

Best Practice 1

Title of the Practice

1. Lab to Land programme And Documentation of Traditional Knowledge

Objectives of the Practice

- To develop a practice and age old culture of preserving tribal medicinal assets of the Panchayath of Peringammala
- To promote the practice of the Kani tribals and through them enhancing the ancestral knowledge of the students of the college.
- Documentation of these rare knowledge which only been passed orally by these indigenous people.
- Promotion of gaining knowledge through practice and first hand knowledge.

The Context

India has a glorious tradition of the arts and science of healing. The origin of Indian medicine is shrouded in myths and oral history. Agastyar Koodam is believed to be an abode and heaven of medicinal herbs. It has one of the most diverse biological resources in the region. The knowledge about tribal medicine is on the way to extinction because of negligence and the absence of documentation. Thus the knowledge of these medicinal plants dies with the knowledge holder without the knowledge being passed to the next generation. This practice and attempt is made to preserve that knowledge from the Kani tribals through the students of Iqbal college.

The Practice

In our observation, we noticed that the Kani Tribals are very famous for traditional medicine and only a few famous tribal medicinal practitioners are practicing there. The practice

of traditional medicine, based only on the knowledge that has been passed orally from generation has to be documented. Our M.Sc.students' were able to document a major share of the traditional knowledge of these indigenous people. Our students conducted regular visits to the settlement, interview them and documented through the project works undertaken by them Two M.Sc. Projects were completed in this regard.

Around 24 Kani Tribal settlements are in the Peringammala Grama Panchayath. Of which two are very near to our institution. We selected both the settlements, for conducting our project. One is Njaraneeli tribal settlement and second one, is Kattilakuzhy. We organized two different Programmes in these settlements.

Evidence of Success

- The process of documentation has been started by the students of the college in collaboration with the kani tribals.
- Promotion of medicinal plant research
- Different collaborations have been invited and showed interest to join the venture as the world today is facing trauma related to health issues and the unavailability of required medicines for permanent cure.
- The present scenario has been understood on the basis of the deadly increase in the diseases and pharmaceutical companies are venturing into this attempt of the college.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- The culture of the kani population is very different from and unique as compared to the urban and rural population of the Grama panchayath of Pringammala.
- The Kanis believe that the sharing of the knowledge of the medicinal plants is against their beliefs.
- During the initial stages it was difficult for the students and the guides to convince them to share the knowledge of the medicinal plants and their proper usage and source.

- Continuous attempts had been made to make this venture a reality and continuous efforts have been done to realize the aim.
- The way to the real place of resources is also very trying but a dedicated team of students and researchers did paved way to unlock the mystery of nature.

Best Practice 2

Title of the Practice

Training on Mushroom Cultivation and Vegetative Propagation

Objectives of the Practice

- To promote self-employment through mushroom cultivation
- To promote income generation through cultivation especially among women
- To utilize natural resources without much economic loss.
- To target the locals living nearby campuses as consumers for marketing and sale.
- To promote entrepreneurship among the students.

The Context

Being the only higher education institution in the area the college takes pride in promoting agriculture by indulging the local community as a support system. There is a growing movement towards this occupation in the area as this is relatively cheap and an affordable food source. It has a huge potential for growth as initially the input costs are low. This enterprise can take advantage of the existing structures of the college. There is also a ready market for mushrooms. This enterprise aims to be commercial as well as empowering the local women of the area through training on mushroom production under the leadership of the college.

The Practice

Oyster Mushroom cultivation: Pleurotus is a popular oyster mushroom cultivated in the campus. It can be grown in available room with little ventilation and light. This practice enhances he

knowledge on how to select the best strain of fungi for the location and discusses a variety of cultivation methods and techniques. Participants who are women in majority gets hands on experience and plenty of opportunities to discuss and network with the other folks of the local community delegated by the students of the college.

Evidence of Success

Oyster mushrooms have a great demand in the local market especially in cuisines as a delicious dish. As the production of mushrooms are rapidly growing worldwide and the college has been receiving proposals to cultivate medicinal mushrooms as well. The products are being sold directly to the retailers as there is no organized set up in the locality.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The cultivated crop is subjected to attack by pests during various stages of cultivation. It became important and inevitable for the people who participate to get awareness about the common diseases too.. The department of Botany utilizes the man power of our M.Sc. students for teaching B.Sc. students. Lecturing and Power point presentations are made by them for B.Sc. students. They encourage the classes by giving token of appreciation.