

7.2 Best Practices

Best Practice: I

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: Study of Mangrove Ecosystem by Geography Department of Taki Govt. College

OBJECTIVE: Our institution is always committed towards the development of the community in and around it. The main thrust of the institution is to stimulate the students towards acquiring an assimilative learning. Keeping this in mind, Taki Govt. College has taken initiatives to Study of Mangrove Ecosystem with the objective of

- to strengthen biodiversity conservation and reduce degradation of mangrove ecosystems
- to ensure the long-term sustainability of livelihoods for local communities living in and around mangrove areas.

CONTEXT: Mangrove plays an important role in shoreline stabilization, storm protection, flood and flow control, conservation of biodiversity etc. It is the habitat for breeding, and nursery ground for many species of flora and fauna. 'Golpatar Jungle' is a local mangrove forest located at Taki, a municipality town in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and lies on the riverbank of Ichamati river, a transboundary river. Golpata Forest was opened for public by West Bengal Government on 1st December, 2012 and the onus to look after the forest rests on Taki Municipality. Since the forest is located on the south of tropic of cancer and bounded by the northern limits of Bay of Bengal, it is classified as tropical moist forest. Some powerful cyclones namely Aila, Yaas, Amphan, Fani, Bulbul, etc impacted the flora & fauna and the climate of this region.

Taki Government College is located also very near to this 'Golpata jungle' covering a wing of Sundarbans. In this context, Taki Government College has ample opportunities for mangrove ecosystem studies to improve the management and conservation of biodiversity and also to arrest the recent and rapid destruction of the coastal mangrove ecosystem.

THE PRACTICE: Considering the richness of mangrove floras, the study of Mini- Sundarbans can be visualized as an attempt to gain an on-field preliminary knowledge of this type of ecosystem. Research on this area can then be applied to the Sundarban Region. Optimum utilization and conservation of this ecosystem will contribute to the community as a whole. Keeping this in mind, Taki Government College has taken an initiative to survey this nearby ecosystem and create a Local Study Centre of Mangrove Ecosystem. The students of Geography department in Taki Government College visited Golpata forest on December 3, 2021 as part of their field visit. The objective of the field visit was to acquaint the students with local mangrove species and ecosystem of the locality to the students.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS: The students and teachers who were involved in this project were very excited. They identified mangrove vegetation with their characteristics and collected some plant species which are being preserved properly in the Department of Botany of Taki Govt. College.



Students of Geography Department, Taki Government College during field visit at Golpata Forest for studying the flora, fauna, climate, soil etc.

PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED: The College envisions a broader research field in this direction with the involvement of other departments. This will give it an interdisciplinary nature and lead to a holistic study of this important ecosystem. The combined efforts are urgently needed which will help to identify spatial pattern and density distribution of plant species through quadrat method and calculation of diversity indices. The micro-level, site specific nature of the plants is being noted as this knowledge is necessary for conservation strategies. Satellite image studies and Geoinformatics will be applied to the interpretation of the botanical database.

Best Practice: II

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: Introduction of “**online Teaching –Learning & Assessment**” software module to substantiate the total decline of traditional educational practices during Pandemic situation.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this e-mode education application employing the software module “**online Teaching –Learning & Assessment**” - is to provide a dedicated, personalized and password protected teaching learning portal to all teachers and students of Taki Government College.

THE CONTEXT: Our College has always considered the teaching-learning activities to be of greatest importance to the institution. The pandemic has created unprecedented disruption of education systems. Social distancing has significantly disturbed traditional educational practices. Anxiety prevailed among all stakeholders of the college with the announcement of the nationwide lockdown in March, 2020. However, the all-out efforts of our college in terms of imparting e-mode education employing the software module “**Online Teaching –Learning & Assessment**” has proved to be useful to substantiate the total decline of Classroom teaching during the pandemic situation.

THE PRACTICE: Just after the nationwide lockdown on 24th of March, 2020, the e-mode teaching effectuated the running of regular online classes from the month of April, 2020 and it continued till the January, 2022 when the lockdown came to an end. This is supported by PG and UG Learning Management System via login to the Cloud-Portal (AIMES) through college website (www.tgc.ac.in) by putting valid login-credentials. It not only provides the platform for online teaching but also has portals for uploading teaching notes, assignments, reference books etc. The classes are held in accordance with the existing routine. This platform was also utilized for Online Assessment of the Students’ academic performance by generating soft-pool Question bank of Multiple-Choice Questions. Both the teachers and students have accepted this online platform with great zeal and fervor. This e- mode teaching learning platform signifies a paradigm shift in the teaching learning methodology.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS: The teachers and students have accepted the platform with great zeal and fervor. The live platform signifies a paradigm shift in the teaching learning methodology. It is a significant shift towards digital pedagogy. Since inception, teachers and students have expressed their complete satisfaction with this dedicated e-learning platform. Students’ attendance is also considerably good over the digital platform.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED: Most of the students at Taki Government College are from remote rural areas of North and South 24 Parganas, as a result the socio-economic background of the students is not at the highest level. Digital illiteracy and cost of internet-data stood as the main problems for the students. However, a detailed training slide was prepared for educating the students to properly join and continue the classes. For students having poor internet connectivity and lack of access to affordable data-plan, joining with audio-only mode during the classes were allowed.