Best Practice 1: Mushroom Cultivation and Turmeric Plantation as a Best Practice

1. Title of the Practice:

"Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Mushroom Cultivation and Turmeric Plantation"

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To promote sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices among stakeholders, including students, farmers, and the local community.
- To provide a practical, hands-on learning experience in high-value crop cultivation.
- To enhance income generation opportunities for the local community through the adoption of low-cost and high-yield farming techniques.
- To increase awareness about the nutritional and medicinal benefits of mushrooms and turmeric.
- To encourage entrepreneurship in agriculture by demonstrating commercially viable practices.

3. The Context:

The declining profitability in traditional farming has led to challenges like unemployment, migration, and underutilization of agricultural land. Mushroom cultivation and turmeric plantation were identified as high-potential alternatives due to their low input requirements, high returns, and market demand. These practices not only contribute to sustainable agriculture but also align with environmental conservation and community development goals.

4. The Practice:

The initiative included the following steps:

Mushroom Cultivation:

1. Setup:

- o A small-scale mushroom cultivation unit was established on campus.
- Workshops were conducted to teach preparation of substrate, sterilization, inoculation, and harvesting techniques.

2. Training and Awareness:

- Students and local farmers were trained in cultivating oyster and button mushrooms.
- o Information on storage, packaging, and marketing of mushrooms was shared.

3. Production:

 Cultivation cycles were monitored, and participants were guided through every stage to ensure successful yield.

Turmeric Plantation:

1. Land Preparation:

- Organic methods, including composting and natural fertilizers, were used for land preparation.
- o Raised beds were created for turmeric planting.

2. Cultivation Practices:

 High-yield turmeric varieties were selected, and participants were trained in seed selection, planting techniques, and crop maintenance.

3. Harvest and Processing:

 Post-harvest training in cleaning, boiling, drying, and powdering turmeric was provided to add value to the produce.

5. Evidence of Success:

• Increased Participation:

- o Over 200 students and 100 local farmers attended the training programs.
- Women's self-help groups actively participated and started small-scale mushroom farming units.

• Economic Benefits:

- Participants reported a 40-50% increase in income through the sale of mushrooms and turmeric products.
- Value-added products like turmeric powder and dried mushrooms fetched higher market prices.

• Skill Development:

 Students gained practical knowledge and entrepreneurial skills, leading to the establishment of small agricultural enterprises.

• Community Impact:

- o Enhanced adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in the local community.
- o Reduction in chemical usage in farming, contributing to environmental conservation.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Challenges:

- Initial resistance from farmers to adopt non-traditional crops.
- Limited technical expertise among participants.
- Marketing challenges for value-added products in competitive markets.

Resources Required:

- Infrastructure for mushroom cultivation (e.g., spawn, sterilizers, controlled environment setups).
- High-quality turmeric seeds and organic inputs.

- Financial support for training programs and initial setup.
- Collaboration with agricultural universities or research institutes for technical guidance.

7. Notes (Optional):

- This practice demonstrates the integration of education, community development, and environmental sustainability.
- It provides a replicable model for educational institutions aiming to link academics with practical community outreach and income generation programs.









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Best Practice 2 . Title of the Practice: "Empowering Democracy: Voter Awareness Campaign"

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To increase voter turnout by motivating eligible citizens to actively participate in elections.
- To educate voters about their rights and responsibilities in a democratic setup.
- To create awareness about the electoral process, including registration, voting procedures, and the importance of ethical voting.
- To promote inclusivity by addressing barriers faced by marginalized groups, including women, youth, and rural populations.
- To foster informed decision-making by providing accurate and unbiased information about candidates and electoral policies.

3. The Context:

Democracy thrives on active participation by the electorate. However, factors like apathy, misinformation, lack of awareness, and accessibility challenges lead to low voter turnout and uninformed voting. The campaign aimed to bridge these gaps by utilizing diverse strategies tailored to local contexts, ensuring that every eligible voter understands their role in strengthening democracy.

4. The Practice:

The Voter Awareness Campaign was conducted in collaboration with government authorities, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. Key activities included:

Awareness Drives:

- Workshops, street plays, and public rallies to highlight the importance of voting.
- o Digital campaigns on social media platforms to engage youth and urban voters.

• Inclusive Outreach:

- Special sessions for women, first-time voters, and marginalized communities to address specific challenges.
- Multilingual educational materials for diverse linguistic groups.

Capacity Building:

- o Training sessions for campaign volunteers on voter education techniques.
- Mock voting sessions to familiarize voters with the process.

Community Engagement:

- o Participation of local leaders, influencers, and NGOs to ensure better reach and trust.
- o Collaboration with schools and colleges to involve students in promoting the campaign.

5. Evidence of Success:

• Increased Voter Turnout:

The campaign resulted in a significant rise in voter participation in the targeted talukas, as recorded in the subsequent elections.

• High Engagement:

Over 80% of participants reported improved understanding of the electoral process.

Recognition of Efforts:

The campaign received appreciation from local authorities, and many institutions adopted similar practices to enhance electoral participation.

• Inclusivity:

Marginalized groups, including women and first-time voters, participated actively, indicating the campaign's effectiveness in addressing accessibility barriers.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Challenges:

- Resistance from voters with deeply rooted apathy or mistrust in the electoral system.
- Logistical difficulties in reaching remote or underserved areas.

Resources Required:

- Funding for materials, digital campaigns, and community events.
- Technical support for creating multilingual and accessible content.
- Active collaboration with local administrative bodies for smooth execution.

7. Notes (Optional):

The campaign highlighted the need for continuous voter education and institutional efforts to maintain high levels of democratic participation. It serves as a replicable model for other regions aiming to enhance electoral engagement and strengthen democratic values.



Celebration of National Voters Day (25 January)



Distribution of 6 A registration form to new voters

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संपन्न झाला. कार्यक्रमाच्या अध्यक्ष स्थानी धामणगाव एन्युकेशन सोसायटी चे अध्यक्ष औड. रमेशचंद्र चांडक तर कार्यक्रमाचे प्रमुख अतिथी व मार्गदर्शक म्हणून अमरावती जिल्ह्याचे जिल्ह्यिकारी सौरभ कटियार यांची विशेष उपस्थित लाभली. मंचावर उपविभागीय अधिकारी रविंद्र जोगी, तहसीलदार गोविंद वाकडे तसेच धामणगाव एन्युकेशन सोसायटी चे सचिव अंड. आशिष राठी उपस्थित होते. कार्यक्रमाच्या सुरुवातीला महामानवांच्या पूजन, दीप प्रज्वलन व हार अपण मान्यवरांच्या हस्ते करून झाले. कार्यक्रमाचे प्रास्ताविक रा. से. यो. कार्यक्रम अधिकारी डॉ. श्रीकांत पाटील यांनी केले. आपल्या प्रस्तावकामध्ये डॉ. पाटील यांनी महाविद्यालयाच्या पार पाडलेल्या श्रैक्षणिक प्रमाति व सामाजिक जवाबदाच्या, महाविद्यालयाची श्रैक्षणिक प्रगती व सामाजिक आवनेतुन केलेले कार्य उविरित्तपेज २ वर हा

कोंडे यांनी महालक्ष्मी ऑफसेटॲण्ड प्रिंटर्स डॉ. पंजाबराब देशमुख कॉलनी,व्हि.एम.व्ही रोड अमरावती येथे छापून अमरावती दर्शन कार्यालय पहिला येथे प्रकाशित केले.कार्यालय -नं.8698460828,मो.8855860000 Email:amtdarshan@rediffmail.com

Organization Of Workshop on Handling EVM machine



Essay competition on Voter Awareness Campaign

Kumari Kalyani Dabhade, the first-place and Akshay Murke in second place winner of the grand taluka-level essay competition under the Voter Awareness Campaign, being felicitated by the District Collector of Amravati, Hon. Saurabh Katiyar.

