

Best Practice - I

Title of the Practice: Vermicomposting: An Effective Option For Recycling Organic Waste and Its Use As Bio- fertilizer For Medicinal Plant Garden

Objectives:

- To produce organic manure for enhancing fertility and quality of soil.
- To promote nature care and environmental awareness.
- To convert plant matter into beneficial soil amendment.
- To suppress plant diseases.
- To achieve a cleaner and greener environment in and around the campus.

Context:

Indiscriminate use and dependency on chemical fertilizers are leading causes for environmental pollution globally, which results in decline in plant growth, deterioration of soil health and also leads to environmental pollution. As a result, organic source of plant nutrition for sustaining soil health and environment has been gaining importance.

Vermicomposting is one such practice which provides essential plant nutrients for supporting growth and helps in improving soil health without any threat to ecosystem functioning. It is the process by which worms are used to convert organic waste into manure.

So the initiative for setup of Vermicomposting was done under the guidance of Principal, Dr. K.R. Khandelwal to inculcate ecofriendly practice for promoting plant growth in our campus including medicinal plant garden.

Practice:

Vermicomposting is the process which requires addition of nutrients to the soil. The earthworms are used in this process as they eat the organic matter and produce castings through their digestive systems. Conversion of organic matter into compost is done within 45-50 days.

Steps to prepare vermicomposting:

- Collected biomass from campus was dried under sun for about 8-12 days and chopped to the required size.
- A layer of soil was made at the bottom of the tank (constructed concrete tank near medicinal plant garden).
- Dried leaves and other biodegradable wastes were evenly spreaded on the soil layer.
- After adding all the bio-wastes, earthworms were released over the mixture and the compost mixture was covered with gunny bags.
- Water was sprinkled on a regular basis to maintain the moisture content of the compost.
- The tank was covered with a roof to prevent the entry of ants, lizards, mouse, snakes, etc. and protect the compost from rainwater and direct sunshine.
- Frequent checking was done to avoid the compost from overheating. Optimum moisture level and temperature was maintained.

The vermicompost so prepared is used as organic manure for campus and our medicinal plant garden.

Evidence of Success:

- Increased better moisture retention capacity, aeration, porosity and structure of soil.
- The water absorption capacity of the soil has been enhanced.
- Shredded leaves and organic waste from campus were utilized in vermicomposting process which helps to keep the campus clean.
- Increased plant growth.
- Reduced plant diseases.

Problems encountered and Resources required:

There is a need to upgrade the skills of gardeners for understanding the process of vermicomposting. For this purpose, training/workshops for gardeners should be conducted on regular basis by the experts.

Students and staff are now more environment conscious but still there is a scope of improvement in imbibing these habits in people's lifestyle.

Best Practice - II

Title: Student –Teacher Congruency in Academia

Objectives:

- To promote a co-operative culture amongst the students.
- To provide the necessary platform for students to solve their problems.
- To provide guidance and support to the students.
- To improve student- teacher relationship.
- To monitor overall performance of the students.

The Context:

The most significant issue in academia today is to bridge gap between student and teacher. Student teacher interactions are very important for development of students' academic self-concept and enhancing their enthusiasm and success.

The pharmaceutical field demands for an employee who can fulfill the industrial and community needs. Continuous monitoring and interaction with the students leads to overall development and better personality.

Mentor strike a balance between the students coming from different strata of society thus creating an environment of self-respect and respect for others. They provide platform for students to discuss and resolve difficulties in their social and personal life.

This helps the students to be closer to the teacher in charge. This Teacher - Student Congruency in Academia helps to achieve overall development of students including academic improvement.

The Practice:

Student - Faculty relationship can be carefully nurtured to shape positive outcome for students. Interaction between students and faculty members are inevitable and personal connections that emerge through advisement and counseling are highly valued.

A structured mentoring system is provided to each student. From each class, 20 students are assigned to one faculty member known as mentor. A record is maintained for each student with details like:

- ✓ Students Profile
- ✓ Status of Academic Performance
- ✓ Attendance Record

The faculty members offer academic and professional guidance. Through counseling and grooming sessions, weaker areas of students are focused, their academic and personal problems are resolved on individual basis.

As stated above, the institution puts efforts for personnel and psychosocial guidance also. In many cases, to resolve very critical issue, principal and senior faculty's guidance is taken. Meeting is organized by mentor with students, problems faced by the students are recorded and are tried to resolve and if not then it is forwarded to academic head and head of institution.

The students need to fill the form provided by mentor containing information about previous years academic details, correspondence contact details, family and personal details. Counseling and guidance is provided at every stage of academics.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Initially students were adamant to share their problems with the mentor. But in the course of time the bond between the mentor and students strengthened and students started sharing their problems with the mentor.

Evidence of success:

1. Student –Teacher relationship impacts productively on students self –esteem and enhanced their skills.
2. Academic performance of students has been raised.
3. Improvement in discipline and humanizing environment on campus is seen.
4. Overall development in personality of students.
5. Successful placements in the field of interest.
6. Developed good entrepreneurs.