy D.G., NCC, Odisha.

Regular programme of felicitating eminent alumni creates intellectual capital for the present generation. It also results in a robust network facilitating all aspects of institutional life like generation of funds, student's placement and increase in overall goodwill of the institution.