

Title of the Practice: Community Gardens on campus

1. Objectives of the Practice:

The MVS Government Arts & Science College student community garden aims to promote organic gardening while accentuating the need for both production and consumption practices of nutritious and environmentally friendly food. When pupils were involved in growing plants, they became aware of the significance of perseverance and organization in gardening and the labor that goes into generating food. Students acquire a feeling of community, and information dissemination ensues as they become engaged not just in their crops but also in those that are their friends.

2. The Context:

Urban areas are developing quickly, making spotting space for gardening and other activities involving plants and land increasingly challenging. As a result, the institution offers a sizable plot of land on campus where students can cultivate the plants of their preference and distribute the organically produced harvest in the college environment if they are willing to take part in gardening but are constrained by a limited amount of space.

3. The Practice:

Each student participating in this project was given a plot based on the lot taken, and a 27 x 17 m area was designated on the campus. For a set amount of time—a year—the student was to keep the assigned strip of land. In the third year of this initiative, 77 students took part. Some preferred to work alone, while others preferred to collaborate in small groups. Students can select any crop they want, from veggies to beautiful flowers. On campus, the farmed produce is put up for sale.

Every day, after classroom instruction, students work on their garden sections. They are in charge of every step of the gardening process; from land preparation to seeding to afterward weeding and other planned maintenance like tilling the soil. The only manure utilized is organic; students only use biological pest management techniques. When necessary, faculty members provide sporadic supervision during this type of experiential education.

4. Evidence of Success:

Students learn about various gardening topics, from soil preparation to safeguarding seedlings from infestations and illnesses. Students interested in the project received assistance from other students and sometimes even college personnel as part of a communal effort. Students learn about the practical aspects of food production, including pest identification and methods for preventing and controlling them. The space allowed for each student will possibly grow in the future, along with the space allotted for this project.

5. Problems Encountered:

The project's complexity is the key challenge. A few pupils could not finish the work, but the majority of students who persisted through the end of the year exceeded those who quit in the middle. The upkeep of the plants during holidays and vacation days is another issue. Campus gardeners provide assistance during these challenging times.

6. Resources required:

More land and personnel in the form of support personnel are needed to provide significant income.

