



# RAAK

## ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE

### Best Practice – 1

#### Title:

**Promoting Eco-Awareness and Sustainable Practices**

#### Objectives:

- Establish effective recycling and waste management systems.
- Optimize and enhance energy use.
- Transform the campus into an eco-friendly, pollution-free zone.
- Instill environmental responsibility in students through green practices.

#### Context:


RAAK Arts and Science College is set in a lush and serene campus that supports high-quality education and offers numerous opportunities to enhance eco-friendly practices. In response to the global climate crisis, the institution prioritizes sustainability, aiming to lead in environmental innovation. The college is committed to raising awareness about environmental issues and promoting eco-friendly behaviors through advocacy and environmental policies.


#### Practices Implemented:


1. **Green Campus Campaign:** The college launched a green campus initiative to promote eco-friendly and sustainable practices. A garden with oxygen-rich plants, such as snake plants and lilies, was established and is maintained by gardeners and volunteers.
2. **Plastic-Free Campus:** To reduce plastic pollution, the college eliminated plastic food packaging, straws, utensils, and bottles. Students are encouraged to use refillable containers like stainless steel bottles. Signage around the campus promotes the "Plastic-Free Campus" initiative.
3. **Waste Diversion:** The College implemented recycling and composting initiatives with separate bins for solid, liquid, and electronic waste. Biodegradable waste is converted into organic manure by students involved in various campus clubs.



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4. **Clubs and Societies:** Several clubs, including the NSS, YRC Club, Eco Club, and Energy Conservation Club, were established to engage students in environmental awareness programs. These clubs organize activities such as campus clean-up drives, tree planting, and slogan-writing competitions.
5. **Water Usage:** A rainwater collection system was installed to manage water resources efficiently, significantly reducing water scarcity issues on campus and providing an alternative source of drinking water.
6. **Energy Management:** The College employs energy-saving techniques, including LED lighting and solar-powered CFL bulbs. The campus also features an 8 KW solar power plant, marking a step toward using clean, renewable energy sources.
7. **Audits:** Regular Green, Environment, and Energy Audits are conducted to ensure environmental issues remain a priority in the college's activities.

### Evidence of Success:

- The green campus initiative has resulted in a cleaner, greener environment.
- Workshops and seminars have raised students' awareness of environmental issues.
- The college follows an effective waste management system with separate disposal methods for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
- Sustainable and renewable energy sources, like LED lighting, are in use on campus.
- The Eco Club and Energy Conservation Club have fostered an energy-saving culture among students, faculty, and the surrounding community.
- Awareness programs on single-use plastics and other environmental issues have been successfully conducted.


### Challenges and Solutions:


Convincing students and staff of the importance of sustainable practices was initially challenging. This was overcome through door-to-door campaigns and awareness programs that successfully promoted eco-friendly behaviors across the campus.



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### Best Practice – 2

#### Title:

Improving Interpersonal Skills to Achieve Excellence in Employment

#### Objective of the Practice:

The objective is to enhance the interpersonal skills of RASC students, complementing their technical knowledge with practical experience. This initiative focuses on developing language, aptitude, logical reasoning, programming skills, and soft skills like problem-solving, collaboration, and effective communication. Additionally, time management and leadership are emphasized as essential skills for any profession. The training aims to equip students to be effective team players and leaders, prepared for the interdisciplinary demands of modern industries.

#### Context:

Skill development training is crucial for RASC students to thrive in the professional world. By combining classroom instruction with real-world experience, students graduate with the skills, confidence, and adaptability needed to succeed in employment. This training addresses several key areas:

- **Employability:** Graduates with practical experience are more attractive to employers.
- **Problem-Solving:** Real-world tasks enhance students' ability to resolve challenges.
- **Cooperation:** Engaging in tasks fosters teamwork and collaboration.
- **Industry-Relevant Skills:** The training bridges the gap between academic knowledge and industry demands, focusing on in-demand tools, software, and procedures. It also includes interview techniques, resume writing, job search strategies, and career options.


#### Practice:


A comprehensive curriculum prepares students for industry demands, with training beginning in the first semester and continuing through the sixth. The training is structured and sequential, with a focus on different skill sets at each stage:



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### 1. First-Year Focus:

- The first year emphasizes language skills, particularly English, to help students from Tamil-speaking backgrounds gain confidence in communication.

### 2. Second-Year Focus:

- The second year emphasizes Presentation Skills, covering public speaking, audience engagement, and the use of technology in presentations.

### 3. Third-Year Focus:

- Advanced communication techniques, including structuring narratives and persuasive presentations, are taught. The final semester includes rehearsals and feedback sessions.

Training is provided through workshops and programs facilitated by various agencies and consultants, such as GUVI for leadership, VERVE Technology for language skills, and ICT Academy for team-building and decision-making.

### Evidence of Success:

This structured training approach has been consistently implemented across all undergraduate departments for the past five years. There has been a noticeable improvement in students' confidence and performance, with approximately 85% of students receiving placement offers. The program's success is reflected in the positive feedback, recognition, and improved skillsets of the students, as well as their increased participation in campus interviews. Enhanced communication, leadership, and teamwork abilities have also led to positive behavioral changes.



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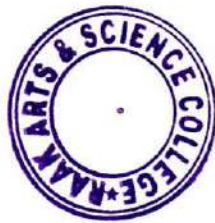


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### Issues Faced and Solutions:


- **Self-Awareness:** Students initially struggled with self-awareness. This was addressed through self-reflection exercises, mentor feedback, and personality assessments.
- **Maintaining Motivation:** Regular incentive programs were introduced to keep students motivated.
- **Balancing Obligations:** Flexible schedules and focused learning intervals helped students manage their daily obligations alongside skill development.
- **Resistance to Change:** Supportive environments, incentives for learning new skills, and change management training were implemented to overcome resistance to new routines and behaviors.




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