

Best Practice

PETRI ART/BIO ART

Since the COVID pandemic began, every day has brought new challenges. This inspired me to create my piece of agar art to portray the theme of resilience. I took the photos of our beloved commissioner sir, JD sir, RJD sir, Principal madam, college photo, and students pics which took on the occasion of protecting others and made petri art. Students use paintbrushes attached to bacteria-filled test tubes to paint the agar petri dishes. In order to engage the public and increase their awareness of bacteria in and around us, to enlighten the public of the importance of bacteria for our health and for the Earth's ecosystem,

1. Title of the Practice – Petri Art/ Bio Art .

2. Goal

The goal of the Department of Microbiology is **“Bridging the gap between Humans and Microbes by petri art”**. This imbalanced and misinformed relationship that humans have with their own microbial community causes fear and disgust.

Our core mission is to change the relationship humans have with microbes. Using the universal language of art, we would like to bring the invisible to the visible. To familiarize the public with the beauty of bacteria. To engage the public into a deeper understanding and increase their awareness and interactions with the microbial communities in and around us.

Using agar, a gelatinous-like substance to fill the petri dish, we create a canvas where the microbes can be spread around like paint and allowed to grow and create art. Unlike most forms of art, our 'paint' is alive, and will live, breathe and grow over time, often in unforeseeable ways .

3. The Context

The only way to adequately prepare students for the future is through online education classes that help them to learn about technology. Preparing students for the workforce is one goal of education today .Since almost all jobs now and in the future will require students to use technology in some form; students need to begin learning the basics of how computers work and how it is related to science and technology enhances life. The Basic skills of Computer programme has been implemented to learn basics and to store the data. The Programme syllabus is framed in accordance to the need and context. The best practice included making of nutrient agar, sterilization techniques, art and designing, basic computer skills etc.

4. The practice

Final year students from the department are selected to conduct this activity. Usually 20 to 25 students from final year are assigned for this programme. The Infrastructure which includes the lab, nutrient agar and the incubators , petir plates are provided by the by the college.

The students worked for 4 to 5 hours. The school children and intermediate college students at

our premises visited microbiology department with full attention, enthusiasm and interest to learn the importance of petri art and about microorganisms. They were very much eager to open the petri plates, many students gain knowledge.

5. Evidence of Success

It was a successful activity. Students who have been part of this best practice were very happy and also they have given a very good oral feedback to the juniors, and inter and school students, non science students at our college. The college management has appreciated and acknowledged our best practice. Oral assessment was done to test the outcome of the activity which came out to be positive. The college management decided, for teaching every year and to bring awareness in bridging the gap between Humans and Microbes.

6. Problems encountered and resources required

Bacterial contamination.

Lack of skilled lab attender

Power-Power distribution is still very poor because they don't have any backup. We faced a problem because of power failure.

Parents thinking waste of time.

Scheduling the class timing.

Working for long hours.

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DR

